

# OCTOBER NEWS

October 2009



Dear Parents,

Thank you to each of you that attended our “Back to School Night” on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. I hope you enjoyed meeting the teachers and hearing about all of the learning that will occur during this year.

Hopefully you have taken time to review and read the new policy book you received at “Back to School Night.” A reminder that several families need to return the signature sheet to let me know you and your child/ren have reviewed the school policies.

The new style weekly folder sent home on Wednesdays is to be emptied and materials reviewed, please. The following day, Thursday, return what needs to be returned. Your signature on the envelope will assist us in making certain that you have been given the folder by your youngest or only child and had the opportunity to review the information contained in the folder.

Our school nurse, Julie Bannar provided the teachers and staff with a workshop on the H1N1 (Swine Flu) virus. Refer to our school web site [www.sercc.org/school](http://www.sercc.org/school) for excellent information on the “CDC Guidance for School Response to H1N1 2009 influenza” that has been provided for your perusal.

Our year is off to a great beginning; everyone is doing a wonderful job in the area of academics as well as being respectful toward each other. The main area of concern is the dress code policy; please carefully review this section in the policy book. I ask that you continue to check that your child/children are in the proper uniform each day. Slip-on shoes are not acceptable due to safety. Many girls are wearing skirts that have become too small for them – length is a concern. The skirt length is to be at the knee. Please work on being in compliance with the dress code. I do not want to be daily addressing these issues with the students. A quick check by you at home will alleviate me needing to give out dress code violation slips. Please help me with the proper carrying out of the dress code policies.

We are still in need of HASA members. Many HASA events will be discontinued unless we have a few generous people volunteering to assist with HASA activities.

Your cooperation and support are truly appreciated and I thank you for helping us get the school year off to a smooth beginning.

Let us keep each other in prayer during the month of October.

God bless you.

*Sister Bonita*



## ENJOY THE CITY AND KIDSTUFF FUNDRAISERS

The "Enjoy the City" and "KidStuff" book fundraiser ended Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. If you did not turn in your money or books, please do so immediately.

## OCTOBER EARLY DISMISSAL AND DAYS OFF

On Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will release at 12 noon. Please make sure your child knows what to do and where they are going that day. There is **no school on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.**

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Fr. Stan will bless animals at **7:45 am** on **Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** to celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. Weather permitting, you may bring your favorite pet or pets to the school parking lot. Animals should be leashed or caged and taken home immediately after the prayer service. They cannot stay in school with the students. *Please note the time change from previous years – it is earlier this year so Fr. Stan can prepare to say Mass at 8 am.*

## FIRE PREVENTION

Fire Prevention Week is October 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. Make sure your children know what to do in case of a fire at home. Please practice your family plan for an emergency exit route from your home. Remember to set a place for your family to meet outside if the emergency plan is put into effect.



The Whitehall Township Fire Department will visit our school on **Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**. Fire Chief Robert Benner will hold an assembly in the parish hall at 9:30 am. Our local firefighters will show students in Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade how the various fire-fighting equipment works. 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be treated to a tour of the township's new "Fire Prevention Trailer". Firefighters will then join the students for lunch.

## LITURGY OF COMMITMENT

On **Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am**, we will celebrate a **Liturgy of Commitment**. Parents, grandparents, friends, and family are all invited to attend. This liturgy is for all students who hold positions on Student Council, those who are Altar Servers, Choir Members, Lectors and Safetys. It is special, because all of our students bring something special to the school – *their talent*.

## OCTOBER FUNDRAISERS

Back by popular demand is the Little Caesar's Pizza fundraiser. Order forms will be sent home on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and are due back to school along with payment on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

A new fundraiser featuring candles from "Lehigh Valley Candle" will begin on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Orders and payment are due November 4<sup>th</sup>.

## VACATION SWEEPSTAKES FUNDRAISER

We will sponsor another "Vacation Sweepstakes" lottery. Look for a letter and two tickets in the mail in the middle of October. Tickets will be on sale until November 20<sup>th</sup>. For every five (5) tickets sold, you receive one free. Ask your friends, neighbors and relatives. Please return the tickets and money as soon as possible. *Good Luck!*

## SCHOOL PICTURES

Picture day this year is **Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**. *Students do not need to wear their school uniform that day* however, it is best to wear something "colorful" rather than light-colored clothing (no sandals, clogs, flip-flops, backless shoes, please). A picture order envelope explaining the selections available will be sent home later in the month. *Note:* As in previous years, there is no make-up day for pictures.



## STUDENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Student Council will sponsor a **dress-down day on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**. All students should wear nice clothing in "FALL" colors (brown, green, red, orange, tan, yellow, etc.) *No backless shoes, sandals, clogs, flip-flops, please!* Cost is 50 cents.



On **Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**, Student Council will sponsor a **frightfully good "Haunted House"**. Cost for the tour is 50 cents.

## HALLOWEEN PARADE

**Kindergarten** will don their Halloween costumes on **October 29<sup>th</sup>** and parade through the school and parking lot at 11:15 am. If it rains, they will be in the Parish Hall.

## HOMEWORK HOTLINE

Don't forget to use the school "**Homework Hotline**". Teachers, with the exception of Kindergarten, put their homework of the day on the hotline. Simply call the school after hours and press "4" – then follow the easy directions. Once you press the number of your child's grade, the teacher's recording will inform you of the assignments for the day. If you have questions, just leave a message for the teacher. If Sister Bonita answers the phone, just ask her to connect you with your particular classroom.



## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Please call the school office before 10 am or email us at [school@sercc.org](mailto:school@sercc.org) if your child will not be in school. If you get the recording early in the morning, just press "1" immediately, there's no need to listen to the entire thing.

We ask that if your child is absent on any particular day that you do not send him or her to **any school sponsored activities after school**.

## WELLNESS PROGRAM

This month we will reiterate our school's "Wellness Policy" by printing the letter that was sent home during the 2006 – 2007 school year; the year our Wellness Committee was formed.

"Our Wellness Committee has constructed our policy and we are now in compliance with state law. The following are just a few guidelines that will enable us to comply with our new polices.

- ♥ Please pack a small, healthy snack for your child each day.
- ♥ Birthday celebrations and class parties will be held in the afternoon only.
- ♥ If your child's birthday falls on a non-school day or there is more than one birthday on the same day, the teacher will decide on a fair way to assign a certain day to celebrate each child's birthday. You will be notified in advanced of the selected date for celebration. Healthy foods are of course the goal of this program, however for birthday and holiday celebrations the following exceptions will be allowed per child:
  - ♥ Cookies: 1 oz. or less = 2 average size cookies OR
  - ♥ Bakery items: 1 doughnut, OR 1 cupcake, OR 3 mini cupcakes, OR 3 doughnut holes OR 2 ½ X 2 ½ piece of brownie
  - ♥ One cup of fruit drink or caffeine free diet soda.
  - ♥ Always permitted is water or 100% fruit juices not to exceed 12 ounces
  - ♥ NO CANDY!

The Pennsylvania Department of Education stresses portion control for non-nutritious foods as those items listed above. Each teacher will have a copy of this list in the classroom. All food that is leftover after the celebration will be sent back home with your child.

We ask for your full cooperation in this matter as we strive to meet the requirements set in the School Wellness Policy and to provide better nutrition and wellness for all the children at Saint Elizabeth Regional School. If anyone has healthy ideas or recipes to contribute, please send them to the school office."

Signed,  
*The Saint Elizabeth Regional School Wellness Committee*

## SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Like to polka? Enjoy German fare? A fun-filled Oktoberfest will be held on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 10 pm in the Parish Hall. The Johnny Dee Band will play from 7 – 10 pm. Menu will include knockwurst, sauerkraut, and cabbage and noodles. The evening will also feature a 50/50 drawing and basket raffle. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased after all weekend Masses for \$20 per person or \$25 at the door. We also have some in the school office. All proceeds benefit Saint Elizabeth Regional School.



## HASA NEWS

HASA is still in need of new members for this coming school year. Two committee members cannot do it alone. PLEASE consider donating your time and join – the commitment is one meeting a month, plus events.

Mark your calendars:

- Winter Carnival – December 5 (tentative)
- Santa Shop – December 7 and 8

In order to hold this event, we need to recruit a few volunteers who would be interested in helping to plan and run the Carnival. We will definitely need help setting up on Friday evening, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please call Tina Stoudt at (610) 442-5084 or email [tinastoudt@rcn.com](mailto:tinastoudt@rcn.com) if you are interested. Remember – it's for our children – don't let them down!

## SAINT MARY'S NEWS

The Assembled Men of St. Mary's will hold Bingo on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at noon. Kitchen is open with take-out available. Bingo begins at 1 pm.

## BOXTOPS, CAMPBELLS, and REDNER'S LABELS

Remember to send your Campbell's labels and Box Tops for Education in at any time during the school year. The class with the most labels throughout the year will have a special treat in April. Thanks to the classroom moms who will cut and count the labels – we know it's a tedious task!

Redner's labels continue to make money for our school's general fund. If you don't have a Redner's Save-a-Tape card, just ask them for one at the store; then use it every time you shop at Redner's – and send the full receipt in to school.

## WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD DO WELL IN SCHOOL

1. Read, read, read. Read with your child or have him or her read every day. Make it fun – talk about what you've read.
2. Make home a place for learning. Help your child practice reading, writing, math and science skills. Stimulate your child's creativity.
3. Promote healthy habits. Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep and exercise and eats balanced meals. Schedule regular checkups.
4. Encourage independence. Allow your child to make mistakes and learn to accept their consequences. Give your child responsibilities, such as household chores.
5. Build success. Help raise your child's self-esteem by setting reachable goals and praising your child's efforts, not just results.
6. Make school important. Insist on good attendance and punctuality.

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**Happy Halloween**

*Be Careful when  
Trick or Treating!*