



The Bemidji Catholic Community

St. Philip's School

620 Beltrami Avenue NW Bemidji, MN 56601 Phone: 218-444-4938 Fax: 218-444-1379

November 16, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

'Tis the season of giving THANKS. Thanks for our family, friends, and people who care for us. Thanks for food, shelter, and the basic necessities. Thanks for our school and vast array of learning opportunities. Thanks for our many freedoms, which bring their own rights and responsibilities. Thanks be to our God who gives us life and makes everything else possible.

CONFERENCES: As usual, we had a tremendous turnout for conferences. I hope you found them as valuable as we do. If you were unable to meet with a staff member, please call that individual and visit. We want to keep the lines of communication open. The next conferences are set for March.

WALL OF REMEMBRANCE: The names of loved ones adorn our hallway walls as students give thanks and remember family and friends who have died. Take a moment to recall a memory and say a prayer. A Mass of Remembrance and Hope will be held next Tuesday, November 22, at 7:00 P.M. Come.

HONOR ROLL: Our Honor Roll list for the first quarter will be published in this week's parish bulletin. I wish to congratulate the seventy-nine fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth graders who made their school work a priority and earned a place on the Honor Roll.

FIRST RECONCILIATION: This Saturday is the 1st Reconciliation Activity morning, running from 9:30 to noon. Students preparing to receive this sacrament in December need to attend.

VENDOR CORNER: If you venture by our library, you'll discover our Vendor Corner. It is here that you can deposit the various items you save for us – Campbell's soup labels, juice pouches, pop tabs, empty ink cartridges, Box Tops for Education, Kemp's lids, or Our Family labels. These merchant gifts bring in cash or merchandise for our school. We appreciate your participation.

Did you know.....that Box Tops for Education have expiration dates?

THANKSGIVING MEAL: Tomorrow will be our school's Thanksgiving meal. This is one of two times during the year when we as a school share a meal together in the social hall. It is an awesome experience. Good manners, delicious food, and great conversation are the norm of the day.

As much as we would like to have parents be a part of our celebration, there isn't enough room, nor enough time. Our Foster Grandparents, members of our School Council, parish staff, and ISD #31 staff are the only adults who are invited for the meal. If you have time, we could use additional help with serving and cleaning up. It takes the effort of many volunteers, besides the talent of our fantastic kitchen crew, to make it all happen. [You must have your safe environment certification to help us out.]

Thanksgiving break is next Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25. Enjoy!

TURKEY BINGO: Catholic United Financial (formerly CAA) will host its annual fall family fun night – Turkey Bingo – this Saturday, November 19, beginning at 7:00 P.M. Play bingo and win a turkey or two.

STUFF-A-TRUCK: We join with area schools and businesses to fill the shelves of our Bemidji Food Shelf in the Stuff-A-Truck project. Our food items were collected today. If you weren't able to contribute, but would like to, the semi-trucks will be at Marketplace Foods this weekend. Again, thanks for your contributions.

FIGHTING THE FLU: The flu season seems to be underway. The following precautions tend to reduce the spread of the bug: washing hands, covering the mouth for coughs, getting enough fresh air and sleep, and drinking plenty of water. In regard to the question of whether or not a flu clinic will be held at the school this year, the answer is "NO". Families will have to arrange for their own shots as none will be offered in district schools this year.

SWEET SALE DISTRIBUTION: Did you order some delicious pastries through our Parent Association's Sweet Sale? If so, you need to pick them up next Monday or Tuesday, November 21 or 22, between 3:00 and 5:00 in the social hall. Who's bringing the dessert for Thanksgiving?

SPRING GALA: I know it's only November, but it is time to begin planning for April's Spring Gala. The committee is searching for individuals who'd like to earn their fund raising hours by being involved with this event. The Gala committee will begin their weekly meetings shortly and would welcome new members. Individuals who would like to sell tickets or arrange for auction items are also being sought. Please call Kevin Erpelding (766-6736) or Tim Dondelinger (766-2900) for more information.

MATHCOUNTS: Good luck next Monday, Mathletes, when you compete in the third meet which will be held in Cass Lake. Go on. Move on up in the standings.

ADVENT: The Sunday after Thanksgiving begins the season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ. Please join us for Advent prayer which will be held in the gym beginning at 8:35 A.M. on Monday and Friday mornings of the first three weeks of Advent and on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday morning of the fourth week. Journey to Bethlehem with Mary and us.

During Advent, we will also implement the new language of the Roman Missal, celebrate reconciliation, and offer opportunities to assist others.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS: The prekindergarten classes will present their Christmas programs on Wednesday and Thursday, December 14 and 15, at 9:50 A.M. The following Wednesday, December 21, at both 1:30 and 6:30, our annual Christmas music concert and play will be performed. This year's production is "The Tale of the Drowsy Shepherd". Please plan to attend.

52 CLUB RAFFLE: Raffle tickets will be sent home with students this week. Parents, please ask your child for your family's packet. We'd appreciate it if you sold all five tickets you receive (and more, if you're able). Families may sign up for times after weekend Masses to sell theirs. **All unsold tickets and the ticket stubs from sold tickets must be returned and accounted for.** Specific details are included in the packet.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: Go on line to www.crookston.org/safe_environment. If you haven't done your training yet this year, please do it soon. All volunteers are required to have certification. Thanks.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: clean up for the Thanksgiving meal; Information Desk helpers; Spring Gala planners and workers; costumes for the Christmas program;

85 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE: St. Philip's School opened on Monday, September 6, 1926, with one hundred eighty students in grades one through eight.

"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God." 2 Corinthians 4:15

Happy Thanksgiving!

TIME FOR WINTER GEAR!

Carol Rettinger
Principal