

October 8, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It won't be long before the gray clouds overshadowing our skies break open with the bright light of a gorgeous October. In the mean time, we have the jig-saw picture foliage to beautify our surroundings and enrich our vision. All reasons to thank God for his gift of creation. Enjoy.

IT'S MARATHON TIME: This coming Saturday, October 10, is the day of our Marathon for Nonpublic Education and we want you to join us in support of St. Philip's School. Be here at school by 9:30 A.M. Dress appropriately. Bring in your pledge sheet and/or donations. Don't be scared off by the prediction of cool temperatures because you'll be warmed by the exercise and the camaraderie of others. Besides, the Knights of Columbus will provide us with a delicious hot dog luncheon upon our return. What more could you ask for?

I'd like to thank KC Ron Arel for visiting the classrooms and encouraging students to participate in this family event. He really got everyone pumped. Remember, there are prizes to be earned. Every family that turns in \$100 gets a chance in the drawing for a stay at the waterpark in Thief River Falls. Every additional \$100 earns another chance. The children from the three families turning in the highest monetary donations will take a limo to Cold Stone Creamery where they will get an ice cream treat. The classroom with the highest percentage of students attending the Marathon on Saturday will win a pizza party. The classroom with the highest percentage of students turning in donations will see their name engraved on a traveling plaque which will be displayed in our trophy case. Lastly, all students who participate on Saturday or turn in donations will receive a special 2009 Marathon shirt.

After the event, please submit your service hours, reflecting the time your family has given in procuring donations and actually participating in the Marathon morning. Thanks so much!

HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT MID-TERM GRADES WERE SENT HOME YESTERDAY! We've reached the midway point of the first quarter. After discussing your child's report, please sign the midterm sheet and return it to school by next Wednesday. Thank you. The end of the first quarter is October 30 and conferences are scheduled for Thursday, November 12.

THE FALL FESTIVAL WAS A HUGE SUCCESS! Through the efforts of hundreds of volunteers and our co-chairs, Paula DeClusin and Jodi Maki, St. Philip's Parish experienced positive community building and financial success at this huge fall event. Much thanks goes to everyone involved. I hope all of you who participated found the festivities enjoyable. Again, if you volunteered in any manner, remember to submit your service hours to the school office.

CAR SEATS REQUIRED: A new state law requires that all children under the age of 8 be in an approved car seat when traveling in personal vehicles. Our first graders (all of whom are under age 8) will be taking a field trip to the Pumpkin Patch on Wednesday, October 21. We are in need of 22 approved car seats for this activity. If your family has such a seat and will allow us to use it for this trip, I would be very appreciative. Please contact Sue Hengel or Marilynne Hodapp for arrangements. Thanks!!!

HARVEST HAPPENING! Mark your calendars for another fun, family October event – Harvest Happening – (sponsored by the Parent Association) on Friday, October 30, from **6:00 – 8:00 P.M.** at the BSU Rec Center. Climb the rock wall from 6 – 7. Cheer on the 8th graders as they try desperately to defeat the adult team in volleyball. Do a few laps around the track. Play some basketball or tennis. Swim. Or just visit with friends. It's a great family night of fun. This year's entrance fee is a donation to the Bemidji Food Shelf. Please join us and note the earlier time frame. See you there!

NO SCHOOL: There is no school next Thursday and Friday, October 15 & 16, MEA weekend. Enjoy.

MINNESOTA HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS: Please read the accompanying sheet in reference to student health insurance.

COULD YOU USE A COUPLE OF PIECES OF FURNITURE? We are trying to clear the storage garage of extra student desks and chairs. For a free will offering (or even for free) choose a desk or two and even some chairs. Please call the office if you are interested in any of these items.

MOCK EVACUATION: On Thursday, October 22, our school will be participating in a mock school evacuation. Since you will need to provide transportation for students that day anyway, you will just have to pick your child up at a different location, Bemidji High School. More info later.

SPEAKING OF NO BUSES: District #31's school calendar differs from ours in October. Families will need to provide transportation to and from school for St. Philip's students on Thursday and Friday, October 22 and 23. Those days are conference days for the district and school days for us. Thanks.

WE HAVE PACKED MUCH INTO THOSE TWO DAYS....Thursday and Friday, October 22 and 23. Besides no transportation and the mock evacuation, we will have school pictures taken during the morning of October 22. Picture order forms are accompanying this letter....On Friday, October 23, we will hold our annual Clean Up the Community morning. Weather permitting, our students will be out and about the Bemidji community picking up litter and trash. The seventh graders will be traveling to our Outdoor Classroom to cap the trees that they planted last spring. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will spend time cleaning up our school and parish facilities.

We will need drivers and additional chaperones for this event. Afterwards, we invite you to join us for lunch. Please look for your child's permission slip which will be sent home shortly.

MAKE UP SESSION: Is your child ready to receive the sacrament of reconciliation? A required parent session is scheduled for TONIGHT at 6:30 P.M. in the social hall. Your attendance at the parent session is a requisite.

MASS CHANGES: For precautionary health reasons, the precious blood, the hand shake for the sign of peace, and the holding of hands for the Lord's Prayer have been removed indefinitely from the Mass. Individuals who are ill are asked to stay home rather than attend Mass. At home, spend time in prayerful reflection or listen or watch services through other media.

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN HOME WHEN THEY ARE ILL. At this point, we are not experiencing high absentees due to illness, but we are pleased that those who are ill are staying home. May the flu season be short lived.

Every now and then a child does get sick at school. Parents, do we have your correct phone number? Do we know who we should call if we can't get you? Believe it or not, that emergency contact information is valuable to us. Please keep our information current.

If a student misses a day of school due to illness, he or she should also remain home from sports and other afternoon or evening activities that may occur on that day to keep teammates and others healthy. Homework may be picked up after school if your child would be well enough to work on it. Please request it.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED ASSISTING WITH A MINISTRY AT MASS ON THE WEEKENDS? Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, Ushers, Hospitality Ministers, and Musicians are all needed. Most positions only require a once-a-month commitment. Please call Linda Wolf (444-4262) if you are interested. A training session for new lectors and Eucharistic Ministers is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, at 6:00 P.M. A training session for greeters and ushers is scheduled for Sunday, October 25, at 5:30. I hope you'll consider this invitation.

SERVICE HOURS OPPORTUNITIES: Lunchroom help on Mondays and Tuesdays; 4th grade Religious Formation small group leader; High School Religious Formation group leader; A preschool Sunday School coordinator; ushers; Marathon participants; drivers for the 1st grade pumpkin patch trip.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS.....all who are ill...those who are recovering from injuries, surgeries, or treatments...those whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters....those preparing for 1st Reconciliation.

“From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.” Psalm 113.3

Very truly,

Carol Rettinger
Principal