

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The news that Daylight Savings Time begins on March 14, 2010, keeps us hoping that the winter weather is winding down. It also reminds us that only three months remain in the school year, three months filled with many activities.

Our virtues of **COMPASSION** and **RECONCILIATION** correlate with the Lenten season. The children are learning about the need to be considerate of others feelings and the need to ask for God's forgiveness for our weaknesses. The liturgies and rituals of Lent provide us with the opportunity to share our faith with our students. Talk with them about the importance of making sacrifices as a way to show our appreciation for Christ's suffering and death to win our salvation.

Please refer to the information listed in this packet.

MAKE-UP DAYS

Snow make-up dates to date are as follows:

Feb. 15, March 12, April 1 (Holy Thursday – noon dismissal).

Any additional snow days will require further announcements.

REGISTRATION FOR 2010-11

Open registration has begun. If you have not sent in your family registration, please do so immediately.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP

Just a reminder . . . A few opportunities remain to complete hours. Volunteers are needed to cut and sort Campbell's labels, sell lottery tickets for the remaining sales, sell tickets at the Sunday masses, help in the lunchroom as substitutes, help with soupfest (March 10), Spaghetti dinner (March 28), Easter Candy Sale pick up. Call the chairperson of the events or the school office if you can help. A limited number of work hours are available for summer work in June. Remaining hours are billed to your account at a rate of \$10.00 per hour.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

1. **STAR Grants** – The deadline to apply to the diocese is March 31, 2010. Forms are available in the office. It is necessary to apply to STAR if you intend to apply for other assistance. Preschool families are strongly encouraged to apply, as special funds are available for preschool.
2. **Children's Scholarship Fund** – Applications are available online. This deadline is Sept. 30, 2010. Notification of awards takes place in December. Many families received larger grants this past year. It is necessary to apply to Children's Scholarship Fund if you intend to apply for other assistance.
3. **Scholarship & Tuition Assistance** forms from SSS will come out in April.

YEARBOOKS

The deadline to order the yearbook is March 5th. This is a full color 40 page book containing pictures of our students and many class and group activities and events. Payment of \$20.00 must accompany the order. Delivery will be in May. Don't be left out!

SCRIPS

Please remember that money earned until April 30th from the Scrips Program will be applied to next year's tuition. Beginning on May 1, monies earned will be applied to the 2011-12 school term.

Please check out the flyer about SCRIPS included in this packet. Buying SCRIPS is a way to make your money work for you by reducing your tuition costs. The program does not cost you any money; rather, it makes money for you. If you use Scrip regularly, you will agree that it is worthwhile. Please talk to your friends about this simple way to reduce tuition costs. If you need clarification or have questions, please contact the school office, Cathy Sowden (chairperson), Tina McMahon (Advancement Director) or any parent who uses the program. Families seeking help through tuition assistance or scholarships need to participate in Scrip as a way of helping themselves with tuition costs.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Interested families in St. Stephen Preschool are invited to attend an Open House on March 25, 2010 between 9:30 – 11:00 AM. Parents and children will have the opportunity to visit the preschool and meet Mrs. Marvin, our preschool teacher.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our athletes for successful seasons. We send our best wishes with our cheerleaders who will compete in the Diocesan Cheerleading Competition on Saturday, Feb. 27 and with our Varsity Girls' Basketball Team who will play St. Joseph of Sharon on Sunday, Feb. 28 at 2:00 PM in the Diocesan Semi Final playoffs. The winner of that game will play for the Diocesan Championship on Tuesday, March 2 at 6:30 PM. All these events take place at Mercyhurst Prep in Erie. **Good luck, Knights!!!** The girls would appreciate your attendance and support.

REMINDERS

1. Absentee forms and forms for physical and dental exams are available on our website www.saint-stephen.org
2. Volunteers are needed for cutting and sorting Campbell's labels. Call the office to volunteer.
3. Please read the flyer concerning School Pop / One Cause.
4. Kindergarten Conferences on March 5. This is a vacation day for kindergarten students. **Classes are in session for all other classes.**
5. Early Dismissal – March 8 – 1:30 PM
6. Soupfest – March 10 – 5:00-6:30 PM
7. Snow Make-up Day – March 12 – We have school!
8. SSS 3 on 3 tournament – March 20. Registrations due by March 12.
9. Spring Picture Day – March 24.
10. Spring Feast and much more! – Palm Sunday, March 28 – Spaghetti Dinner, Art Fair, Science Fair 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Bring family and friends for a great way to celebrate **SPRING!**
11. Snow Make-up Day – Holy Thursday – April 1 – Early dismissal at noon.
Lenten Prayer Service – The Living Stations – 10:00 AM. All are welcome.
12. Easter Vacation – April 2 thru April 6. School resumes April 7. This is subject to change with additional school cancellations.