



School of St. Philip

January 5, 2012

“The School of St. Philip is strongly committed to providing its students with a fundamentally sound education in a Catholic atmosphere which will enable them to carry their faith and learning beyond this school.”

(School Mission Statement)

May you all have many blessings during this new year of 2012!

New After School Parking

Today we will begin the new bus parking arrangement. At our request, the city has put up new signs that restrict all parking on 3rd St. from Holcombe to Armstrong from 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. on school days. We will begin having 4 buses in front of the school and 3 along the Armstrong side. We believe this will be safer for our students since we have so many buses here. The Armstrong side of the building continues to have restricted parking all day during school hours since the buses drop off students there in the morning.

All walkers and those we know are being picked up by parents will be dismissed at the first bell at 2:47 p.m. All bussed students will be dismissed at the second bell about a minute later. Buses are scheduled to arrive at 2:50 p.m.

The driveway from the playground to 3rd St. will be blocked by the buses during pickup time. If you can wait the extra 5 minutes, that would be best. If you choose to leave, please watch carefully for students and leave by way of the Holcombe exit on the other side of the rectory.

Science Fair Packets

All 3rd, 4th and 5th graders participate in our annual Science Fair as part of their science curriculum. The information packets are being sent home today with your children. Please read through it with them. Take careful notice of the timeline and possibly even write the due dates for each step on your family calendar. This experience not only helps students learn science and scientific method, but also gives them a chance to learn to work on a long-range project and meet deadlines. This skill is essential in high school and college, and this is not too early to begin learning it.

Science Fair projects will be set up in the parish social hall on Friday, March 2, in connection with our Donuts for Dads morning. Judging will be on Monday, March 5.

Thank you, Officer Nelson

For ten weeks beginning in September, Officer Aaron Nelson presented the D.A.R.E. program to our 5th graders. Since he didn't have a chance to show the students his squad car, he was kind enough to come back this past Tuesday for one more meeting with them, so he could show them his car and answer more of their questions.

We are so grateful for his kindness and his positive attitude with our students. They have a chance to see the human empathy of a policeman as well as learn about the importance of making good decisions about drugs, alcohol and smoking. Officer Nelson always comments about how our students are so much fun to work with and are so polite. I'm sure that makes you as proud of them as we are.

Epiphany Blessing

This coming Sunday is the Feast of the Epiphany when the Church celebrates the coming of the Magi to Bethlehem and the revelation of the Savior to all people of the world. It is the traditional day for the blessing of homes. Father Joe will be joining us at school on Monday morning to bless each of the rooms of our school. A student will read a blessing prayer, Father will bless the room and then inscribe in chalk above each door: 20-+C+M+B+12. On Monday, after school, you can ask your children what that stands for.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship

The Knights will have their annual Free Throw Championship for boys and girls ages 10-14 on Thursday, January 19, at 5:00 p.m. at the Litchfield Middle School. We have registration forms here at school for those interested, or you may call Matt Johnson (320-224-8390 after 3:00 p.m.) for more information.

St. Philip Royals Basketball

Our basketball teams will resume practice this coming Sunday at 4:30 p.m. at the Ripley gym. The girls' team, which has ten 4th and 5th grade members this year, has registered for its first tournament: the Litchfield Youth Basketball Tournament on February 12.

J.C. Penny Portraits.

We still have coupons available if you are planning on family portraits. We received these from Lifetouch and they are good for a free 8 X 10 , free sitting fee and 50% off your portrait purchase. These will expire on May 31, 2012. If you could use one, just let us know.

Catholic Schools Week is Coming

We are getting ready for all the celebrations of Catholic Schools Week. A packet of information will be going home next week. Dates for this national observance are Sunday, January 29, through Friday, February 3. We will again be looking for students and families to help with the various ministries at the weekend masses on January 28 and 29. Bishop LeVoiir will be coming to celebrate Mass with us on Friday, February 3, at 10:00 a.m. We hope that many of you can plan that into your schedule. That will also be the day of our LipSync/ Talent Show in the afternoon.

Coming up in January and February

- January 20 – End of the first Semester
- January 23 – Semester Teacher Workshop Day
No School for us or the Litchfield School District
- January 26 – Report Cards go home
- January 29 – February 3 – Catholic Schools Week
- February 1 – Our last parent drive morning for this school year
- February 16 and 21 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- February 20 – No School – Presidents' Day
- February 22 – Ash Wednesday

May God bless you and your family.

Mrs. McCarney