

Resurrection-St. Paul School
3155 Paulskirk Dr.
Ellicott City, Md. 21042
www.resstpaul.org

July 20, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope this annual mid-summer letter finds you relaxing in the sunshine with your families and enjoying the unstructured days that only summer can bring! We hope everyone is staying cool!

What an incredible and memorable school year this will be! In January, 2012 we will celebrate our 90th year of providing Catholic Education here in Howard County. So much to celebrate!

We have been busy this summer planning many wonderful activities for the upcoming school year which will focus on our new theme, "Reflect the Light!". Our intention this year is to make sure that our thoughts, words and actions are in sync at all times which hopefully will reflect our Christian Catholic values to others. By doing so, our lives will become a reflection of God himself to others.

We have made a few "home improvements". Our main office and one of the first grade classrooms received new carpeting while all of the other carpets on the first floor are being steamed cleaned. We are getting ready to install new lighting all the way down the first floor corridor as well as most of the first floor classrooms, updating our learning environments for our youngest students. We are very excited about our recent purchase and installation of a Kiln for our Art program!

We are having a network infrastructure review in the upcoming weeks. CTI will send their people out to determine what changes and upgrades we need to make to our infrastructure to make sure it will support all of our wireless devices and the increase in student internet activity.

We have some great news to report! On the last day of school, myself, Mrs. Suarez and Mrs. Headley, along with Lisa Johnson, went to an awards ceremony with Howard County. We were recognized as a "Healthy Howard" School. Many thanks to Mrs. Suarez, Mr. Sokoloff and Lisa Johnson who have worked the past two years on implementing healthy policies into our curriculum. In continuing on with that initiative, we will have three lunch shifts this year. There is lots of data that is out there that supports students who play outside before they eat, digest their food better as well as eat more food during their actual lunch period. So, we are going to try this and see how it goes.

We are also getting ready to install a new convection oven in our kitchen as we are looking to outsource our cafeteria this coming school year. Thankfully Louise Gioio has been hired by the vendor to still run our kitchen! You will be receiving information on this transition in the coming weeks.

Mrs. Leslie Fruscello, Mrs. Stacey Corrao and Mrs. Pam Riggan informed us this summer that they will not be returning to RSPS this fall. I am sure you join me in thanking them for their service to the school and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Mrs. Julie Boston has asked to work part time and is going to be taking the third/fourth grade resource position. We welcome several new teachers who will be joining us this year. Emma Santucci will be joining us in first grade, Monica Custer will be our new third grade teacher, Patricia Stack, who comes to us from Woodmont Academy will be teaching Spanish to students in Prek-Grade 3 while Sarah Johncox will be teaching Spanish to students in grades 4-8. Kelly Maiocco will be joining us as a Middle School Language Arts and Religion teacher for the coming school year and Kristin Urbanski will be our new reading specialist. . Mandie Uebel and Anne Finn have been hired as full time aides. Finally we welcome Julianne Rice, who will job share the nursing position with Kim.

I am sure you will welcome all of our new hires as they will quickly learn that one of the things that makes RSPS such a special place is the terrific parents support that takes place.

We just finished revising our parent/student handbook which everyone will receive a copy when return in August. In reviewing the uniform policy, we would like to remind you of the shoes. Shoes worn with the uniform should be school shoes. Black, brown, saddle, etc... Please refer to the flyer that was sent home at the end of the year before purchasing. Keds that look like saddle shoes, Doc Martins, Vans, etc. are not acceptable. At the end of the school year, we were noticing students wearing PE shoes that were multi-colored and adorned with neon or florescent laces. This is not acceptable and very distracting. A predominantly white or black athletic shoe with matching laces should be worn. While we know that there are many new styles coming out, we have to remember that we are in a school. Thank you for your assistance with this matter. Any questions? Please contact us!

This is a good time during the summer to pull out the summer uniform and make sure it still fits! Flynn and O'Hara wants us to remind you that August is their busiest time of the year and their stock gets depleted of many sizes and styles as the month goes on. All students are expected to be uniform starting the first day of school. Please remember to get the hair cut and the nail polished removed before returning! Please consult the handbook which is available online to make sure the uniform policy is being followed.

All students need to be in the regular school uniform on the first day. Summer uniform is optional. Students will find out on the first day what their PE day is so that they can wear their gym uniform to and from school

This is also a good time to make sure all of the health forms have been completed, signed by the doctor and returned to school. All new students need to have their forms in before entering class the first day. Students in before and after school care or are registering for drop in care need additional health forms completed.

Registration for Before and After Care for the next school year is now taking place. If you think you will be using our services, we ask that you please register right away so that Mr. Sokoloff can determine staffing needs. This year we will also have the drop in option- but only for those families who have pre-registered and have the appropriate paperwork on file. Form can be found on the website or by contacting Mr. Sokoloff at ksokoloff@resstpaul.org . There is no registration fee.

If you know someone who may be interested in working either before or after school and has experience working with children, please have them contact Mr. Sokoloff directly at ksokoloff@resstpaul.org to set up an interview.

Bus lists will be posted on the website as soon as the information becomes available from the Howard County Public School System. Usually late August. The bus schedule will also be posted on the outside of the school doors when available. It is Howard County's policy not to publicize drop off times.

Each family is required to complete 30 hours of volunteer hours during the school year. We have lots of opportunities to volunteer throughout the school year that are usually highlighted in the newsletter. If you wish to volunteer at the school than you need to be STAND trained. If you are not STAND trained, then please take one hour this summer and get started by completing the online training session. Visit our website at www.resstpaul.org under the "For Our Families" tab.

Since we are starting back the same day as the county, we expect traffic to be very heavy so please allow extra time. If your child will be taking the bus this year, it is imperative that they be at their bus stops the first couple of days of school so that the bus drivers can establish a routine and can adjust their times as needed. We ask that you please use the drop off lane each morning in the back of the school if you are driving your child(ren). As in years past, in order to ensure safety and well being of the students, we ask that you please do not escort your child into the school building. All students should be at school by 9am. Regular dismissal will take place at 3:30pm that first week of school, with RSPS being closed on Friday, September 2nd. PLEASE be patient with the traffic and obey the teachers who will be directing the cars.

The calendar is on the website. We ask that you check it periodically as things will be added from here on out.

Class lists will be posted on the website this Friday, July 29th. There was input on the class lists by homeroom teachers, counselor, administration, nurse, special teachers, etc... They were painstakingly put together taking numerous things into

consideration. We are so blessed to have such an incredibly professional teaching staff- we think everyone will be pleased!

Now is the time to make sure that all of the summer reading assignments are being done! Check out the information on the website. You will find the school supply lists there as well.

On Thursday, August 25th, students may visit their classrooms, meet the teachers, and drop off their school supplies between 2-3pm. Teachers will be in training sessions each day that week-so this will be the only opportunity. If you are unable to make this time, do not worry- the kids will do fine the first day.

School begins (all day) on Monday, August 29th. All students need to bring a lunch (including drink) to school that week. Parents are invited to our opening prayer service at 10am in the church.

Finally, we have received information from the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. They would love to invite our families to four events in the coming months. The first is the "Family Night at the Institute" on Thursday, August 18th. The second is a Parent and Daughter evening under the stars for girls in grades 6-12 on Friday, November 4th. The third opportunity is the Parent and Son evening under the stars for boys in grades 6-12 on Friday, November 11th. The last opportunity is for an Astronomy Club fall session for students in grades 5-12 starting in September. For more information and registration for any of these events, please visit <http://www.stsci.edu/institute/conference/youthae> .

This letter is being sent to you electronically using our ALERT NOW system. If you did not receive this via that vehicle, please contact Mr. Bob Buchta at bbuchta@resstpaul.org and give him your contact information so that you may be added to the list. The Wednesday newsletter and all urgent communication will be sent via this system throughout the school year.

Please know that you continue to be in our prayers and may God continue to bless you and your families during this time of relaxation and rejuvenation.

Peace,

Karen Murphy
Principal

Wendy Cottrell
Assistant Principal