

# ***Saint Elizabeth Regional School***

## ***September 2009 Newsletter***

### **HELLO and GOODBYE**



We'd like to welcome Mrs. Janine Sponsel as our new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher. Mrs. Sponsel comes to us from Sacred Heart Regional School in Allentown. Our new school nurse is Mrs. Julie Bannar. As many of you already know, Mrs. Macaluso retired in June – Mrs. Yurish took her place in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Mrs. O'Brien moved to 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **WELCOME BACK**

Hopefully everyone had a wonderful summer and are glad to be back with us! A warm welcome to all of our new students, and welcome back to our teachers, staff, and those students who have returned. God bless us all as we “*Strive for Excellence*” in the new school year.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

The school “*Summer Uniform*” may be worn until October 30<sup>th</sup>. Belts are to be worn with the navy blue Flynn & O'Hara Shorts. White socks that cover the ankles should be worn. Please check your children to ensure they comply with our dress code.

### **EMERGENCY INFORMATION SHEETS**

Along with this newsletter you will receive an Emergency Information Sheet for each of your children. Please fill out all of the information on both sides and **return immediately**, but no later than **Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**. A form needs to be filled out for each child.

### **FAMILY SURVEY**

All families must fill out the Family Survey which is a requirement of the Diocese of Allentown. Please **return it by Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**. As stated in our letter accompanying the survey, we receive federal funding for a variety of materials and services. The information you provide is compiled and then sent to the appropriate agency that allots tax dollars back to our school.

### **FUNDRAISERS**

Fundraising is an integral part of the school income to help defray costs we incur. We begin the school year with two fundraisers: “**Save Around/Enjoy the City**” and “**KidStuff**” books. **The books will be sent home on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> and the fundraiser ends September 30<sup>th</sup>**. We ask that each family buy or sell at least one “Enjoy the City” booklet or one “KidStuff Book” (they both make great Christmas gifts). Cost is \$20 for “Enjoy the City” and \$25 for KidStuff; you must purchase one before any others are sent home. You can purchase more books after paying for the one that was sent home. Sell 5 and get 1 free. If you do not want to buy or sell the books, please send them back in the original bag or envelope, as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

The **Little Caesars** fundraiser was a tremendous hit last year, so we decided to do it again. It will begin on **Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and continue through the 28<sup>th</sup>**. Delivery date is set for November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Our “**Scrip**” Fundraiser will begin **November 4<sup>th</sup> and will end December 2<sup>nd</sup>**. This gives you time to ask your Thanksgiving guests if they'd like to purchase gift cards. Over 50 stores, restaurants and businesses will be featured. The cards make great Christmas presents for those hard to shop for relatives and friends.



We will continue the buy-out option of fundraising. If a family does not participate in a fundraiser, they will have to pay a fee of \$25, for each campaign run by the school (not including fundraisers run by HASA). Most schools in the diocese have the buy-out option; some as high as \$450. We encourage families to participate in all fundraising efforts, so this policy will not have to be enforced.

We try to have fundraisers that interest all and will fit into everyone's budgets. We thank all of you for your participation in our fundraising efforts and hope you will continue supporting all our events.

## BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

This year “**Back to School Night**” is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** in the Parish Hall. Please make every effort to have your family represented at this meeting. We ask that at least one parent attend – no children please, as the meeting will not keep their attention.

There will be a used uniform sale this same night. Mrs. Fiore will be in the Parish Hall at 6 pm if you need to come in to purchase uniforms.

## DESIGNER CLOTHING SALE



We will sponsor a “**Designer Clothing Sale**” on **Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 6 pm** and on **Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 8 am – 1:30 pm** the Parish Hall. Women’s designer clothing found only in specialty stores will be sold at close-out prices. You will find beautiful, new, quality clothing at 70% off retail. Sales are “cash only”. Pass the word, and bring your friends in for great savings and attractive clothing.

## MERCY DAY – SEPTEMBER 24

Mercy Day celebrates the heritage of the Sisters of Mercy whose foundress was Mother Catherine McAuley. We will celebrate on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, beginning with a Prayer Service at 8:30 am. Please join us if you can and when you see Sister Bonita, wish her a “Happy Mercy Day”.



## VOLUNTEERS

A tan “Volunteer” Sheet is being sent home with this newsletter. Volunteers are an integral part of our school. We couldn’t accomplish many of the things that happen here without their help. Please take a moment to look over the form and donate whatever time you may have to “Celebrate Service” here at Saint Elizabeth Regional School. Please note: If you plan to volunteer more than 15 hours at the school, you must attend a “Protecting God’s Children” class, have a Criminal Background and Sexual Abuse check done and sign volunteer paperwork as prescribed by the Diocese of Allentown.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

Congratulations again to our 2009 – 2010 Student Council members. Hannah Pruzinsky – *President*, Ryan Gutshall – *Vice President*; Representatives include Garret Pruzinsky & Ryan Susko – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade; Kayla Sponsel & Timothy Susko – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade; Mark Garger & Luke Ronco – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and Alexis Ronco & Carly Sponsel – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. God bless all of you as you lead the student body through another wonderful year at Saint Elizabeth Regional School.

## GIFT CARDS

Remember to purchase Gift Cards throughout the school year. Send your envelopes and money in with your child in the morning and they’ll bring them home that same day. If you are using the pre-printed envelopes (your name and ID is on the back), we ask that you put your child’s name and grade on the front. Gift cards are also available for purchase at the rectory, and after several Masses at Saint Elizabeth Church. Did you know that if you buy Giant, Redner’s or Weis cards you can use them to purchase a variety of other gift cards in those stores? Next time you are at either of these stores, check out their gift card displays. And, you can Kohl’s gift cards to pay off your credit card bills at those stores. We also have a limited number of Applebee’s and Barnes and Noble cards for sale.



## PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

The following items reiterate information found in the Parent/Student Handbook. Everyone needs to follow these rules to ensure a safe and successful school year!

*Daily Schedule* – Children are to assemble in the schoolyard in the morning. In inclement weather, they are to go to the Parish Hall. Please drop your children off before 8 am, but not before 7:40 am. We have no formal supervision before 7:40 am and we ask that you do not drop your children off before that time. We will salute our flag before we enter school and the prayer bell will ring in school at 8:10.



*Lunch* – Menus are sent home usually the second Wednesday of the month. Please return them on time, so your child is ensured a hot lunch.



Remember, **you will need to pack a lunch for your children the first week of school.** Milk and drinks will be sold, but no snacks. *Please do not bring in “fast food”* (McDonalds, Burger King, Wendy’s, etc.) for lunch at any time during the school year. Hot lunches will be served beginning Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Don’t forget to pack a **healthy snack** for morning recess – to support our “Wellness Policy”.

*Gym Classes* – Gym classes are held on Tuesday afternoon for 7th and 8th grade students, and all day Thursday for the other grades. Children should wear their gym clothes to school on their designated gym day. **Required attire is: Saint Elizabeth T-shirt, solid/plain navy blue shorts** (no stripes – available for purchase at school or may be purchased in any store), and **Saint Elizabeth sweatsuit (when the weather turns colder), white gym socks that cover the ankle (not sport socks) and sneakers.** The required items are the only ones accepted for wear that day. No other shirts or sweats are allowed. And please remember when the sweat suit is worn, the shorts and T-shirt must be worn underneath.

*Absence* – We ask that you call the school office between 7 and 10 am to report your child absent (*please do not call between 8:10 and 8:20 as we are saying morning prayers at that time*). A note explaining your child’s absence (the reason and the dates) must be sent to school upon his or her return. Let’s continue to keep absences on Mondays and Fridays to a minimum; your child’s education is very important. Homework requests should be in by 10 am also, so the student’s teacher can get the work ready for **pick up at the end of the day.**

*School Calendar and Newsletter* – **Remember we’re going green.** ***This is your last hard copy newsletter unless you’ve requested otherwise. The August newsletter had a coupon for you to clip and send in stating how you’d like the newsletter sent home; please send it in as soon as possible. Both the newsletter and calendar are easily accessible on our school website at [www.sercc.org/school](http://www.sercc.org/school). You’ll find them on the left side of the home page along with the lunch menu. They will be available on-line***

the last Wednesday of each month. This communication effort keeps you informed of school events, early dismissals, holidays, etc. Please keep the calendar accessible for reference during the month.

*Medicine* – Students are not permitted to keep any type of medication on them at any time. This includes pain relievers and inhalers. If your child needs prescribed medication during school hours, you will need to fill out a form stating the type of medication, and the required dosage. We cannot administer any type of medicine without the written consent of a parent (this includes Tylenol® or Motrin®). There is a statement on the Emergency Information Form, which allows Sister Bonita or Mrs. Glover to administer Tylenol® or Motrin®) for minor illnesses.



If your child is required to take any medication, it should be in the original container and not in a plastic bag. Medication is given to students between 12 noon and 1 pm. Medications that require three doses in a day **do not** need to be brought to school. You can give one dose to your child in the morning, then one after school and then again at bedtime.

*School Security* – School doors are locked at all times. Please ring the bell at the main entrance for access. Students are not permitted to open the doors, even if they know who you are. **Visitors and/or volunteers are to report to the office before proceeding to their destination.** This includes former students. Please do not enter the school through any other doors. If for some reason you gained entry through the Parish Hall, we ask that you go around to the front school entrance to enter the school. **Visitors are not to roam the halls** without letting someone in the school office know of their whereabouts. Teachers are not to be disturbed during teaching time!

*Telephone Calls* – Students are only allowed to use the school phone after obtaining permission from their teacher, Sister Bonita, or Mrs. Glover. **Cell phones are not permitted in the school at any time.** Please do not call the school office to ask to talk to your child. If you have an emergency, we will make sure your child receives the message and if necessary will be allowed to speak to you.

## THE THREE RS

*Tuition* – All tuition accounts must be kept up to date. Report cards will not be issued if an account is delinquent. We will no longer send notes home reminding any one of their delinquency before report cards are issued. Please keep your account up to date; if you are having financial difficulty, please notify us immediately.

*Dismissal* – Our regular dismissal is at 2:50 pm. Please make sure your children know what arrangements they are to follow after school. A teacher escorts children to their buses and a teacher and a crossing guard cross the students to the parking lot. For those of you picking up your children, please follow these rules:

- Do not park in front of the school or on the street, but rather in the schoolyard
- Do not park in the first row of spaces. This is where the children gather to look for their rides
- Please do not move your car until all children are safely in their cars
- Make sure your child is picked up by 3 pm (Extended Day care is available from 3 – 6 pm)

If you have an appointment with Sister Bonita or a teacher after school, please wait until all students have left the building before entering.

If your child normally rides the bus and you plan to pick him or her up, please make every effort to notify the office beforehand. It saves a lot of time and avoids much confusion. You should also notify the school district that buses your child. The transportation officer will then notify the child's bus driver.

**Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students should wear a note pinned to their uniforms for the first two weeks of school stating the mode of transportation for dismissal (i.e., Bus 78, Pick Up, Extended Day, etc.)**

### EXTENDED DAY

Extended Day Care is held immediately after school in the Child Care Center, under the direction of Mrs. Maria Sosa. Before school care is held on a limited basis. All children must be registered before they can be sent to Extended Day. It cannot be used as a drop-in service. Please call Ms. Sosa at 610-262-1322 for more information.

The new school year is here! You can help make it a successful one by setting the stage for learning. Share these three Rs with your youngster:

*Readiness* – Ensure your children go to school ready to learn every day: Speak positively to your children about school and the teachers. Your attitude toward learning will send a powerful message to your youngster. See to it that your children get at least eight hours of sleep and a nutritious breakfast so they will feel rested and alert.

*Routines* – Develop simple routines for smooth, stress free mornings: Have your children put everything they need for school in a special “grab ‘n’ go corner. Together, create a regular morning routine.

*Responsibility* – Teach your youngsters responsibility by helping them get organized: Make sure your children have their weekly planner to write down assignments and due dates. Show them how to mark dates on a calendar so you can both keep track of assignments. Ensure your children use their ‘take home’ folder; this is where permission slips and notices of special events go so they don't get lost.



*Welcome Back to*

*Saint Elizabeth Regional School*

*Let's have a great year together!*

