



News & Notes

3155 Paulskirk Drive • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 410-461-9111 • Fax: 410-461-8621
www.resstpaul.org



December 2, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our value for the month of December is Responsibility. Our 1A class is taking on the responsibility of keeping Christ in Christmas as we begin the Holy Season of Advent. What an ambitious challenge this is! Given our secular culture which encourages us to speed up and do everything in excess at this time of year, it is almost anti-culture to take the time to pray and prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus' birthday. Let us all join 1A in that challenge.

The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest which ends next Friday, December 11th. Details were sent home two weeks ago. Please send in your entries!

Please gather your friends, family and neighbors for a wonderful day or evening outing at the annual Hoff Decorator Show House Tour which will be next Wednesday, December 9th. This spectacular event showcases the Clarksville home of Tom and Norma Hoff featuring 19 holiday decorated rooms. It is a not to be missed Christmas treat. This year they have added a special evening "Wine and Design" tour. Please see the flier coming home today with more information on this wonderful spirit filled event that benefits our school.

We are still in need of volunteers to help out with Decorator Show House event. If you are interested in volunteering as a room docent please contact Karen O'Connell (koconnell@resstpaul.org) as soon as possible. Volunteers will be stationed in each room to welcome guests and describe some of the features of the room. All the information will be provided but you will need to show up 15 minutes before your shift. The 2 shifts are 11:00am – 2:00pm or 6:00pm – 9:00pm. Please specify in your email which shift you can work.

We invite you to join us next Thursday, December 10th for our school group walk through the Symphony of Lights in Columbia. The donation for the walk is \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 per family. The donation will benefit the Howard County Hospital who has been so generous to us over the years! In anticipation of the walk, students will be allowed to wear their blue ribbon t-shirts and jeans and tennis shoes to school that day. The walk begins promptly at 4:30pm. All family groups need to have a signed waiver of responsibility form - which will be sent home tomorrow. A flier pertaining to the walk came home today. Please use the Symphony of Lights flier, printed on yellow paper that will come home tomorrow. It outlines the details of our walk, the donation dollar amounts and has the waiver printed on the back. You are encouraged to invite along family, neighbors and friends for this wonderful experience!

Our annual toy drive collection is going on right now. We are collecting toys to be given to the Domestic Violence Center of Howard County as well as the Grass Roots Shelter. A flier is being sent home today with simple ideas. We suggest that your child pick out an inexpensive toy or item that they would like to receive themselves for Christmas and bring it into school. Items should be placed in the bins in the main school foyer and may be sent in now through mid December. A BIG THANK YOU for your continued generosity.

Many thanks to everyone who came out to support our second annual Barnes and Noble night. It was a huge success thanks to all of you! Our choir, under the direction of Mrs. Bowie and Mrs. Cottrell sounded heavenly! We wish to thank Mrs. Grue for organizing the event and to all the faculty and staff who helped out as well. Proceeds from this event are given to us in Barnes and Noble gift cards which we, in turn, use to purchase new books for the library and supplemental resources for the classrooms.

Please remember to shop for your fresh holiday greens in the church hall this weekend, **Dec. 5th and Dec. 6th**. The Christmas trees will go on sale beginning at **3:00 Friday afternoon!** Come early to see the new selection of potted plants as well as poinsettias, wreaths, centerpieces, hanging decorations and more! The trees and greens will be available during Breakfast with Santa, and before and after all of the weekend masses. Preorders may also be picked up **after 5:00pm on Friday Dec. 4th** and before and after all masses.

The gift card sales are going great and we are happy to see so many families participating in the program and taking advantage of the 2% tuition rebate. We now have a new opportunity for families who would like to earn volunteer hours on the weekend AND earn extra rebate money too! If you attend Church of the Resurrection and would like to sell cards after any mass, please contact Karen O'Connell (koconnell@resstpaul.org) as soon as possible. The seller would receive the 2% rebate for the sales to parishioners and your time would count toward your school volunteer hours.

The Gabriel Network, a ministry for women in crisis pregnancies at the Church of the Resurrection, needs infant car seats for their pregnant clients both in the Ellicott City transitional home as well as some clients who do not have housing needs. Because they cannot give away used car seats older than 5 years old, it is difficult to keep a supply of used car seats on hand. If anyone in our school community could donate an infant car seat that has not expired they would greatly appreciate it. The car seat should have a fairly clean appearance in order for them to present it to our clients for their use. It should also be in good working condition with no missing parts. If you can donate one, please call the Gabriel Network number at Church of the Resurrection, 410-461-8416, ext. 536 and leave a message.

Students in grades 3-8, who successfully received all A's and B's in their academic subjects for the first trimester, will receive a certificate at the Honors Assembly to be held tomorrow at 1:10pm in the church. for students. Parents are welcome to join us. Congratulations to all who attained this academic achievement.

Please join us for Mass next Tuesday, December 8th for the 10:15am Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Our choir will be our school ministers and Fr. John Dobranksi will be our presider.

Coming home today:

- Breakfast with Santa flier
- Re-enrollment letter for our current Pre-K and Kindergarten parents
- Toy Drive flier
- Hoff Decorator Show House flier
- Information flier - Symphony of Lights – updated flier will be sent home tomorrow
- Book It – reading incentives
- January lunch menus and calendar
- Middle School Christmas Party flier sponsored by the Church of the Resurrection

Upcoming Dates:

- Thursday, December 3rd- Honors Assembly- 1:10pm in the Church
- Friday, December 4th- 9:00-11:00am- Mother's Tea at Kelsey's
- Saturday, December 5th- Breakfast with Santa/Trees and Greens Sale
- Tuesday, December 8th- 10:15am Mass for the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception
- Wednesday, December 9th- Christmas Decorator Show House Tour, see flier for times
- Thursday, December 10th- RSPS Group walk through-Symphony of Lights at 4:30pm

In your prayers this week, please remember all those who are seriously ill and in need of God's healing presence, especially, Brother James Kelly, President of Mt. St. Joseph High School; Tom Herbert, brother in law of Valerie and uncle of Graham Bateman; Addison Dewey, step-father of Ms. Patton; Annette Garib, grandmother of Sarah and Meghan Hudson and Dennis Vittteto, father of Michael. Let us pray for all those who have died, especially Steven Dankos, a former student of mine.

Peace,

Karen Murphy
Principal