



News & Notes

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February 17, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our value this month is courage. I am sure that there are many stories of courage that your children are able to share with us about how your family and others handled the past two weeks of snow storms! Hopefully everyone made it through fine with lots of stories to tell!

Today is Ash Wednesday and starts the Lenten Season. Students all received ashes this morning as a reminder that we are all sinners and are in need of God's mercy. Fasting, Almsgiving and Prayer should all be part of our Lenten journey. Coming home today are the traditional rice bowls boxes. Each family is encouraged to place a bowl in the middle of your kitchen table and whenever you as a family give up dessert or eating out, you are encouraged to make a financial contribution. All rice bowls will be collected during Holy Week. Each Friday evening during Lent, both parishes will have Stations of the Cross. In both parishes, Lenten suppers are also available before the stations. Check parish websites for exact times and more details.

We received word from Dr. Valenti yesterday that he is going to be in consultation with MSDE about a waiver for some of the missed school days. As a non-public school, we are required to have 170 instructional days and if we leave the calendar as is, we will have 171 days. We do need to realize that winter is far from over! We will make changes to the calendar as necessary. Right now we are leaving it as is.

We will be extending the trimester an extra week. The second trimester will now end Friday, March 5th. This will allow teachers to get in their instruction without students feeling like everything is compacted. We have asked the teachers to really look at their lesson plans and streamline their activities. It is really important that we all get back into our school routine as soon as possible.

We will be opening on time for the duration of this week even though Howard County will be open 2 hours late. We will not have morning bus service so please plan accordingly. Please use extra caution in the parking lot during drop-off due to the increased volume. Car traffic can utilize the front door as well as the regular drop-off locations.

The RSPS Children's Winter Event has been rescheduled for this Sunday, February 21st from 1:00pm until 3:00pm at Brunswick Zone in Normandy. Please arrive 10 to 15 minutes early to check in. We are no longer accepting registrations for children through school, but the entire bowling alley is reserved for RSPS and there will be space for additional children. If you did not RSVP to the school, you can still attend the event by paying the bowling alley directly at the cost of \$15 per child on the day of the event.

Coffee with Mrs. Murphy has been re-scheduled for next Monday, February 22nd from 9:30am-10:30am in MP room 1. This is an informal opportunity to ask questions and share information.

Re-registration forms are due back this Friday, February 19th. If your child will not be returning to RSPS in the fall we require that you put that information in writing and send it to the office. Re-registration forms that come in to the business office after February 19th will be subject to the \$100.00 non-refundable application fee as well space availability for that grade. Thank you in advance for getting this in on time.

We remind our car rider families to please follow the proper drop-off and pick-up system that is in place. It has been brought to the office's attention by school personnel that are on car line duty that parents are avoiding the regular car line procedure by parking near the parish office building to drop-off or pick-up their children. This compromises the safety of our students. School administration will be monitoring the car line and speaking to our parents who are not in compliance. We ask that you call the school office if you are unclear of proper pick-up procedures or if you need to make a special, as needed, arrangement for your child's departure or arrival. We greatly appreciate and thank the majority of you who patiently wait in the car line.

Due to the delivery schedule, hot lunches will be changed on Thursday and Friday of this week. **Thursday's lunch (Feb. 18th) will be a make-up for Friday, Feb. 5th.** If you ordered the hot dog or chef salad lunch on Feb. 5th, it will be served tomorrow. **This Friday, Feb. 19th, will be the macaroni and cheese lunch from Thursday, Feb. 18th.** We only have enough food for students who originally placed orders. Please remember to send a lunch into school with your child Thursday if they did not order hot lunch on Feb. 5th and Friday if they did not order on Feb. 18th. All snow days as well as this Friday's hot lunch will be made up the first week in April. **Please hold on to your February calendars so that you know what day(s) your child had hot lunch when the April calendar is distributed.** We apologize for the inconvenience.

Tori Mannarelli and Morgan Flack are to be commended for having their hair cut and donated to the Locks of Love Campaign.

Upcoming Dates:

- Friday, February 19th- Re-registration due
- Sunday, February 21- Children's Winter Event - Bowling
- Tuesday, February 23- Blue Tuesday- Students are to wear their Blue Ribbon t-shirt with Jeans or school sweatpants and tennis shoes
- Thursday, February 25th- NO SCHOOL FOR PRE-K and KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS ONLY – we will be testing new students

Coming home today:

- Rice Bowls to be used during Lent
- Home and School Association Newsletter
- Home and School Association Letter about nominations
- RSPS Fish Fry day ticket order form
- RSPS Fish Fry day volunteer form

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 Mrs. Patton; Ben Price, nephew of Mrs. Mansfield and cousin of Jack and Mark Mansfield; Delma Ramsay, grandmother of Bella and Alena Nosel; Mary Murphy, mother of Mrs. Clar; Patti Antone, aunt of Erin, Sean, Gabe and Gianna Antone; Mrs. Gaye Euler; Kathy Moldenhauer, grandmother of Max Moldenhauer; and Carol Seboda, grandmother of Max and Katie Pfeiler. Let us also remember all those who have died, especially Ralph Antone, grandfather of Gabriel, Gianna, Erin and Sean Antone. We ask God to bless their family with peace and healing.

Peace,

Karen Murphy
Principal