



November Newsletter 2009

November is a time of thanks and I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and help throughout the school year. We would not be able to do all that we do without our supportive parents and the numerous volunteers who assist us in so many ways here at St. Ephrem. Thank you, too, for your gracious cooperation in attending the parent conferences last week, it was nice to see all of you.

Rigor and Relevance

On October 1st, I spoke at the Home and School meeting about the H1N1 flu, our Terra Nova scores, and the Rigor and Relevance educational plan being implemented across the diocese.

Though I do not wish to repeat myself for the sake of those who attended, I do want to talk about the newest aspect in the schema of Rigor and Relevance: *Relationships*. It is a documented fact that schools which operate in a community atmosphere produce the best students. Several years ago, Andrew Greely did a study of the success of Catholic schools and found this to be the biggest factor of success. Since my arrival here, I have stressed that working together, home and school, will foster the learning potential of our students. There are many ways parents are involved in the many activities we have in school and I hope many more will consider becoming more active in their child's education. One of the ways I would like all parents to become more involved is by seeing that the students study each night. Written homework is important, but I feel that many of our students are not putting in enough time in actually studying the material that is covered in class. Sometimes written homework is being squeezed in between sports and extracurricular activities and study is falling by the wayside. If we are going to maintain academic excellence, students need to study at home and be prepared for the next class.

Also, there are some stumbling blocks on our road to building community spirit: gossip and malicious speech. St. Paul tells us, "*No foul language should come from your mouths, but only such as is good for needed edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear. . . All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you*". We need to speak things that will truly help and build up one another. He also says, "*And be kind to one another, compassionate, and mutually forgiving as God has forgiven you in Christ*". No community can be built where there is gossip and tearing down. That being said, I challenge all of us to walk away or change the subject when group conversation becomes uncharitable and less than Christian. It is only through our combined conscious effort that St. Ephrem will become the welcoming and vibrant community we need to be and benefit all our students both spiritually and academically.

Values

One large part of our community life is attending the Sunday liturgy. We ask that you reinforce the values taught here in school, particularly by attending Mass with your child(ren). We give so much to our children in the way of material goods, sports, and other activities, let's not neglect that which is most important of all - their spiritual welfare.

Security

For safety reasons, the school doors are kept locked during and after school. Since there is no one in the main office after 3:15 PM, anyone who wants to get into school must enter through the CARES door which leads into the cafeteria. The CARES door is located behind the school near the Catapult trailer. It is under the steps which lead into church. Like the school door, there is a doorbell to ring for admission.

Cherrydale Fundraiser

Thank you to all who participated in our Cherrydale Fundraiser. Orders may be picked up on Monday, 11/9. See the H&S information for times.

Picture Retakes

Picture retakes have been rescheduled for Wednesday, November 4th. Retakes are for anyone who was absent on picture day or anyone who does not like their pictures. If you want an actual retake, you must return the package of pictures you received to the photographer when your child has a new photo taken. If your child is being photographed for the first time, you need the picture envelope with your order on it. If you do not have the envelope, ask at the office for one.

Cell Phones

We have had an increasing number of incidents of students using cell phones during school to text, call, or receive calls. Our handbook states that phones are not permitted in school, but I have allowed them for safety while waiting for the bus or on the way home from school. The students know that the phones must be kept off and in their school bags, not on their person. Unfortunately, we have students who choose to disregard that rule. Please know that anyone found with a cell phone during school will be immediately suspended for deliberate disregard of school policy.

I also suggest that you periodically check your child's messages (sent and received); for some it will be an eye opener.

Our handbook also states that electronic devices are not permitted in school. Please stress this with your child(ren) and prevent demerit situations over ipods, mp3 players, etc .

Book Fair

The Book Fair is being held in our library the week of Nov. 2nd. The students have a scheduled day and time for the fair. If you wish to shop with your child at the fair, please come at his/her scheduled time. The fair will also be held on Vendor Night, Friday, 11/6 and on Sunday, 11/8 if you wish to drop in after Mass.

Parental Help

Nazareth Academy High School is hosting Dr. Michael Bradley, author of *Yes, Your Teen is Crazy* and *Yes, Your Parents are Crazy* on November 18th at 7 PM in the school cafeteria. Dr. Bradley, who works with adolescents on a daily basis, has had very positive reviews from our own parents and students. I'm sure his presentation will be most worthwhile for all parents.

Free Money

Target will give our school 1% of purchases made with Target Visa or Target Credit cards. If you use either of these when shopping at Target, please consider enrolling our school by calling 800-316-6142 or visiting www.Target.com/tcoe.

Purchasing on-line orders or searching information through *Good Search* also raises funds for school. Box Tops for Education, Acme Register Tapes, and Scrip are easy ways of helping the school with no extra cost to you. Please consider using scrip and encouraging other family members and friends to do likewise. It helps decrease your tuition bill and supports the parish. Send in General Mills box tops and Acme register tapes if you have them, they are the easiest fundraisers we have.

Calendars

Each month, we post two calendars: the present month and the next. The present month is the accurate calendar, the other is tentative. Therefore, it is important to check the present month even if you ran off a copy the previous month. Many things happen that may alter activities previously scheduled. It may be beneficial to just run off each present month to avoid confusion.

***I apologize for any confusion caused by the lack of an October newsletter. The important news was in the topics covered at the Home and School Meeting on Oct. 1st.

Assistance

Around this time each year, various organizations in the area ask for names of families who may be struggling financially and who could use some assistance with food, etc. We are often not aware of people's situations and they miss out on this kindness. If you know of a family in need or if your own family needs help at this time, please get the name to me or to Sr. Anne Gallagher (215-604-1002).

Congratulations

Confirmation

Congratulations to our 6th grade who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on Nov. 12th at 4 PM. Bishop Robert Maginnis will be officiating. Thank you to Mrs. Battson, Mrs. Scholl, and Sr. Louise for all their hard work in preparing the students for this important day and to Sr. Alexa and the adult choir for enhancing the ceremony with music and song.

The **Christian Peacemakers** for September:

Katelyn LaParr (K)	Tyler Homka (KA)	Erin Keeley (1)	Michael Coyle (1A)
Cayla Chipperfield (2)	Ethan McGlone (2A)	Christian Petro (3)	Alyssa Kapral (3A)
Alexis Gogola (4)	Coralee Hull (4A)	Rick Liberatore (4B)	
Gabriela Scipione (5)	Danielle Daley (5A)	Zachary Goncalves (6)	Olivia Taylor (6A)
Maura Avington (7)	Victoria Dallas (7A)	Nicole Hirsch (8)	Dominic Webster (8A)

The **Christian Peacemakers** for October:

Nicholas Stibi (K)	Guilianna Gausz (KA)	Jeffrey Duda (1)	Sophie Schneider (1A)
Ryan Henry (2)	Delaney Lindberg (2A)	Erik Kleinfelder (3)	Christopher Hrouda (3A)
Zachary Chipperfield (4)	Daniel Avington (4A)	Katerina Pasquella (4B)	
Dylan McGlone (5)	Matthew Traber (5A)	Colleen McArdle (6)	Joseph Wixted (6A)
Alexandria Reisinger (7)	Tyler Luszczak (7A)	Anthony Cieri (8)	Timothy French (8A)

The **Copybook Awards** for October:

Ryan Arleth (1)	Luke Zeidler (1A)	Tyler Perkins (2)	Shaylen Schnepf (2A)
Riley Gorman (3)	Rachael Lardani (3A)	Michaela Graf (4)	Gianna Costanzo (4A)
Joseph Long (4B)	Matthew Costanzo (5)	Erin Musick (5A)	
Brett McGee (6)	Sarah John (6A)	Alexandria Reisinger (7)	Brooke Dietz (7A)
Renee Eastburn (8)	Isabella Montalvo (8A)		

Mission Reps

Kellie Emenhizer (2)	Nicholas Livolsi (2A)	Madison Beswick (3)	Madison Mower (3A)
Patrick Cannon (4)	Emily Bazelak (4A)	Emily Schneider (4B)	Michael Belardino (5)
Natalie Lombardi (5A)	Lindsay Mascia (6)	Alyssa Marlin (6A)	Lianne Campbell (7)
Kimberly Zeladonis (7A)	Victoria Brewer (8)	Ryan Zarzatian (8A)	

Tech Team

Room 8A- Dominic Webster and Isabella Montalvo
Room 8- Kelly Trusdell and Matthew Hrouda
Room 7 - Maura Avington and Caroyln Cyhan
Room 7A - Emily Hancin and Julia Smith
Room 6A- Lindsey Bahr, Sadie Curran, and Krista Martin
Room 6 - Brigid Gallagher, Lindsey Mascia and Colleen McArdle

Students may wear their Phillies shirts over their uniforms on Monday, Nov. 2nd!

