



News & Notes

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September 30, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The staff started this week with a fantastic retreat. After a morning of prayer, talk and reflection, we all headed out to do service. Half the staff went to the Maryland Food Bank while the other half went to the Charlestown Retirement Center. We all enjoyed the opportunity to put our theme this year into action.

The students are also doing a terrific job with their weekly service journals. Thank you for your support with this project.

Speaking of service, our Girl Scout troops have been very busy this fall. Many thanks to Troop 261 for their babysitting service for our adult Home and School Meetings and to Troop 103, who have been busy weeding the areas by the playground areas and the church. Both are wonderful service opportunities that our immediate community benefits from!

Our fall school Book Fair is well underway. Students will visit the Book Fair during their regular library periods. Students in grades 7 and 8 may visit during their lunch period. The library will be open from 8:30-9:00 AM and 3:30-4:00 PM for parents and students of Pre-K and Kindergarten to shop. Additionally, this Thursday, October 1st, Mrs. Grue will open the library up from 6:00-7:00 PM to allow parents to shop before attending the Archdiocesan meeting on Catholic Schools in the church.

Our 8th graders will be our readers and gift bearers this Friday for our Mass at 10:15 AM. This is a "Feed My Lambs" Friday, so students are encouraged to make an extra lunch for the homeless and send it in to school first thing in the morning. Lunch should consist of a sandwich; (peanut butter and jelly or jelly sandwich because of refrigeration concerns) snack and drink. Lunches will be delivered to Our Daily Bread that morning. Thank you for making this such a successful family project.

We have added some new dates to our December calendar on the website. Please make note of them. There will be more details to follow in the coming weeks.

On December 9th, Tom and Norma Hoff, grandparents of Morgan and Tommy Ruddo, grade 2, will once again open up their beautifully decorated house for a Christmas Decorator Show House Tour. Those who attended last year's event can attest to the creative and splendid Christmas décor that was found in every room. This is a wonderfully fun and festive school fundraiser. Please talk to your friends, relatives and neighbors about attending. We thank the Hoff's for their ongoing generosity to our school. Details on ticket purchases and the house tour times will come home at a later date.

Gather your RSPS friends, family and classmates for a private Symphony of Lights group walk-through on Thursday, December 10th at Merriweather Post Pavilion. The walk begins promptly at 4:30 PM and will end at 5:45 PM. A \$5.00 donation per walker (over age 2) will be collected to benefit the Howard County General Hospital. Strollers are welcome. Students will be allowed to wear their new Blue Ribbon t-shirts to school on the 10th so that they can wear them that evening!

Room Parent letters have been sent home listing classroom events and volunteer opportunities. Please note that the day for the Christmas classroom parties is Monday, December 21st. A few of the room parent letters had an incorrect date listed.

This year's Grandparent's Day will be held on Friday, October 23rd. Please save this date for a morning of activities to recognize our special grandparents. Students may also choose to bring a special friend/family member for this event if a grandparent(s) cannot attend. A committee is working on the morning's schedule. A flier is coming home today and additional information will be sent home soon. If you are interested in assisting on this committee, please contact Karen Frechette at ksfrechette@earthlink.net.

Mrs. Suarez and I attended an Archdiocesan Meeting last week on the H1N1 flu virus. We are happy to report that we are in full compliance with what the Archdiocese is recommending for preparation. We did learn that there is no mandated percentage of absence that pertains to school closure because of an outbreak. The school will remain open should an outbreak occur as long as we are able to effectively deliver instruction. If it comes to a point where we have a lot of staff out and feel that effective instruction is not viable, we may need to use our teacher's website for a short period of time to deliver instruction. Please make sure that you are familiar with accessing your teacher's sites and know the passwords associated with each. Any decision to close for any period of time will be determined by conversations with the health department and the Archdiocese.

In the meantime, we continue to encourage that each child be immunized with the regular flu shot (available now), and the H1N1 flu mist (available sometime in the next two weeks). Mrs. Suarez sent home the information below in her mailing two weeks ago, but we thought we would remind those who are interested.

Drive-Thru Seasonal Flu Immunization Clinic:

Free Drive-Thru Seasonal Flu Immunization Clinic will be held Sunday, October 4, 2009 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Howard County Health Dept. on Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia. You do not need to be a resident of Howard County to participate. For more information call the Flu Hotline at 410-313-6503 or visit www.hchealth.org

Please remember to report your child's absence into the school office by 9:00 AM on the day of their absence by calling 410-461-9111 ext. 241. Information may be left on the 241 extension voice mail early in the morning or the night before. If you are requesting that homework be sent to the office or sent home with another student we must receive the call by 9:00 AM so that arrangements can be made. Calls for homework, received later in the day, may not allow time for the homework to be recorded from periods that have already occurred.

Please make sure that you are signed up to receive the school email alerts. The email alerts will also be another important communication tool. The sign up bar is found on the school main webpage.

Once again this year, our school will support Toiletries for Tara, a fundraiser to honor the memory of Tara Howard, a 2001 RSPS graduate. Tara loved helping people, especially the homeless. Toiletry items collected will be distributed through the Happy Helpers For The Homeless.

Congratulations to our new Cross Country Club. Their moderator, Mrs. Zmijewski reports that she has 15 students interested. The group had their first meet this past Saturday at Trinity and overall did pretty well for our first time. They will be running again this Saturday at 9:00 AM. Come out and cheer them on!

Important Reminders:

- Innisbrook gift wrap orders are due this Friday, Oct. 2nd
- Order form for Blue Ribbon T-shirt were due today, September 30th, with \$5.00 payment
- Sterling Silver RSPS charm and pendant orders are due this Friday, October 2nd

Coming home today:

- Flier from Resurrection Youth Group inviting our 8th graders to participate in upcoming workshop
- Grandparents Day Flier
- Letter from Archbishop Timothy Dolan about Catholic Schools being worth the effort
- Entertainment Book flier
- Flier to 5th graders about upcoming Science Club
- Flier for 6th, 7th and 8th graders about upcoming meeting for It's Academic Club for all who are interested in joining
- Flier for Toiletries for Tara
- Flier for St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry
- Sacramental Preparation Program Flier for Church of the Resurrection Parish 2nd grade students
- Last chance order form for Sterling Silver RSPS charm and pendant

In your prayers this week, please remember all those who are seriously ill and in need of God's healing presence, especially Paul Bowersox, grandfather of Philemon Kendzierski; Barbara Bodensteiner, mother in law of Maureen Bodensteiner; Brother James Kelly, President of Mt. St. Joseph High School; Tom Herbert, brother in law of Valerie and uncle of Graham Bateman; Joanne Failla, aunt of Natalie, David and Matthew Gries; Chris Heck, son of Cindy Heck; and Pete Melynk, uncle of Jen Miller and great uncle of John, Carly and Amanda Miller.

Peace,

Karen Murphy
Principal