

August Newsletter

Saint Elizabeth Regional School



August/September 2010

Dear Parents,

A “hello” greeting is extended to each of you. I hope you are having a relaxing and restful summer. It seems so early to ask you to start thinking about our new school year. The reality is that in a little over three weeks we will begin school. Our opening date is **Monday, August 30, 2010**. Information for the first days of school is on the reverse side of this letter. **A reminder to the students** – remember to complete your summer activity packet and **bring it to school on the first day**.

A **sincere warm welcome** is extended to all of our **new families**. If you have any questions after reading this newsletter please feel free to contact me at the school – 610-264-0143.

Our **“Back to School Night”** is scheduled for **Thursday, September 9, 2010 – 7 pm in the Parish Hall**. I ask that at least one parent from each family attend. It is an excellent way for you to be informed of school policies and each teacher will provide you with their classroom requirements. This meeting will assist you to be involved with your child’s education and enable us to have a good school year.

The National Catholic Education Association theme this year is **“A+ For America – Catholic Schools”**. This theme will enable us to continue sharing our faith and academic endeavors within our school, parish and local communities.

Continuing our efforts to save paper and to **“Go Green”** – we will attempt to communicate our **school newsletter and calendar** to you only by way of **you visiting our school web site** (www.sercc.org/school) each month. Last year we had only 33 families that requested to receive hard copies of the newsletter. Hopefully we will be able to lower that number this year. If any family does not have access to a computer let me know and other arrangements will be made for your family. Please complete the **“Go Green”** coupon on the back of this letter and return it to me ASAP.

The following paragraph is an insurance requirement: *The Office of Education in the Diocese of Allentown has asked that we inform you of the following: "In compliance with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) an inspection for asbestos containing building materials was performed at each of our schools within the Diocese of Allentown. A copy of the inspection reports is on file in each school's administrative office for your review any time during normal school hours. In the event you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school's Principal or the Diocesan Asbestos Coordinator."*

Let us be united in keeping the children safe and give them hope for the future. Help me remind them **“We are all God’s work of art”** and need to offer back to God our talents well used for others. And, let’s look forward to a year where we will be proud to be part of the Saint Elizabeth Regional School community.

God bless you!

Sister Bonita Smith

Sister Bonita Smith, RSM



Back to School

Back to School

Classes begin on Monday, August 30th for grades 1 through 8. The school day begins at 8 am with the salute to the flag outside, and the day ends at 2:50 pm. *Kindergarten students whose last names begin with the letters A – F start with an “Orientation Day” from 9 – 11 am on Monday, August 30th; Kindergarten students whose last names begin with the letters G – Z will have “Orientation” on Tuesday, August 31st from 9 – 11 am.* At least one Kindergarten parent should attend this meeting. *Wednesday, September 1st, is Kindergarten’s first full day of school. School will be closed on Friday, September 3rd and Monday, September 6th for Labor Day.*

Summer uniforms (polo shirts and Flynn & O'Hara shorts, with belts) may be worn the first day of school.

Please remember our dress code rules!

- ☺ Boys and girls are to wear sensible shoes (no sneakers, clogs, sandals, flip flops, or wedge heels).
- ☺ Girl's skirts/uniforms are to be worn at the top of the knee.
- ☺ *Hair must be the child's natural color; boys' hair should not be over the collar or eyebrows.*
- ☺ Girl's earrings must be the plain spherical type, *no dangling or hoops* and only one pair please!
- ☺ Boys are not allowed to wear earrings!
- ☺ *No artificial nails or tips; only clear nail polish.*

There are **NO gym classes** the first week of school; therefore gym uniforms should not be worn.

Kindergarten and first grade students should have a tag pinned to their clothing with their name and means of transportation written on it to avoid confusion.

Public school districts that bus our students will send busing information directly to you. If you requested transportation and do not receive anything from your respective school district by August 25th, please call us.

Used Uniform Sale

The first **used uniform sale** of the school year will be held on **Tuesday, August 17th from 9 am – 2 pm**. If you have clothes from last year that need to be turned in for credit, please bring them with you.

News from the Lunch Room

The lunch calendar and order form for September will be available on the web page. If you would like to print the form out and mail it in prior to the start of school please do so; payment must accompany order. Annotate the envelope – “lunchroom”. Remember – a ***hot lunch will not be provided*** the first week of school. Please pack a lunch for your child for the first four days. Families can apply for free or reduced price school lunches on the web at www.compass.state.pa.us . Refer to the enclosed letter from Mrs. Richter.

Volunteers

As everyone knows, volunteers provide tremendous services for our students and faculty. A volunteer sheet with a list of the many ways you can contribute to the life

of our school will be sent home on the first day of school. ***Special Note:*** We need yard moms or dads at lunch recess the first week of school. If you can help, please give us a call at 610-264-0143 or send an email to school@sercc.org. ***Reminder:*** All volunteers must have ‘criminal background’ and ‘child abuse’ checks done and all must attend a “Protecting God’s Children” class before coming in to help. You can find class dates at http://www.allentowndiocese.org/virtus_calendar.html

School Supplies

Everyone should have received a stationery list at the end of last school year. If you’ve misplaced it please check our website www.sercc.org/school and click on “Class Pages”. There is no list for Kindergarten. Stationery supplies will also be available for purchase when school begins. You may want to wait to get any additional items after your child has met his/her teacher.

Don’t Forget to Save

Remember to save Campbell’s Labels and Boxtops for Education. Check the boxtops website www.boxtops4education.com for an abundance of information. Sign up and support Saint Elizabeth Regional School.

We accumulate approximately \$125 monthly in “rewards” from Staples because of our ink cartridge collections. We use those rewards to purchase needed school items at the Staples store.

Consider obtaining a “Red Card” at Target and designate our school to receive 1% of all purchases. You can get one at any Target store or apply on line at https://redcard.target.com/redcard/rc_main.jsp.

And don’t forget the “Save-a-Tape” program at Redner’s. We recently received a check for \$262 – thanks to all who participate.

Extended Day Care

The Extended Day Care Program begins Monday, August 30th. Hours are 3 – 6 pm. Kindergarten extended care will begin Wednesday, September 1st. Please direct all questions to Maria Sosa at 610-266-1322.

School Policy

Our school admits students of any race, color, nationality, and ethnic origin, to all rights, privileges, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the school. Our school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, and/or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, or in any school administered program.

Going Green

____ I will read the monthly newsletter and review the monthly calendar on the school website and print it myself if necessary. www.sercc.org/school

____ I need a hard copy of both the newsletter and calendar sent home with my child.

Printed Name: _____

Please return by September 1st

Saint Elizabeth Regional School School Lunch Program

Applying for Free or Reduced Lunch? Please read.....

Now families can apply for free or reduced price school meals through the National School Lunch Program online using the Internet! This can be done using COMPASS. COMPASS allows Pennsylvanian's to apply for social service programs, such as Food Stamps (FS), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Energy Assistance, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), etc., online. Families can use COMPASS to apply for free or reduced price school meals only, or they can apply for other services at the same time (FS, TANF, etc.).

Since your child attends Saint Elizabeth Regional School, you can apply for free or reduced price school meals online by going to the COMPASS website at www.compass.state.pa.us, or you can continue to use the paper "Household Meal Benefit Application" if you prefer.

Once you access COMPASS, select **Apply for Benefits**. Parents will select the programs they wish to apply for and be directed through a series of questions regarding those programs. Please enter Lehigh, the county of the school when you apply. This may not necessarily be your home county. Select Saint Elizabeth Regional School as the school your child attends.

Once the questions have been completed, the COMPASS system will direct your information to each appropriate program office and the school you selected will receive the Household Meal Benefit Application. The school will notify you if you are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

If you apply for free or reduced price school meals through COMPASS, you **do not** need to submit a paper application.