

September 11, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's the second week of school and we're still tweaking schedules, still somewhat sluggish getting used to the fall routine, still learning new names and grades, and still enjoying it all. School is such a wonderful place and we are off to a super start! May God continue to shower us with blessings throughout the entire year.

THANK YOU to everyone who attended the August Visitation. I hope you found it a great way to connect before the first day of school. As we start off the year, our St. Philip's School family consists of 260 students from 176 families, seventeen full time teachers, two part time teachers, eight support staff, three foster grandmas, and a great parish staff who assist us, too. What a tremendous group of people!

START UP FORMS: The beginning of the year means forms, forms, forms. Please return the **health and emergency cards** for each student, as well as the technology **Acceptable Use** form for those students in grades 2 – 8. If your family qualifies for **Free and Reduced** meal prices, turn in the application ASAP. Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders who will participate in Middle School sports must have a completed **insurance waiver and school physical** on file. If you plan to utilize our after school child care program, **Noah's Ark**, please fill out its registration sheet before your child attends. Lastly, if you plan to volunteer in any capacity in the school, in Religious Formation, or in Youth Ministry, please complete this year's pink **Acknowledgement and Consent** form for Safe Environment. All forms may be returned to the school office.

WE'RE ON THE WEB: Finally, believe it or not, St. Philip's parish has a web site. Check us out at www.stphilipsbemidji.org. There's a link then to the school. My newsletters, the menu, the calendar, and other bits of pertinent information are there. What else would you like to see? We're open for suggestions. FYI the web site address is the same as the e-mail addresses for staff. To reach most of us, just use the initial of the first name, the last name, @ stphilipsbemidji.org. Thanks goes to parish secretary, Rose Johnson, for getting the site up and running. Please let me know if the site is useful for your family.

FALL FESTIVAL: If you haven't done so already, set aside Sunday, September 28, to attend the second annual St. Philip's Fall Festival. This family event includes a pork luncheon, a children's carnival, bingo (of course), a silent auction, a raffle, a cake walk, and a few other sundry booths and shops. This is truly a fun-filled community event. If you can't be involved, just come. You'll be glad you did!

MARATHON: The first of three budgeted school fund raisers, the Marathon for Non-Public Education, follows closely on the heels of the Fall Festival – the next Saturday, October 4. Our goal is to attain 100% school participation and in the process raise \$12,000. We can do it! Watch for detailed information arriving in the mail. Put the morning of October 4th on your calendar and marathon with us!

ASSISTANT COOK: St. Philip's School is in need of an assistant cook. This is a part time position, from 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. during school days. It involves preparing, serving, and cleaning up after lunch and requires some lifting. It's a great opportunity to be part of the school. Interested individuals should send a letter of application and resume to: Carol Rettinger, Principal, St. Philip's School, 620 Beltrami Avenue NW, Bemidji, MN 56601. For additional information, please call me at school.

BAND OPEN HOUSE: There's no time like 5th grade to learn to play an instrument. Fifth grade parents and students, please join our music teacher, Mrs. Will, on Monday, September 15, between 4:30 and 6:30, in the Music Room to learn about being in a band. Bring your questions and your interest.

WHEN A CHILD IS TOO ILL TO BE IN SCHOOL: Please read the accompanying sheet which highlights criteria parents may use to determine if a child is too ill to go to school. Besides keeping the individual child on the road to recovery, the hope is not to spread the illnesses to others in the school. Your cooperation is appreciated.

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU! If you like working with people, organizing events, or giving input, please consider joining the Parent Association. This organization supports St. Philip's School in a variety of ways, including

financially and advisory. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 25, beginning at 6:30 P.M. in the Kateri Room. All school parents are welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS: The kindergarteners and fourth graders go on a nature walk tomorrow. As the summation of their conflict management program, the eighth graders will travel to Ely for a program at Outward Bound on Thursday and Friday, September 18 & 19. Bus Safety and Fire Safety training will occur in September and October. Don't forget the Fall Festival and the Marathon.

COOPERATION WITH ISD #31: We are fortunate to have a great working relationship with the Bemidji School District. Our seventh and eighth graders attend shared-time classes at the Middle School. All our junior high students (gr. 6-8) have the opportunity to participate in the sports and activities offered at BMS. Title I teachers, Mrs. Patty Lempola and Mr. Vince Collyard, provide assistance to our students here at St. Philip's, while Special Education services are offered by Mrs. Vickie Wangberg and Mr. Marty Templeton at Central School.

SERVICE HOURS: All families (except those with only PK students) are required to fulfill Service Hours annually. Now is a good time to get started. We could use help at the Information Desk, on the playground or in the prekindergarten rooms at lunchtime, with transporting pop tabs to McDonald's, with the Fall Festival and Marathon, chaperoning trips, being on committees like Parent Association, Technology, Alumni, Safety, or PK licensure. Service Hours are those hours given in service to the school or parish. Please submit yours to the school office. Thanks.

INFORMATION DESK: Just a word about this important area....the desk sits in the Beltrami Avenue narthex area and is a spot to meet and greet visitors to the school and parish. The Information Desk staff answer questions, give directions, and serve as watchful eyes over our children. We ask that all who enter the school sign in at the desk before entering the facility and reporting to the school office. If you would like to help in this capacity, please call Trish Jones at 333-3999 to get scheduled. Thanks.

THE 2008-2009 FAMILY HANDBOOK AND DIRECTORY will be published in early October. Thanks for your patience.

NOTES: A reminder that all students who leave school during the day must have a note from parents excusing them. This includes our athletes. Parental notes are also important if a student has a change in routine, something that veers from the usual. Us knowing helps alleviate anxiety in young ones who often don't remember. Thanks for your cooperation and help.

NEED A KITTEN? Contact Laura Schwindt. Their family seems to have an extra.

MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS: A mobile Response Crisis Team has been established to provide prompt, community based, clinically indicated, cost effective crisis services to children and adults experiencing acute mental health episodes. The services are available for Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, and Lake of the Woods counties. Call Upper Mississippi at 751-3280 during the day and 1-800-422-0045 after hours.

A MOMENT OF PRAYER: September 11, 2001, another day that will live in infamy. Let us take time to remember in prayer those who lost their lives on this date and those whose lives have forever been changed by the events of that day. Let us pray, too, for forgiveness for all who resort to terroristic means to reach their goals and for world peace which is so desperately needed. Amen.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Very truly,

Carol Rettinger
Principal

When Students Are “Too Ill” to be in School

An early morning decision that parents often have to make is whether their child is well enough to go to school. Not only may the child be too sick to concentrate, but he/she may also infect other students and staff. Below are guidelines, which may guide your decision whether or not to send your child.

Fever:

1. If a child has a temperature of 100 degrees or more, he/she should be at home.
2. At school, if a child has a temperature of 100 degrees or more, parents will be called to pick up the child.
3. Tylenol, Ibuprofen, and other similar medications will bring a fever down, but a child may still not feel well.
4. Before returning to school, a child should be fever free without taking medication for 24 hours.
5. Often with a borderline temperature (99-100), kids might feel ill. Use your judgment.

Vomiting and Diarrhea:

Keep them home! Vomiting and diarrhea are not considered “normal.” Often children will feel better after vomiting, but will quickly become ill again. Keep them home until they are free of symptoms for at least 24 hours **after** the last episode.

Antibiotic Treatment:

If your child is on antibiotics for a communicable disease such as strep throat, pink eye, etc., keep him/her home until the antibiotic has had 24 hours to work. The exception would be for pertussis (whooping cough). With pertussis, a child needs to stay home for 5 full days of antibiotic treatment before returning to school.

Chicken Pox:

Students with chicken pox need to stay home until all of the pox marks have scabbed over, generally 7 days. If your child gets chicken pox from the vaccine, it is usually a mild case but they still need to stay home until the pox marks are all scabbed over.

Pink Eye:

There are two types of pink eye, viral and bacterial. Bacterial pink eye needs to be treated with antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school. No exclusion is necessary for viral pink eye. Only a doctor can diagnose whether the pink eye is viral or bacterial.

Head Lice:

Once children with head lice have been treated and have had the nits carefully removed from their heads, they can return to school. Upon returning, parents are to bring them to the health office to have their heads checked before going to class. They will be examined again at intervals to make sure no head lice reappear.

Other:

1. Parents need to inform the health office whenever a child has a contagious infection such as strep throat, chicken pox, shingles, impetigo, etc.
2. Parents must bring **all** medications to the health office in person.
3. Medications must be in the original containers.
4. A doctor’s order is needed for all prescriptions. (Can be faxed to school at 444-1379)
5. Please inform the health office if your child has any allergies so we can notify the proper school-related individuals.

