



St. Philip School

"Teaching truth, building community, and inspiring service."

February 3, 2012

Dear Parents,

Catholic Schools Week is drawing to a close. What a busy week it's been! We began this celebration by coming together as a school community at Mass last Sunday. It was a time to thank God for His many blessings and to ask for His continued guidance as we strive to make St. Philip a joyful place to learn and grow. The Mass included beautiful songs led by our own St. Philip School Chorus, and was followed by a very well attended reception and open house, complete with Robotics demonstrations and many displays of student work. We saw lots of new faces and many new families have expressed an interest in our school! Several families stopped in the office and a few even called this week to pay compliments to our middle school student ambassadors. Fr. Rodrigues and Mr. Ziegler rounded out the afternoon with the well-received 'St. Philip's Got Talent!' show; what a wonderful start to the week!

The week included a 'Make Your Own Sundae' session, a 'souper bowl' food and toiletries collection, movie day, faculty luncheon, and today's free pizza and dress down day for the students. Middle school students are having a dance this afternoon as well. We would like to thank the many parents who volunteered to cover the classrooms so that teachers could attend the luncheon, with a very special thank you to the PTO under the direction of Mrs. Re Handren. Our PTO was responsible for the reception during the open house (thank you, Mrs. Graham!), for the free pizza luncheon for the students, and for the faculty luncheon. Thank you to all the families who have donated food for the St. Vincent DePaul food pantry, and toiletries for Amos House. Catholic Schools Week offers us the opportunity to celebrate our Catholic identity by planning activities that celebrate our unity and school spirit.

Re-registration is over and we now turn our attention to new registrations. Meetings are being held for incoming Kindergarten families who are interested in Catholic education at St. Philip School. Our meeting schedule is busy and we feel truly blessed that the school continues to draw new families in spite of current economic conditions. We know that this is due in no small part to the sense of community that families encounter when they visit us; we are grateful that so many of our students and school families are so welcoming and positive about their experiences here at St. Philip School! We are also grateful that so many families are willing to make the many sacrifices necessary to provide a quality Catholic education for their children.

We bid a fond farewell to Seminarian Doan, who is returning to Vietnam early next week. May God be with him as he seeks to live out his mission to bring Christ to the world. And with His love and graciousness, may the Good Lord also abundantly bless you and your families.

Sincerely,

Darlene A. Walsh, Principal
Patt A. McCormick, Asst. Principal



FOR INFORMATION ON THE
LENTEN SUPPER TO AID BRANDON ANDERSON:
<http://saintphilip.com/2012/02/lenten-supper-to-aid-3-year-old-brandon/>

REMINDER: All re-registration forms were due back in the school office today. If you are interested in tuition assistance for the 2012-2013 school year, **FACTS Grant & Aid applications** must be completed no later than **Friday, February 17**. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Joanne DellaPosta at 949-1130, ext. 14, or at jdellaposta@stphilipschool.com. Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

...Brooke Riccitelli and Shane Russo, who won the recent St. Philip School Spelling Bee and went on to compete this past Monday in the Diocesan Regional Spelling Bee at St. Mary's in Cranston! Shane, of Grade 8, and Brooke, a fifth grader, did a wonderful job of representing St. Philip School – we are so proud of them!

...Isabella Giacobbe, who won the Rhode Island Children's Book Award poster contest for the school! Isabella, a fourth grader, was chosen for her creative depiction of "The Dancing Pancake." Nice job, Isabella!



CLUB SANDWICH

*Thank you for last month's donations to our popular Club Sandwich program. This month's session will take place next Friday, February 10th. Your participation is entirely voluntary – but we appreciate your joining us as we endeavor to "inspire service" in response to God's call and our school's mission. If you are willing to participate, please send in your items as soon as possible. This will help us to take an inventory and to purchase possible additional items that may be needed before **Club Sandwich** members meet to assemble the lunches next Friday. (The school purchases fresh deli items, bread, and condiments for the sandwiches and monetary donations are gratefully accepted at any time.)*

February 10 items needed are:

- Pre-K:** single serving size fruit/applesauce cups*
- Kindergarten:** juice boxes (real juice preferred)*
- Grade 1:** bottled water (16 oz. or less)*
- Grade 2:** single serving size chips or pretzels*
- Grade 3:** single serving size fruit/applesauce cups*
- Grade 4:** single serving size cheese/crackers*
- Grade 5:** soft Nutri-grain style breakfast bars*
- Grade 6:** single serving size packages of cookies*
- Grade 7:** bottled water (16 oz. or less)*
- Grade 8:** juice boxes (real juice preferred)*

Thank you for your consideration, your commitment, and your generosity!

FAMILY FUN DAY!

St. Philip Parish is hosting a Family Fun Day with an hour of Snow Tubing at Yawgoo Valley in Exeter, RI! It will take place on Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Please contact Keith or Lisa Kline by calling 349-0428, or by sending an e-mail to leeleejack@aol.com.

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

Back by popular demand, moms and sons will be bowling the night away on Friday, May 18, 2012 at our annual Mother-Son Event! Enjoy a fun-filled evening with your amazing son at Town Hall Lanes in Johnston! More information to come!

DONATIONS NEEDED!

This month's 'Item of the Month' for the *St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry* is **muffin mix**. Any items may be donated at any time, but this is among the items that we don't always have enough of. Thank you for your generosity!

The *Mother of Life Center* is looking for donations of **cloth diapers**. These may be the 'old fashioned' style or the newer, all-in-one kind. Diapers may be dropped off at the school.

WINE & ROSES VALENTINE DINNER DANCE

Saturday, February 11, 2012

Twelve Acres Restaurant

\$75 per couple

Come join your parish friends for this special evening which includes a delicious dinner, dancing, silent auction and special raffles. Sponsored by St. Philip Parish Knights of Columbus. For tickets, call Bob Boisvert at 824-9865.

NATIONAL READING WEEK!

Reading Week is coming on March 26! We are looking forward to D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) time, Character Day, Reading Rally, Biography Tea and more! Look for details in the March newsletter!

Boxtops **Candyland** Contest!

Thank you so much for your incredible response to this contest! Your submissions in January have raised almost \$500 for the school so far! There is still time to help your class win prizes, so keep sending in those Boxtops! Prizes so far have included popsicles, extra recess and break times, no uniform days, no homework days, movies, hat days, and cookie trays! The class with the most Boxtops will also receive the classroom trophy!

NEW PROGRAM AT ST. PHILIP SCHOOL!

St. Philip School has a new recycling program. Here's how it started. In the fall Aemilia Blais, Annie Hlady and Rhiannon Trunzo decided it would be good if St. Philip School recycled its plastic and paper. It would especially be nice for a Catholic school to recycle, so we can show how much we appreciate God's gift of creation. Aemilia, Annie, and Rhiannon sat down with Mrs. Walsh to make a plan. They decided they should create posters, make announcements, and get recycle bins for every classroom. The girls and Mrs. Walsh had an assembly to present the recycling bins to teachers and students.

Now, there are recycling bins in every classroom, and students are recycling daily. In the classroom, students are recycling paper. At lunch kids are recycling plastic from empty water bottles. The recycling program is going well. We are excited to save the Earth, and are proud to have a recycling program!

Written by Aemilia Blais
Grade 3

Classroom News

GRADE 3

I hope everyone had a great New Year. January has been an exciting month for grade 3. We studied different Native Americans groups in Social Studies and I have been reading "If You Lived with the Cherokee" to students. This book has helped students gain understanding of exactly what life would be like to live with the Cherokee. We have also reviewed map skills and looked at the different Native American regions. In addition to this, students had the unique opportunity to have Mr. Newton, a cartographer come in and show students how he designs maps. The students began working on their own map of the continents in which they were able to review bodies of water, geographical features, and the location of the continents. Students will continue to work on these maps in class. Mr. Newton also left maps of Native American regions for us to work on at a later date. What a great way to begin Catholic Schools Week!

In Math, students have been very busy learning and reviewing their multiplication facts and division facts. We have also begun to work on measuring objects to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. Students participated in an in-class scavenger hunt in which they had to find objects that were a specific length. The students had fun and brushed up on their measurement skills. Students have also begun to look at the different types of graphs that are used to represent information. Students have looked at different pictographs and bar graphs. They have also learned how to use and count tally marks.

Writing has kept us busy as students wrote about what SPS means to them. There were many wonderful writing pieces about what makes SPS so special. Children also worked with their families to create the beautiful pieces about a time of *Faith, Academics, and Service* which is the theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week. And speaking of Faith, Academics, and Service, I was so impressed to see the children so eager to bring in soup for St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and toiletries for Amos House. We are so lucky to have such kind and giving students! Have a great February.



GRADE 6



Sixth graders are learning about ancient worlds and the first civilizations along the Fertile Crescent. Seventh and Eighth graders continue to collaborate on group projects pertaining to Britain's takeover of the colonies and the liberation of Cuba.

The school's newspaper club is also beginning a second edition of the *Cardinal's Corner*, which will cover many exciting 2012 winter and spring events. The first edition proved to be a great success, and many thanks are extended to all those who purchased a copy!

GRADE 5

Grade Five had a visit from Jason Newton, a professional cartographer, who led a lesson in explorer maps (part of our social studies area right now). Students will finish this activity as a grade and bring it home, (suitable for framing).

Science lab recently conducted led to a healthy breakfast poster (limiting sugar and carbs). This week we tested fruit for acidity. Students were engaged nicely.

Last week our "How To" following directions unit was completed. Written work was displayed connecting social studies to reading/language. Oral presentations were delightful and in some cases delicious!

Students should be working on Fire Safety posters for science. ACRE (NCEA) Catholic Faith Literacy Test next week for Grade Five.



GRADE 1

It seems as if 2012 plans to go as quickly as 2011! January flew by in Grade One. In math, the children learned how to count change and tell time, two very difficult things to master! I am also very pleased to announce that I no longer have to tie shoes, because all of the first graders can now tie their own shoelaces! Hooray!



In science with Mrs. Iafrate, the class learned all about sound, how it is made, and why we hear it. The children made their own musical instruments which they demonstrated to their parents during Open House. They also did a phenomenal job with their hibernation projects. We learned many interesting facts about a variety of animals.

The class has now read 700 books and has taken as many computer reading tests! We've had seven popsicle treats to help us celebrate. They also receive money for each book read, and they spend that at the Grade One store each month! Cathy and Harriet continue to visit us every other Thursday, and I think Harriet has become our honorary class pet!

FROM MRS. WERNER...

Our middle school science classroom is alive (literally) with germinating seeds and sprouts in our greenhouse. We will begin our next investigation looking at the parts to plants/flowers, transpiration, and plant reproduction. The study of transpiration will take us outdoors on a mini field trip on school grounds fixing plastic bags around evergreens to capture and measure the water vapor evaporated from leaf cells. After February vacation, we will start our investigation on insects as soon as our live Madagascar hissing cockroaches arrive in our classroom.

In Religion class grade 7 and 8 are working on understanding the 10 commandments. Our family life program will begin for grade 8 next week taught by Father Juniper.



PRE-KINDERGARTEN

During the first two weeks in January, our class learned all about pets. Each child created their very own unique pet sock, which they presented to the class for our very own Pet Show! In dramatic play, our actors and actresses



pretended to own a pet shop. It was there that they learned various techniques on caring for many different pets. In Math, they sorted beanie babies into "pet" and "no pet" categories. Through these lessons, we explored as a class God's special gift of pets.

"In the Winter" was our theme for the last two weeks of January. Although we have not had much snow, we did enjoy the days we had playing in the snow. We even had the opportunity to go "skating" in our classroom; all of the children had a wonderful time! The students created a literacy project with various objects from

the story, The Mitten by Jan Brett. Our little scientists were comparing different substances to see the effects freezing can have. They examined and touched these substances to determine if they differed after freezing. All of their observations were recorded in their science journals.

The Pre K class enjoyed celebrating Catholic Schools Week with all of the fabulous activities. What a wonderful way to end the month!

AND FROM MRS. VENTER'S MATH ROOM...

It was nice to meet some of the parents of my future math students at Open House. I look forward to the enthusiasm of your children! Current 5th graders are bravely tackling division by 2

digits while Grade 6 is sailing through fractions and ratios. Seventh graders are pleased to find that positive and negative integers are not as daunting as they predicted. Pre-Algebra students have been solving equations and inequalities. We'll wrap up those concepts before February vacation. Grade 8 survived data analysis and has just started a geometry chapter. Algebra students move forward next week to learning about slope of a line. The composition notebooks are getting full - lots of great notes and examples for each grade to use as reference when completing homework!



GRADE 4

The children have certainly started the New Year with a lot of enthusiasm and effort! At this point, it is hard to believe that we are almost halfway through our fourth grade year! In mathematics we completed our study of multiplication all the way up to multiplying by a two-digit number. The students have done very well with their facts from the 2 through 10 tables. We are now about to begin our study of division.

Social Studies has brought us through a study of the Northeast Region. We learned about the Appalachian Mountains and how the climate affects the

forests and industries in our region. The children created "Stately Snowmen" which highlighted many important facts about their one chosen state out of the 11 Northeastern states. We were even fortunate enough to have a cartographer, Mr. Newton, visit our classroom and help us to create either a political or graphic relief map of the United States.

In our new Science program the children studied the difference between a rock and a mineral. They learned about the properties of a rock and how to chemically test a rock for calcite, a common mineral found in many rocks. Through evaporation they even got to view calcite crystals, which helped them to observe the crystals of other rocks to determine the presence of calcite.

In reading, both groups are beginning Theme 3. Both themes have stories about early colonists and the Revolutionary War. Next week, both groups will begin their next independent reading project on the book entitled Abe Lincoln for Class President.

Finally in Religion, we began with a study of the Epiphany. We wrote stories to imagine what we could have given Baby Jesus if we had lived at his time and had been lucky enough to visit Him like the Three Wise Men. We learned the prayer, Memorare, as we recited it every day, and in our Religion book we are beginning to learn more about God's gift of conscience.



Now as this month is coming to a close, we are enjoying the fun activities of Catholic School Week and thinking how blessed we are to attend St. Philip School!!

KINDERGARTEN

Well, Phil the groundhog saw his shadow - six more weeks of winter but that is fine as long as the weather is like it has been. January flew by and how busy we were and excited as we began our new science study of goldfish and guppies. We have to be "serious scientists" to participate in our lessons as we observe, report and investigate goldfish, do experiments by adding plants and a tunnel to the aquarium and then comparing the guppies to the goldfish. After we have discussed the results of our investigations, we report our findings and then write what we have learned and observed in our science journals. It is a lot of work but a lot of interesting fun.



During January, we studied arctic animals and made time capsules that will be opened in 2024 when we graduate from high school. We are learning more letter sounds and words and we are writing more each day especially now that we are using our science journals. In Math we have begun addition and are talking about addends and sums. In Religion, we have learned about the Holy Family and how we should be a follower of the Holy Family and that Jesus was just like us - "a child learning, loving, playing and living in a family like we are."

Now it is February and the theme in our room will be "Love and Friendship." We will learn about the heart, dental health and our presidents - Washington and Lincoln as we prepare to celebrate Valentine Day and Presidents' Day. We will also celebrate the 100th day of school. We will learn the sound of "Uu" and begin to learn a special song for graduation (June 14 at 6:30 p.m.) We will continue to learn about addition and then subtraction. In our classroom we will have a mini post office and be workers while we stamp, cancel, sort, and deliver the mail to our friends. Vacation will be here soon and we will return to school knowing that spring is "just around the corner."

We are also doing a fantastic job collecting Boxtops. We will be having lots of extra treats in the coming weeks. Thanks for sending in the Boxtops. Enjoy the month ahead!! God bless you all!!

GRADE 2

January was a great month in grade 2. We have been working very hard, studying, writing, praying, building our computer skills, practicing for First Penance, and preparing for Catholic School Week.

In science this month, we have been studying the Polar Regions, habitats, and biomes. We had great fun making birds' nests with Mrs. Iafrate. The highlight was getting to put them in a tree. We have been watching for bird activity every day. We all researched a specific penguin using the computer and books in the class. Then we did our reports on the computer using Kidspiration. It was so much fun. We are now beginning to share our habitat projects with the class. They are so cool and we are learning a lot.

For reading, we had two big assessments. We worked very hard. Now we are working in the next level reading book. We also wrote a diamante about a penguin. A diamante is a special kind of poetry. In second grade, we have learned a lot about poetry. We can write acrostics, haikus, diamantes, and rhyming/non-rhyming verse.

Math has become very challenging. We know how to add with carrying, subtract with borrowing, add to check, round, estimate, and we are really working hard on problem solving. This is a really difficult skill but we are working hard. We're much better at it now than we were in September.

We are getting ready for our First Penance which will take place on March 5th. We are making a beautiful memory book for that special event. We have learned all about the commandments, our conscience, our free will, and sin. We know we will do a good job. Please keep us in your prayers.

Catholic School's Week has been great fun. Many of us stayed for Open House to show visitors our classroom. We had all of our work on display and it was really great. On Thursday, we enjoyed a special movie afternoon. For Friday, we get to bring in toys and games as a reward for filling the Bell Jar for good behavior. We are really looking forward to this day. For box tops, we qualified for all the special prizes. We have been working really hard and we are looking forward to Valentine's Day, a buddy get-together, and vacation!!!



Lenten Supper To benefit Brandon Anderson

The St. Philip's Men's Club would like to invite you to a Lenten Supper.

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Pasta & Meatball supper from 3-8PM in the Parish Center
Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for seniors & children

Huge raffle with more than 50 prizes including two one week timeshare stays in Florida, vacations, gift cards, gift baskets, jewelry and much more.



Brandon Anderson is a 3 year old boy with a severe brain malformation.

✂-----return-----✂

To Order Tickets:

_____ Adults x \$10.00 = _____

_____ Children x \$6.00 = _____

Raffle ticket books are \$5 per book of 6 tickets, # _____ Books x \$5.00 = _____

Parents Name: _____

Student Name & Grade _____

Contact Telephone # _____

Checks can be made out to St. Philip Church. In the memo line please write "Brandon Fund". Return in an envelope marked "Men's Club Fundraiser". Dinner tickets and raffle stubs will be sent home by way of backpack mail. You do not need to be present to win raffle prizes. All winners will be contacted to collect prizes. Thank you for your support!

Thank you,
St. Philip Men's Club