

November 5, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Can you believe that it's November already? The first grading period has ended and the second begun. Autumn leaves now blanket the ground compliments of the unexpected wind, rain, and snow. Early morning light greets us in exchange for premature evening darkness. And the color orange is appearing everywhere. Oh, the change of seasons is definitely upon us. Enjoy!

CONFERENCES: It's time to get together to discuss the progress of your child thus far this school year. Fall Conferences are scheduled for all day Thursday, November 12. Please make every effort to attend. Your involvement validates the importance you place on your child's education and strengthens the relationship between home and school. The conference schedule accompanies this newsletter. Students will have no school on Thursday and Friday, November 12 and 13.

BOOK FAIR: The annual Fall Book Fair has its preview day on Friday and opens for business next week. The Fair culminates on Thursday, November 12, with a Family Event from 4:30 – 6:30. Much thanks to our Library / Technology duo, Lisa Graefe and Laurie Yost, and their dedicated volunteers who make the Fair happen. If you have the chance, please stop by the social hall next week and check it out.

RECAPPING RECENT EVENTS: Thanks to everyone who participated in the Marathon for Nonpublic Education. Approximately 250 individuals walked with us on Saturday, October 10, and our families raised \$10,400 to benefit St. Philip's School. The top earning families were the Wilfords, the Jones, and the Tinsays. The Dixon family won the drawing for the water park. Mrs. Hengel's first grade had the highest percentage of participants attending the Saturday Marathon event and Mrs. Balstad's class had the highest percentage of students who participated in fund raising. Congratulations to our winners and Thanks to everyone....Our mock evacuation went quite well. In an organized and orderly fashion, students and parents were reunited after our student body was relocated to Bemidji High School. Your cooperation was greatly appreciated... The Harvest Happening held last Friday evening at the BSU Rec Center collected 151 pounds of food and \$131 for the Bemidji Food Shelf. For two hours families enjoyed a variety of activities along with the great company of others. Again, thanks to Dorie Muller, Ruth Walters, and all the many volunteers who assisted with this event.... The Parent Association's Pie Sale looks to be successful. Under the direction of Judy Mackenroth, this fundraiser made available a few different edible products besides the usual delicious pies just in time for the holiday season. Please be sure to pick up your order on Monday or Tuesday, November 23 or 24. All proceeds from this event go to the Parent Association which in turn supports activities for students. Thank you, everyone....Our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade mathletes have participated in two meets thus far. We're holding our own and hope to make a run for the top in the remaining competitions....The Science Fair was amazing! How wonderful it was to have knowledgeable students impress us with their projects.

NET RETREAT: Today our seventh and eighth graders had the opportunity to participate in a day long retreat led by the Catholic National Evangelization Team. Through prayer, music, and activities, our students heard the faith testimonies of young Catholic adults and were invited to see and discover their faith in a new light.

TURKEY BINGO: Looking for another family fun night? Come play Bingo on Saturday evening, November 21, beginning after 5:30 P.M. Mass in the social hall. For a quarter, you could win your family a turkey. Everyone is invited to the fun sponsored by Our Lady of the Snow council of Catholic Aid.

THE WEATHER IS COOLER: Unless it's raining, students will go outside for fresh air in the morning and at their noon recess. Coats, hats, and mittens are necessary to keep bodies warm on these cool November days. Parents, please check our lost and found for missing items. It always seems to be in a state of overflow.

USED SCHOOL FURNITURE: We have some student desks, chairs, and tables available for the taking. Just call.

STUFF-A-TRUCK: Our annual involvement in the community Stuff-A-Truck campaign for the Bemidji Food Shelf is underway. From now through November 19, nonperishable food items are being collected in classrooms. Your generosity in this drive is much appreciated.

ALL SCHOOL THANKSGIVING MEAL: One of our favorite St. Philip's traditions is to share a meal together as a school family. On Thursday, November 19, we will eat a delicious 'turkey and all the trimmings' meal in the social hall. Please encourage your child to eat hot lunch that day, if at all possible.

A huge feast like this would not be possible if not for the tremendous kitchen staff and the many volunteers involved. If you would like to assist with the Thanksgiving meal on the 19th, please contact the school office. The more, the merrier. Thank you.

THE SECOND SCHOOL PICTURE DAY is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18. For those who did not have their pictures taken in October or those whose pictures need to be retaken, this will be the day. I am expecting that the pictures taken in October will be here in time for distribution at conferences next week.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS: In this the centennial year of the Crookston Diocese, Bishop Michael Hoepfner has called for a second diocesan synod which will convene in June. As part of the synod process, parishioners are invited to participate in discussions about the future of the church of the Diocese of Crookston following all Masses on Sunday, November 22. Your ideas are important. Please share them.....A Mass of Remembrance is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, at 7:00 P.M. If you have lost a loved one, join with others in prayer and reflection to honor our beloved dead. It is a beautiful expression of love.....Our weekly Mass is on Wednesday at 8:40 A.M.

C.A.P. DAY: On Friday, November 20th, students will have the opportunity to wear a hat/cap or carry a stuffed animal around with them all for a donation of \$1.00. This 'Caring About People' day will raise money for the Radiothon to End Child Abuse, scheduled for early December. We hope to challenge students in other schools to do the same.

MEAL ACCOUNTS: Please keep your family's meal account current. You can check your balance online or call Deb for details. At any time during the year, if your financial circumstances change, you may apply for benefits through the Federal Meal Program. Denise has all the info.

THE 52 CLUB RAFFLE: Are you beginning to contemplate Christmas gift ideas? How about a 52 Club Raffle ticket? For \$25, a person has over 100 chances to win money during the 52 weeks of the raffle's duration. (You need not be present to win.) Prizes range from \$25 to \$1000. The first drawing will be on Sunday, January 24, 2010, the start of our Catholic Schools Week celebration. The 52 Club Raffle ticket is a gift that may keep giving throughout the year.

As part of the fund raising commitment this year, all families are asked to sell five raffle tickets, beginning before Thanksgiving and ending in early January. Families who may find it difficult to sell their allotment, may volunteer to sell tickets after Masses on weekends in November, December, and January. More details later.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: Just a reminder that Diocesan Safe Environment Certification is valid for one year from the date issued. If you fulfilled the requirements last fall, you will need to update your certification by:

1) completing the Acknowledgement and Consent form and 2) completing training on Component A and passing the quiz. Training may be done on line at www.crookston.org or in the school or parish offices. Please keep your certification current so that you are able to volunteer in the school. Thanks so much.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS.....the new children and grandchildren who are entering our lives.....the students preparing for their 1st Reconciliation.....families who are experiencing difficult times.....those who will be hunting this season.....those who have died and those who miss them.

"Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Galatians 3:29

Very truly,

Carol Rettinger
Principal

