

February 23, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As February draws to a close and March begins to peek in, we find ourselves on individual Lenten journeys. It is a time to ask our God to "Let us fast that we might take in more of your grace; let us give that we might have more room for your presence; and let us pray that we might come to know your voice." May our prayers be answered.

REGISTRATION: I'd like to thank all the families who have already submitted their registration for the next school year. If you haven't returned your forms yet, please do so by the end of February. After that time, we will use our registration numbers to decide how many sections of each grade level we will offer. Also remember that applications for Tuition Support are due by the end of the month.

CONFERENCES: The schedule for February conferences (Thursday, February 25) was sent home last Thursday. I cannot say enough about the importance of attending conferences. Besides keeping the lines of communication open, your involvement speaks to the importance you place on your child's education and development. Thanks for caring. Students will not have school on either Thursday or Friday, February 25 and 26. Mid-terms and (hopefully) ITBS results will be distributed at conferences.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: On Fridays during Lent, the fifth graders will assist Fr. Vincent and Fr. Tony in offering this special, seasonal prayer. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade attend, and guests are invited to join us. On the last Friday of Lent, March 26th, our middle school prayer group, Fridays with the Father, will share a Shadow Stations with students and guests, beginning at 9:30 A.M. in the social hall. Please consider praying with us.

CATHOLIC AID FISH FRYs: What would Lent be without the weekly CAA Fish Fry? From 4:30 to 6:30 P.M. on Fridays, a delicious walleye meal can be eaten in the social hall or taken home. If you need some Service Hours, volunteer to serve others at these meals. The proceeds from the Fish Frys are generously donated to St. Philip's School, St. Philip's Religious Formation, and St. Philip's Parish.

A NEW, BEAUTIFUL STAINED GLASS WINDOW adorns the Cabrini Room, announcing the presence of St. Philip's School. The window was donated by the Grimm family in memory of Gladyce and Larry. It was designed and created by a local artist, Sue Smith, with window framing done by Don McKinnon. How blessed we are to receive this lovely memorial.

SPECTACULAR SPELLERS! In one of the best rounds of competition in the last several years, eighth grader Mariah Graves, daughter of Patrick, edged out sixth grader Brody Wilander, son of Theresa and Mark, on the words "octagon" and "ravioli". Both Mariah and Brody who dueled for a number of rounds won prizes for their spelling efforts. The entire contest displayed great effort by all the contestants.

MATHLETES: MathCounts coaches, Terry Belanger and Karen Williams, took a scoring team and an alternate team to the MathCounts Chapter competition on Friday, February 19. Our team took second place in small schools. Great job, everyone! Representing St. Philip's were: Aaron Bofferding, Didu Keddah, Shaena Bromenshenkel, Erin Jones, Kayla Snell, Ben Wilander, Guy Clay, Ethan Youso, and Sidney Snyder.

HEALTH NOTES: Days off seem to come at the right time to reduce the spread of germs. But at other times, help us out by keeping children who are running temperatures or have thrown up within the past twenty-four hours at home. The rest will do them well and keep others from getting ill. Strep is still around.

KINDNESS WEEK: We just concluded our annual Kindness Week. Led by last year's Star Team, our students raised money for the Red Cross to assist with relief efforts in Haiti. Posters, thank you notes, and random acts of kindness also filled the week. I hope some kindness rubbed off at home, too.

SPIRIT WEAR: Are your children in need of a St. Philip's t-shirt or sweatshirt? In March, the Parent Association will offer spirit wear for purchase. Information and order forms will be sent home later.

WINDOW COVERINGS: Have you noticed our new window shades? Thanks to a generous gift from Catholic Aid, we were able to accentuate the new windows with much needed coverings from Bemidji Design Center. They are both beautiful and functional. Thank you, Catholic Aid.

SPRING GALA: The last of this year's school fund raisers will be an exquisite dinner and dance held at the Country Club on Friday evening, April 23rd. Families are invited to attend the event or assist with various aspects. Please call Tim Dondelinger, 766-2900, Jim Grimm, 766-4520, or Kevin Erpelding, 766-6736, to obtain tickets or volunteer. Looks to be another fantastic evening!

CENSUS: It's 2010 and time for the counting of our population. In March, families will receive a short Census questionnaire to complete and return. Do your part to be counted.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT CERTIFICATION: Do you have a valid certification for this year? To obtain certification, you must annually fill out an Acknowledgement and Consent form and successfully complete training. All forms and training materials are available in the school, parish, and Religious Formation offices, as well as online at www.crookston.org. Get certified. We want you to be actively involved with us.

SERVICE HOURS: At conferences each family will receive an accounting of the service hours submitted as of February 10. Please turn your hours in, or speak to me if you are having difficulty completing yours.

MORNING DROP OFFS: Beltrami Avenue sees a considerable amount of traffic in the morning hours as students are dropped off for school. If you are planning to walk your child inside, please park in one of the diagonal slots and leave the "drop off" zone for cars that are unloading quickly and then departing.

SCHOOL COUNCIL: After serving our school well for six years as a member of the School Council, Mr. Tim Dondelinger will be leaving his post and a new member will be sought. The School Council is an advisory committee to the administration on matters of policy. It meets monthly from August through June on the second Tuesday of the month. Members may serve for two continuous three-year terms before having to step down. If you are interested in serving on the School Council, please speak to me. Members of St. Philip's Parish who are in good standing with the church and are at least eighteen years of age are eligible to be on the Council.

I thank Tim for his years of dedication and support to his alma mater. He has been a valued member of this committee. Thank you, Tim.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM: Students in grades three through eight will have the opportunity to visit our Outdoor Classroom on Friday, March 5. For one and one-half hours, groups will be involved in snowshoeing, observation, and winter games. Permission slips will be given to parents at conferences. It will be a day when winter clothing is a necessity.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Plan ahead for these March and April events and activities-Stations of the Cross; Koinonia; Fish Frys; 6th grade Star Teams Workshop; Outdoor Classroom trip; Band Concert-Tuesday, March 16 at 6:30; 5th grade Wax Museum-Thursday, March 25 from 1:00 – 3:00; Shadow Stations of the Cross-Friday, March 26 at 9:30; Seder Meal-April 1; Spring Break-April 2-11; Youth Choir to sing at Easter Sunday 11:00 Mass.

Very truly,

Carol Rettinger
Principal

