



SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL

*P.O. Box 67
Loretto, PA 15940
(814) 472-9117*



October 5, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's hard to believe that September is gone and we are now into the beautiful season of autumn. We have certainly been busy this past month: Back to School Picnic, Magazine Drive, Open House, Book Fair, Football Games, Dibels Testing (Gr. K-3), the celebration of St. Michael's Feast Day and the Walk-A-Thon. As you look at the school calendar, you will see that October promises to be just as busy and exciting.

MONTH OF THE ROSARY

October is the month of the rosary and our school children will be praying the rosary throughout the month asking Mary for the graces we need in our lives. Let us pray, too, that we may live out the Gospel message in our own daily lives.

CAFETERIA

We are inviting the parents and grandparents of our 3rd Grade students to join us for lunch on Thursday, October 22nd. The students enjoy having guests during this special time and we hope as many as possible will be able to attend. The cost of an adult lunch is \$2.80. Students will go to lunch at approximately 11:10 AM.

MID-TERM GRADES/WARNING NOTICES

Thursday, October 1st, marked the mid-point of the first report period. Mid-term grades and warning notices were sent home to the parents of students in grades 4-8 today.



**O
C
T
O
B
E
R

N
E
W
S**

BASKETBALL

Students interested in playing Parochial Jr. Varsity and Varsity basketball have signed up and are getting ready to begin the season. I will be meeting with all students who are taking part in basketball and will remind them of their responsibility in regard to the athletic policy of the school.

In implementing this policy we will be using a weekly checklist. Each teacher will evaluate the student's work (class work and homework) and conduct during the week as being satisfactory or unsatisfactory. If a student receives an unsatisfactory mark in any subject area or in conduct for the week, he/she will not be permitted to take part in basketball for the coming week. This will include practices and games and will extend from Friday to Friday each week. If the student improves the following week, he/she will again be permitted to participate that week.

Each Friday the coaches will be notified of any students not able to participate in the athletic program that week. Parents will also receive a written notice sent home with their son/daughter stating that their son/daughter is ineligible to participate that week.

If a student is absent from school, he/she may NOT attend practice that evening! If a student is absent on Friday, he/she may not play in Saturday's game, but could play on Sunday.

All students (Grades 4 – 8) who will be participating in the basketball program must have a physical. Hopefully, this has already been done. Insurance information and fees should have already been returned to the school office or to your child's coach.

HALUSKI NIGHT

Haluski will be made for the Arts & Crafts Show & Sale on Thursday, October 15th, at 6:00 PM in the school hall. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Your response in the past has been terrific, and I am sure you will once again respond generously with your time.

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW & SALE

Our Arts & Crafts Show & Sale will take place on October 17th and 18th from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. As usual, it promises to be a great event – WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE. Please plan to attend and to help.

A special letter regarding the Arts & Crafts Show & Sale was sent home September 28th. Please return the information requested in the letter **on or before Friday, October 9th**.

DRESS CODE REMINDERS

As of October 1st, shorts are no longer permitted. (This includes our Kindergarten students.)

Girls (Grades 1-8) have a choice of the following:

Green plaid jumper/white or light blue blouse

Green plaid skirt or culottes/white or light blue blouse/navy vest

Navy slacks/white or light blue knit shirt or blouse/navy vest

Girls may NOT wear make-up, nail polish, hair glitter or excessive jewelry. Earrings are to be SMALL and NON-DANGLING.

Boys may choose from the following:

Navy dress slacks/white or light blue dress shirt or knit shirt

Khaki dress slacks/white or light blue dress shirt or knit shirt

“Dress slacks” means that no sports pants, jeans or jean type fabric may be worn. Painter or cargo pants, pants with external pockets and/or zippers on the pockets are not allowed.

As the weather begins to get cooler, we ask that the students bring a sweater to school that can be worn if they feel chilly. A solid navy cardigan sweater may be worn for warmth. This may be left in the classroom for whenever they would need it. It is a good idea to have your child’s name on the sweater.

Students are not permitted to wear coats, jackets, hoodies or sweatshirts during the school day.

HALLOWEEN

We will have a Halloween party on Friday, October 30th. Students may bring costumes to school that day and will change into them in time for the party.

More information will be sent home later in the month.

HOSS’S COMMUNITY NIGHT – MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Home-School Association will be conducting a fundraiser sponsored by Hoss’s Steak & Sea House (Duncansville location) on November 11th. For each family who dines at Hoss’s that day, Hoss’s will donate 20% of the guest check back to the school. The school can earn an additional 10% by using SCRIP! Mark your calendar now and reserve that date. More information will be forthcoming.

NO SCHOOL/EARLY DISMISSAL

There will be NO SCHOOL on Friday, October 16th (Diocesan Elementary Teacher Workshop at Our Lady of Loretto Community Hall).

Please note: An early dismissal will take place on Friday, October 23rd (Faculty In-service). Students will be dismissed at approximately 12:30 PM. Bus service WILL be provided.

FROM SFU: SMART PROGRAM

The SMART Tutoring Program began on Monday, September 28th. The program was a success last year and we are looking forward to working with you and your children again this year! Tutoring is available to any student (K-12) Monday & Wednesday afternoons from 3:15 to 4:15. This a great opportunity for students to get the help they need.

PARISH FUNDRAISERS

We have reached the time of the year when many people begin to do some early Christmas shopping. We remind you that the parish has beautiful ornaments for sale (\$15), mystic maid merchandise (cloths are \$9) and cookbooks (\$15). These items are available at the Rectory during office hours (8:15AM to 4:00PM, Monday through Friday).

The Mia Bella candles also make wonderful gifts and are available in a wide variety of scents. For more information, please call Mary Ann Schenk @ 472-5895.

BOX TOPS

We will be having a contest in October to see which grade turns in the most Box Tops per student. The winning class will be awarded a "Dress Down" day. Please send these in by October 23rd.

Also, at the end of the year we will award a pizza party to the class with the most Box Tops collected per student for this school year.

LABELS/REGISTER TAPES

I hope that you are saving Campbell's labels, Shop 'n Save register tapes, Project A+ redemption labels from Tyson products, and Box Tops for Education. I take this opportunity to thank you for your support in the past. With your help in these projects we are able to obtain useful and needed materials for our school program.

MARTIN'S – A+ SCHOOL REWARDS

Our school has again been offered an opportunity to participate in the MARTIN'S A+ School Rewards Program. Starting October 4, 2009 through March 13, 2010, Saint Michael School will have the opportunity to earn CASH through this exciting program.

All you have to do is log on to www.MartinsAplus.com to designate on-line. After you designate our school, each shopping trip at a participating MARTIN'S store using your BONUSCARD earns CASH for our school! You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt. Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the MARTIN'S website. Our school will receive a check at

the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

Taking just a minute of your time to designate can make a huge difference to our school. We need your support. Please be sure to designate Saint Michael School using ID# 02599. Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean the world to our children!

GIANT EAGLE APPLES FOR THE STUDENTS

If you shop at Giant Eagle, you can earn free stuff for the school just by registering your Advantage card. Giant Eagle keeps track of the purchases made with your card and gives the school one (1) point for every dollar spent. These points are then used to purchase educational supplies for Saint Michael's.

To register your card:

1. Go to www.gianteagle.com
2. Register or log in to the site, using the blue links at the very top of the screen
3. Click on Saving tab at the top of the screen
4. Select Apples for the Students from the menu on the left
5. Follow the instructions to select Saint Michael's as your sponsored school.
The school code is 1140.

You can also register your Giant Eagle Advantage card by calling 1-800-474-4777. Have your Advantage card handy so you can give them the number (this is the 12 digit number by the barcode on the back, **not** the number on the front of the card), and use the school code 1140. It only takes a few minutes to do this, but the benefit for the school will last a long time. This program is not exclusive. You can participate and still get Fuel Perks for yourself and earn money for the school by paying with SCRIP!

Once your card is registered, you don't have to do anything else. You won't even have to re-register next year – just shop as usual and earn free supplies for the school.

Please participate, and ask your friends and family to do so as well. For more information on the Apples for the Students program, feel free to contact school coordinator Christine White at 472-5490.

RECEIVE PROMOTION INFORMATION VIA EMAIL

An email list has been created to inform school supporters about promotions (i.e. Apples for Students, Martin's A+, Shop 'n Save SEED) as well as sweepstakes (for Box Tops and Campbell's Labels for Education) that may benefit the school. If you have Internet access, please consider joining this list by emailing your name to st-michael-fundraising@hotmail.com. Every person who joins in even one extra program or enters one sweepstakes gives the school additional benefit. This is just an email – joining does not require your participation in any program, and your name and email will not be

shared with anyone. Contact Christine White at 472-5490 or at the above email address with any questions or concerns.

SCHOOL SPIRIT APPAREL

Order forms for Saint Michael School apparel will be forthcoming. Available items may be worn on special "School Spirit" days, the Reading Competition, football and basketball games, etc. Please consider purchasing a t-shirt, sweatshirt or jacket for your child(ren) and/or for yourself!

THANK YOU!

We thank those families who did their share and participated in the Magazine Drive and the annual Walk-A-Thon. Our goal was to exceed last year's revenue. We will let you know whether we succeeded once all pledges are in, magazines have been paid for, and prizes have been awarded.

As the changing colors and falling leaves surround us, may we take time to appreciate beauty in the world God has created.

If I may be of assistance to you in any way, please call me.

Sincerely,

Judy Noel
Principal