

January Newsletter 2010

Happy New Year

All of our faculty and staff join in wishing you a happy and healthy 2010. I'd like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude for all of your cards, gifts, and good wishes for the celebration of Christmas.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated by all of us.

Tuition Assistance

The 2010-2011 BLOCS Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Application (English and Spanish) will be available on www.blocs.org sometime this month. I will send word to you when it is posted. This past year, we obtained a good deal of funds from our own local businesses; I urge you to take the time to see if you meet the criteria for this application.

We thank the Parx Casino; A.T. Chadwick Co., Inc.; Waste Management; O'Donnell and Naccarato, and Environmental Consulting, Inc. for their designation of tax funds to tuition assistance for our school.

Two months ago, I e-mailed information on how businesses can designate their taxes to be used for tuition assistance through the BLOCS foundation. I strongly urge you, if you can to approach your employers with this information. It doesn't cost the business anything and they can designate St. Ephrem to receive those funds. I am posting the information for those who wish to use it.

8th grade parents:

TAP applications for tuition assistance for those attending Archdiocesan high schools will be available at www.catholicschools-phl.org shortly.

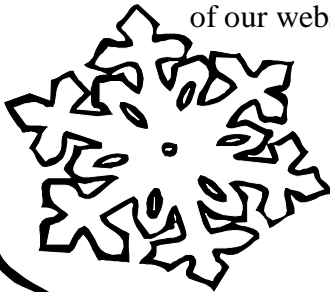
If anyone has difficulty obtaining these tuition applications via the Internet, contact the office and we will run one off for you.

Foster Families

Catholic Social Services is seeking foster families for children of all ages and races. For more information, please call Melissa at 215-587-2458.

Pretzel Orders

Pretzel orders for the second semester are **due no later than January 19th** and begin on February 1st. The cost is \$19.75; an order form may be found in the September listings of the *communication* section of our website.



Reminders:

- Awards for November and December will be distributed at our 9:45 AM January 5th Mass.
- There is no school on Monday, January 18th for the MLK holiday.
- Those who ordered hot lunch for Dec. 21st, the snow holiday, will receive credit in their account for the next order.

****Re-registration**

Re-registration for students presently attending our school (K-7) for the 2010-2011 school year will begin the week of February 8th. Forms will be sent home to all families toward the end of January. Since some classes are tight in number (especially the 1st, 4th, 5th, and 7th grades), it is important for us to register those students already attending St. Ephrem before accepting new students. Places cannot be saved for those who do not re-register, so it is very important that you pay attention to deadline dates. I ask that you read the forms carefully to understand your tuition obligations. To be eligible for parish tuition rates, parishioners are obligated to support the parish by the mandated weekly amount in the church collection (this is not an option).

Two forms will be sent out, one for those who are registered in and financially support the parish and one for those out of parish or those who choose not to meet the mandated weekly collection amount. Please completely fill out whichever one applies to your situation and return it to the office. Incomplete registrations will not be processed and will be returned.

Registration for all NEW students K-8 will be taken the week of February 22nd.

Emergency School Closing

As we progress into the winter months and face the likelihood of inclement weather, please remember that our KYW closing number is the one for the Bensalem school district: **758**. (also, St Ephrem’s broadcast # is 741) KYW is 1060 AM radio, www.kyw1060.com, or their school closing line at 215-224-1060. *Bensalem School District* and *St. Ephrem School* will also be posted on the bottom of the TV screen on KYW News 3, 6 ABC and NBC10. You will receive an e-mail/text message with this information and snow closings will also be listed on our school website at www.saintephremschool.com It has been the practice in past years that our dismissal times coincide with the Bensalem Middle Schools.

I remind you that every student should have a contingency plan to go to a neighbor’s or relative’s house when we have early dismissal for inclement weather. I ask that you refrain from calling school for information on early dismissals or to make personal arrangements for your child. It is difficult for Mrs. Rose to field a large number of phone calls and message deliveries. Calling school also ties up our lines and the school district has difficulty reaching us. This is extremely frustrating for them as they have a number of schools to contact and for us who are waiting for important dismissal information.

Congratulations

To the **Christian Peacemakers** for December:

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|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Jack Baranoski (K) | Kiley Mullane (KA) | Ryan Arleth (1) | Megan Barlow (1A) |
| Rafael Bonner (2) | Mahima Abraham (2A) | Ashley Dolt (3) | Alexander Duda (3A) |
| Michaela Graf (4) | Gianna Costanzo (4A) | Danielle Diamond (4B) | |
| David Hrouda (5) | Sydney Souders (5A) | Shane Kirby (6) | Sarah John (6A) |
| Colleen Leonard (7) | Brittany Emehizer (7A) | Kevin Visco (8) | Ryan Zarzatian (8A) |

To Rosemary Geraghty (8), Jenna McGee (8A), and Kelly Trusdell (8) who tied for third place in the local VFW *Patriot’s Pen* essay contest. All three essays will be entered into the district competition.