

September 14, 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to St. Philip School! The first month of the school year is now well underway, despite attempts the attempts by Tropical Storm Irene to thwart our opening plans. Students are adapting quite nicely to the school routine. The cross-country program has begun under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Shardlow, and our basketball and Robotics programs are soon to follow. The fall festival was a huge success, thanks to the dedication and hard work of many parish and school volunteers under the direction of Mr. Steve DellaPosta. Our new Pre-K and Kindergarten playground is finished and was dedicated this morning in a special ceremony and blessing by Father Frank. All in all, it has been a busy and productive start to the school year!

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our annual gift catalogue fundraiser so far. ***Please be reminded that the sale ends today, so please be sure your orders are turned in to the school office.*** If there are any questions or problems with your orders, Mrs. DellaPosta will contact you. If you neglected to send your order in today, please be sure we receive it by tomorrow.

We have a few items to bring to your attention prior to our first full-fledged monthly newsletter. Monthly newsletters will be distributed during the first week of each month, starting in October. We sent a 'test' e-mail out yesterday about the fundraiser because we are still learning how to do things using our new administrative software program. Families with e-mail will receive their letters electronically rather than by 'hard copy' in order to save money on paper and to eliminate waste. If you experience e-mail problems, wish to be added or deleted from the system, or do not receive your monthly notices by the end of the first week each month, please contact Mrs. Daigle in the school office. If you require two copies of notices due to family circumstances, please also notify the office so that we can add both sets of parents to our distribution list. Monthly newsletters and calendars will also soon be available on our school website: www.stphilipschool.com.

IMPORTANT INFLUENZA CLINIC INFORMATION: This year's H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Clinic will be held ***at St. Philip School on Friday, October 14, from 4-7 p.m.*** The vaccine will be a combined dose as it was last year; one vaccine should protect against most strains of the illness. ALL students of St. Philip School (including Pre-Kindergarten students) and their parents and siblings will be able to receive the vaccine at this year's clinic. The clinic will be entirely staffed by The Wellness Company under the direction of the Rhode Island Department of Health. Children receiving the vaccine should wear comfortable clothing with short or loose sleeves that will allow easy access for vaccination. ***Please note that although the state asks for insurance information in order to help defray the costs of the program, students without health insurance will NOT have to pay for the vaccine.*** (Family members may have to pay a charge of \$20 depending on the type of health coverage they have, or if no insurance coverage at all.) Parents and siblings of St. Philip School students may register on-line at www.thewellcomp.com/school. PLEASE BE SURE TO BRING ANY HEALTH INSURANCE CARDS/INFORMATION WITH YOU TO THE CLINIC. More information about this annual program will be sent home in early October.

By diocesan mandate, any parent, grandparent, family member or friend who wishes to volunteer at St. Philip School in any capacity (lunch parent, field trip chaperone, classroom aide, PTO events) must participate in the Safe Environment training program. The Safe Environment training program now consists of three aspects: watching the diocesan-produced video and signing the form afterward, submitting a BCI disclaimer which permits the diocese to conduct a background check, and submitting a signature sheet for our files after receiving an 'Extract of Policy and Procedures'. A second training will be conducted at tonight's PTO meeting. If you are not able to attend the PTO meeting and you wish to volunteer at St. Philip School this year, please contact the office no later than Friday, September 23. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you are not interested in volunteering at St. Philip School.

FOR THEIR PROTECTION: Please keep in mind that anyone who picks up your child must bring a driver's license or other photo ID with them. If someone is in the office or extended care program who doesn't know you or your representative, they will not release your child without proof of identity. **Your child will also not be released to anyone who is not on your authorized pickup list without written authorization from you.** As we have stated so often in the past, it is not enough for you to call the school and ask – if your child is leaving the school grounds with someone that isn't listed on his/her emergency card, we **MUST** have this information in writing! (Per diocesan legal guidelines, e-mails and facsimiles are not acceptable forms of written communication when it comes to dismissal procedures.) *Please* respect these rules which are meant to protect your child's own safety.

Our Fall Picture Day will take place on Thursday, September 29th. The full formal uniform (including sweater) is required for fall pictures, as these pictures are used for our school yearbook next spring. If it is a warm day, please be sure your child brings the sweater (labeled with his/her name) to school for the picture, even if he/she will not wear it for the entire day. Students who are absent will have an opportunity to have their pictures taken at a later date. Picture order forms will be sent home soon. Pre-Kindergarten students who do not usually attend school on Thursdays may be brought to school by their parents in the morning to have pictures taken if desired. It is our hope that we can schedule our re-take day on another day of the week in order to accommodate these missing students, since some may be unable to attend that day.

The parish's St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is always in need of non-perishable items for the individuals and families it serves. Because of the current economic conditions, many families with limited resources are turning to the parish for assistance. Donations of food items from school families are always welcome – our food pantry basket is kept in the prayer atrium between the elementary and middle schools. We would like to kick off this year's donation drive with a request for children's cereals. Since the pantry usually only has corn flakes to distribute, we thought it would be nice if students brought in a box of their favorite cereal. Please note that this program is strictly voluntary and that no student or family is required to participate. If you are able to add an extra box of cereal or other food item to your weekly grocery shopping, it will be most appreciated. If you wish to volunteer your time, or you are in need of food assistance, the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry is open on Wednesdays and may be contacted by calling 949-2949, or by e-mail at vinnysangels@saintphilip.com.

We recently received a check for nearly \$600 from Target's Take Charge of Education program! This boost for our school is a direct result of parents, teachers, and other school supporters who have designated St. Philip School as the recipient of a portion of every purchase made at Target using a REDcard credit or check/debit card. You can apply for a REDcard online at Target.com/tcoe, or by calling 1-800-316-6142, and designate St. Philip School as recipient of up to 1% of each purchase you make with your card at a Target store. It's an easy and painless way to donate money to your child's school ~ thank you for your support.

The following individuals were winners in this month's 50/50 raffle drawing. As always, we thank our 50/50 Club members for your continued support of St. Philip School.

\$250	David Papineau	\$50	Marie Parillo	\$50	Pamela Dolan
\$125	Joan Basler	\$50	Lillian Dodd	\$50	Sylvia Paolino
\$75	J. George O'Keefe	\$50	Claude Carlier	\$25	Adrienne McIntosh
\$50	Kristen Chelo	\$50	RJ Rataic	\$25	Bob Parker

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share in the education and spiritual development of your children. Please don't hesitate to contact one of us if you have any questions, problems, or comments.

Sincerely,

Darlene A. Walsh

Darlene A. Walsh
Principal

Patt McCormick

Patt McCormick
Assistant Principal