

Saint Elizabeth Regional School



November News

November 2009

Dear Parents and Friends of Saint Elizabeth Regional School,

November – can you believe we have been in school for ten weeks? I am amazed how quickly the weeks passed by us.

Each year, I address the wonderful feasts we celebrate on November 1st, and November 2nd. **All Saints Day and All Souls Day** offer us the opportunity to communicate with our Saints in Heaven and those Souls in Purgatory that depend on our prayers to achieve their eternal reward. During the month of November try to find some time to discuss as a family the importance of the Saints. If possible make time to have the life of the patron saint of each family member discussed so the children will become more aware of how important the saints are in the tradition of our Catholic church.

Saint Elizabeth Parish will celebrate **Forty Hours** on November 15, 16, and 17, 2009. **The service for all involved with the school is in Church on November 16th at 6:00 pm.** Please attempt to attend this prayer service as a family. We have an excellent opportunity to show our love for the Eucharist during these special days in our parish.

I need to remind 26 of you that you have not returned the yellow sheet in the back of the Parent/Student Policy Book. Please check if you still have the sheet and know I'm waiting for the sheet to be returned with your signature and that of your child/ren. Please do this ASAP so I don't need to make personal phone calls to have the sheet returned to me.

All of you are aware that we have three mandatory fundraisers. They are explained at length in the attached newsletter. I plead with you to please try and make all returns to the school on the stated due dates.

I want to inform you that Mrs. O'Connor, our Director of Religious Education for Saint Elizabeth Parish and school will be retiring from this position in the beginning of November. Mrs. O'Connor has completed 26 years of dedicated service to the parish and school. We as a school community thank her for her commitment to the students of Saint Elizabeth Regional School.

Congratulations on your children staying healthy. With all the illness around we can be proud of having two perfect attendance days within the last four weeks. We do ask that if your children are sick, please keep them home. If they have a fever over 100° we will call you to come pick them up. Please review the "Wellness Section" of the Newsletter for updates on H1N1 flu. Our web page has important flu information as well. Please check this page regularly: www.sercc.org/school concerning the monthly calendar, lunch menu and all school happenings.

Let us together thank God for the many graces and blessing God bestows on each of us each day of our lives.

God bless you!

Sister Bonita



EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME



Just a reminder: Turn your clocks *back* one hour before going to bed on Saturday, October 31st. We return to Eastern Daylight Time at 2 am Sunday, November 1st. We believe all will welcome an extra hour of sleep.

NOVEMBER EARLY DISMISSAL and DAYS OFF

November 6	Noon Dismissal
November 12	Noon Dismissal
November 25 – 27	No School (Thanksgiving)
November 30	No School

WINTER UNIFORMS

Beginning **Monday, November 2nd** all students must wear the “**winter**” uniform. Boys in grades K to 4 should wear long blue pants with a belt, and a white long or short sleeve knit shirt with the Saint Elizabeth logo; boys in grades 5 – 8 will wear a white long or short sleeve oxford shirt with a blue tie, and blue long pants with a belt. Girls in grade K – 4 wear the plaid jumper with a white long or short sleeve blouse with peter-pan collar. Girls in grades 5 – 8 will wear the skirt or kilt with a white long or short sleeve oxford blouse. Red or green knee socks round out the uniform. As the days grow colder, girls may wear red or green tights to match the uniform.



Leggings or pants may be worn to school under the jumper or skirt, but are not to be worn in school. Sweaters with the school logo should be worn.

There are still a few students not in compliance with our dress code.

- ◆ Belts must be worn with pants. Shirts must be tucked in at all times; this includes the gym uniform.
- ◆ Necklaces should not be worn with the gym uniform for safety reasons.
- ◆ Bracelets, including “friendship” bracelets are not to be worn.
- ◆ Check for nail polish. Only clear polish is allowed.

Please see the Parent/Student handbook if you have questions about our dress code. You received the handbook at *Back to School Night* and as always it is available on our website – www.sercc.org/school.

The **four pieces** of the gym uniform are to be worn starting November 3rd. Gym shorts either have the Saint Elizabeth Regional School logo on them or plain, **solid navy blue gym shorts** – no stripes, no designs, no markings. The *school sweatshirt and sweatpants* are to be worn. Gym socks should be white.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be held from **November 2nd through November 6th** in the school library. Family day will be on Tuesday, November 3rd from 3 – 6 pm. Come in that afternoon to see the variety of books available for sale.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Our **Thanksgiving Food Drive** begins **Wednesday, November 4th** and ends **Friday, November 13th**. Please see the *40 Hours Project* letter that accompanies this newsletter for what type of items each class is assigned. Sister Bonita, with the help of students will prepare the Thanksgiving boxes for needy families. They will be picked up by November 20th. As always, we thank you for your generous support. If you are in need of, or know of families who would benefit from one of our holiday food boxes, please send their names and phone numbers in to the school office as soon as possible. We will contact the individuals for pick up.

For all of the students’ efforts and participation in the “food drive”, **Friday, November 20th will be a “Dress Down Day”**. Students should wear clothes in “fall” colors (brown, red, orange, green, yellow, etc.) or a shirt/jersey of a favorite football team – college or NFL. **No Crocs, sandals, flip-flops, clogs, sling-back, or open toe shoes.**

VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY

There will be a Veteran’s Day Assembly on Monday, November 9th at 9:30 am in the parish hall. All veterans of Saint Elizabeth and Saint Mary parishes are invited to attend. Parents, grandparents and other family members are welcome also!

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences will be held on Thursday, November 12th from 1 – 5 pm. Conference forms requesting a response were sent home October 21st asking you to choose a conference time. It was due October 28th. If you did not turn your form in, a time will be set for you.

Please remember the conferences are only 10 minutes long. Should you need more time to discuss things with your child’s teacher, they’ll be happy to set up an appointment for you at a later date.

Dismissal on November 12th is at noon, so please plan accordingly. We ask that you **do not bring your children with you for the conference** – they will not be allowed in the classroom during conference times.

FORTY HOURS

Forty Hours Devotions at Saint Elizabeth Parish is scheduled for November 15th, 16th, and 17th at 6 pm in the church. **The children's service will be held on Monday evening, November 16th at 6 pm.**

THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

Students in grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 will present a Thanksgiving program on Tuesday, November 24th. All are welcome to attend the performance at 1:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

LUNCH ROOM NEWS

OOPS! There is a mistake on the November lunch menu. On **Wednesday, November 25th we do not have school therefore we will not have lunch.** Anyone who ordered lunch this day will be issued a credit for next month.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The librarians at Whitehall Township Public Library sent us a list of students who participated in the summer reading program. Participants were: Dariah Csuway, Devon Fogel, Alan Garger, Mark Garger, Tyler Mackie-Stuber, Garrett Pruzinsky, Hannah Pruzinsky, Alyssa Quiteles, Anthony Quiteles, Alexis Ronco, Isabella Ronco, Luke Ronco, Anthony Shak and Dillon West. Combined they read 133 books for a total of 12985 pages. Great job everyone!

CYO Cross Country

- ☺ Brian Plucinsky (grade 8) finished in 2nd place at both the Notre Dame High School meet and the Allentown Diocesan Championships.
 - ☺ Sean Brosious (grade 2) came in 6th place at Notre Dame and also at the Allentown Diocese race.
 - ☺ Devon Fogel (grade 6) finished 5th at Notre Dame and 6th at the Allentown Diocese race.
 - ☺ Jillian Sverha (grade 6) came in 10th place at the Bethlehem Catholic H.S. meet and Franco Perinotti (grade 4) finished in 11th place at Notre Dame
- Congratulations to all of our Cross Country runners for an excellent year!

Safety Patrol

Jonathan Nicklas and Tiffany Tran were voted Captain and Lieutenant of the school's Safety Patrol.

WELLNESS CORNER

With all the hype over the Swine Flu, we want all of you to know that we as a school community are doing very well as far as illnesses go. We do have students out with various symptoms, but not all have the same. Some have

a cold, some a sore throat, or a fever, or just a cough, and some have all of these symptoms combined. We've also been told there's some type of virus going around.

We ask that if your child is sick to please keep them at home. If they have a fever, they must stay home until they are fever-free for 24 hours, *without the aid of any medication*. We've been told doctors do not want to see patients unless they've had a fever for over 72 hours. Please call your doctor's office and follow their instructions.

The way to stop the spread of any virus is to keep your hands clean and away from your eyes, nose and mouth. Students are asked to cough into their sleeves, rather than their hands and to throw used tissues away immediately. Teachers, especially those in the lower grades are wiping down desks with some type of disinfectant. We do stress hand washing here at school and all classrooms have a bottle of hand sanitizer in them. This includes the school office and cafeteria. We hope you are doing all of this at home too.

The article below is from the Center for Disease Control Website – please read and heed.

What You Can Do to Stay Healthy From the Center for Disease Control Website

- **Get vaccinated.** Vaccination is the best protection we have against flu. Seasonal flu vaccine is available now and initial doses of 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine also are available, with additional doses available later this year. (*please see below*)
- Influenza is thought to **spread mainly person-to-person** through coughing or sneezing of infected people.
- **Take everyday actions to stay healthy.**
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread that way.
 - Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- **Follow public health advice** regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures.
- Find healthy ways to **deal with stress and anxiety.**
- **Stay informed.** The CDC website will be updated regularly as information becomes available. www.cdc.gov or <http://www.flu.gov/index.html> or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for more information

FLU SHOT CLINIC

Lehigh Valley Health Network is holding its annual Flu Shot Clinics on Saturday, November 7th at Dorney Park from 9 am to 3 pm and on Sunday, November, 8th at Coca Cola Park from 9 am to 3 pm. The *seasonal* flu vaccine will be offered. This is *not the H1N1 vaccine*. The flu vaccine is FREE; however, we are asking that if possible, each person bring one canned good to be donated to the local food bank. For more information, including vaccination forms, please visit www.lvh.org. Please protect yourself and all members of your family! With further questions, call 402-CARE.

FUNDRAISERS

Fundraising is an integral part of Saint Elizabeth Regional School. There are three major fundraisers scheduled by the school administration in addition to those sponsored by the Home and School Association. Our fundraising includes the proceeds from the sale of gift cards which assist greatly in keeping our tuition low and reducing our parish subsidies. We ask that each family support the school by participating in all school-sponsored fundraisers. If you opt not to participate in fundraising, there will be a \$25 buy-out fee for each mandatory fundraiser.

The Enjoy the City/KidStuff Books/Little Caesar Pizza made up the 1st mandatory fundraiser. If you did not participate in any of these, you will owe the \$25 buy-out fee. Our next mandatory fundraiser is the Scrip/Gift Card fundraiser which begins this month. And our final mandatory fundraiser will be in the Spring, when our students will participate in a “Walk-a-thon”.

Listed below are the net profits we’ve made from all of our fundraisers so far and upcoming sales.

Designer Clothing Sale: Our profit from the Designer Clothing Sale held in September was \$1575. Thanks to all who shopped, and to those who set up and manned the event.

Enjoy the City Books: 57 families participated in this fundraiser selling 127 books – our profit is \$1270. 6 students sold 5 books or more. Great job!

KidStuff Books: We had 63 families participate in this fundraiser, selling 102 books. Two families sold more than five books to receive a free one. Our profit is approximately \$1275.

Little Caesars Pizza: This fundraiser ended on Wednesday, October 28th. If you ordered pizzas, you may pick them up on Wednesday, November 11th in the Parish Hall.

Lehigh Valley Candles: This fundraiser began on Wednesday, October 21st and will end on Wednesday, November 4th; with pick up on Wednesday, November 18th in the school.

Vacation Sweepstakes: Two Vacation Sweepstakes tickets were sent to each parish and school family asking for support of the school. We ask that you try to help us by buying or selling those two tickets. Sell 5 or more, get one free! If you need more, please give us a call. Thank you!

Community Checks: We received a check from the Redner’s Save-a-Tape program for \$297.61 and from Target for their “Take Charge of Education” program for \$48.57. Please continue to take advantage of these two stores’ community service commitment.

Scrip/Gift Cards: The Scrip Fundraiser begins November 18th (look for the fundraiser packets) and continues until December 2nd. We cannot accept late orders – we have to order the cards by a certain time so there’s enough processing time to get them back to us and then distributed out to you and the others who order. Gift card pickup/delivery will be on Wednesday, December 16th. We find that these cards make excellent birthday and Christmas gifts!!! Scrip/Gift Card order forms will also be available on our web site: www.sercc.org/school. **Remember: If you do not participate in this fundraiser, you must pay \$25 as a buy out.** So it makes sense to purchase a card or two.

We realize that we are asking you to participate in quite a few fundraisers. However, this keeps our tuition rate down and helps us upgrade textbooks and furniture, and the profits help us fund the normal everyday activities of the school. Thank you so much for your support!

REMINDERS

- Please put all money, checks, order forms, etc. in an envelope when sending them in to the school. Mark the envelope with your child’s name and what it is for. The routine is this: Your child places the money and order form into a basket in their classroom. Then all of their orders, money, papers, etc. are brought to the school office by classroom messengers and placed in a basket that is on the counter. Many times it is not looked at right away. There have been a few times, when we didn’t know what the cash or check was for. You can use envelopes you get in the mail; just put where it’s going or what it’s for on the outside. Thanks!
- If you call the Homework Hotline after school and the answering machine is not on, please do not hang up. In the evening, Sister Bonita answers the phone in the convent. Just ask her for the desired grade and she’ll transfer your call.

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Thank you to all those who supported our Oktoberfest on October 17th! Please mark your calendars now for our annual Spaghetti Dinner to be held on Saturday, January 30, 2010.

HASA NEWS

Mark your calendar for the Winter Carnival – December 5th from 11 am – 2 pm. Cost is \$5. As in years past, 8th graders will have the opportunity to earn service hours through volunteering at the game tables. Look for information in the next few weeks. Additionally, items are currently being accepted for the Chinese Auction, and may be dropped off in the office during normal school hours. Please consider donating!

Santa Shop will be held on Monday and Tuesday; December 7th and 8th.

SAINT ELIZABETH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Saint Elizabeth Athletic Association would like to thank everyone for making our first two hoagie sales a great success. Our next Hoagie Sale pick up date will be

November 18th. For those who signed up for Basketball and Cheerleading practice will begin in early November.

SAINT MARY'S NEWS

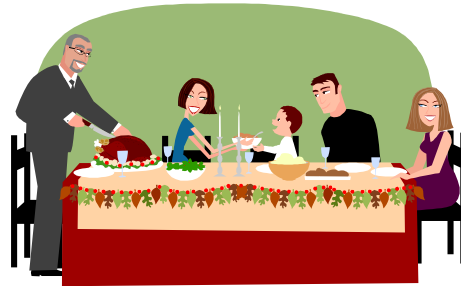
The Assembled Men of St. Mary's will hold Bingo on Sunday, November 8th. Doors open at Noon. Bingo begins at 1 pm. Kitchen is open with take-out available.

Homemade Halupki Sale. Order and payment must be in by November 29th and pick up is December 5th and 6th. Halupki sell for \$2.50 each or buy four and get one free. Call the Parish Office at 610-264-0332 to order or send check payable to St. Mary's Church along with the number of Halupki's you wish to order.

ALLENTOWN CENTRAL CATHOLIC CLINIC

Allentown Central Catholic will hold a color guard clinic on Saturday, November 14 from 9 am to 11 am for any 6th, 7th, or 8th grade student in Masson Auditorium. This is a great opportunity to find out what color guard is all about, learn some basic techniques and meet the current squad. Please RSVP by November 11th to Mrs. Lisa Listwa (lilistwa@acchs.info) if you would like to attend.

*Happy Thanksgiving
from the
Faculty and Staff of
Saint Elizabeth Regional School!*



Let us be thankful for what we have!