



News & Notes

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November 30, 2011

Coming Home Today

- Serafino Restaurant flier
- Picture Retake Photographs



Save the Date!

Thur., Dec. 1

Serafino's fundraiser night

Fri., Dec. 2

Trees & Greens Sale
Mother's Tea

Sat., Dec. 3

Breakfast with Santa
Trees & Greens sale

Mon., Dec. 5

Reconciliation

Tues., Dec. 6

Vocelli's Restaurant
Night

Wed., Dec. 7

Murphy's Mingle-9:15

A Message from Mrs. Murphy

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Advent is the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas, observed in the commemoration of the coming of Christ into the world. Here at school we are observing this time of waiting by listening to words from the bible that highlight Jesus' ancestors each morning and then hanging an ornament on our Jesse tree. We will be working with the students at the various age levels teaching them the value of patience and waiting. We will be focusing on the values of Self-Knowledge and Respect during the month of December as we learn how to wait in anticipation of Jesus' birthday! We will be collecting toys and gift cards to local fast food restaurants for the Grass-roots shelter, the Domestic Violence Center and Villa Maria. Please drop off your donations in the bins outside of the office.

Along with the season of Advent comes lots of traditions here at school. This weekend, we will once again be selling fresh cut trees and greens in conjunction with our annual Breakfast with Santa. Many thanks to Trudi Louzon, who for many years makes contact with the grower, ensuring only the finest trees and greenery to sell. Trudi is also responsible for organizing dozens of volunteers (to stand outside in the cold) to help out with



the trees and greens sale.

On Friday night and Saturday morning,

many volunteers, under the direction of Lisa Johnson and Kelly Broccolino, will descend on the school and the cafeteria and will transform the place into a Santa's wonderland. Planning

has been going on since September and it takes dozens of volunteers to pull it off each year. We thank Lisa and Kelly, the Secret Santa shop volunteers and all of the kitchen staff who will spend hours making hundreds of delicious sausages and pancakes for all of us to enjoy.

It is tradition for our 7th and 8th graders to volunteer for helping us out on this day by dressing as elves and serving the hundreds of people who will eat breakfast on Saturday morning. Please thank them when you see them in person!

Our annual Mothers' Tea will take place this coming Friday morning from 9-11am at Kelsey's Restaurant. This free event has become a tradition for all of our mothers. The McManus' (a school family) own Kelsey's and each year they generously open their doors for two hours during the Advent season so that our moms may gather for wonderful tasty treats and holiday coffee, teas and sodas and most of all- fellowship. Many thanks to Maureen and Christopher McManus for their ongoing generosity and support of RSPS and to Mary Pearce for chairing this Home and School Association event. We hope all moms can join us for this special morning.

Other upcoming traditions include our Mass celebrating the Immaculate Conception, Band Christmas Concert, Reindeer Race, Christmas pageant, and of course- the Christmas parties. Please check the calendar, which can be found on the website, for exact times and dates for these activities. We hope you can join us for some of these activities.

Peace,

Karen Murphy
Principal

In Our Prayers

For all of those who are sick and are in need of God's healing presence. Especially:

Lewis Goode

Paul Pfeiler—grandfather to Max and Katie

Chess Club Starting This January!

Learn how to play chess from a Silver Knights chess coach! Their coaches are highly-rated professional chess instructors. They have taught tens of thousands of children to play, including the 2008 National Champions for first and second grade. Class time is evenly split between lesson and play. Lessons range from learning the rules to advanced. Play time is structured to pair each student against an opponent of similar skill. The club will be on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:35-4:35pm. Students can sign up for either Wednesdays OR Thursdays, and each day will have a cap of 25 students. All chess supplies provided. For more information or to register, see their website at www.silverknightschessdc.com. A detailed flier will be coming home in January!

Notable Notes

Congrats, It's Academic!

Congratulations to all of our It's Academic teams. One of our four teams came in second place with St. Augustine winning first and St. Louis and OLPH tying for third place.

Annual Fund Mailing

You should have received a letter in the mail this week asking for your support of the Annual Fund at RSPS. Please prayerfully consider this request. As we discussed at Back to School Night, the State of the School Address, and in past *News and Notes*, the cost of tuition is set below the actual cost to educate a child. In order to keep tuition low, we need to hold fundraisers throughout the year. We ask you to support the two major fundraisers, the 50/50 raffle and the Annual Gala, as well as the Annual Fund. Your contribution, no matter the amount will greatly help benefit our school.

Are You STAND Certified?

Just a reminder to those parents who are interested in helping with the upcoming Christmas festivities, you MUST be STAND certified to volunteer. Please visit our website to become STAND certified. <http://www.resstpaul.org/families/stand.php> According to the policies set forth by the Archdiocese of Baltimore and RSPS, any adult coming in to the school to volunteer in the classroom or work with children must hold a current STAND certification.

Breakfast With Santa THIS WEEKEND!

Santa is coming to RSPS this weekend, Saturday, December 3 from 8:00 to 11:30am. Don't miss out on this wonderful holiday tradition! Forms for Ticket Orders, Raffle and Volunteer Opportunities can be found on the RSPS website under For Our Families- Forms. We are also still in need of a Mrs.

Claus to help Santa greet the children. Please contact Lisa Johnson 410-549-6576 or Kelly Broccolino 410-781-0461 if you are interested.

Gala Update

Gala planning is underway! Please mark your calendars for March 31. The *Night at the Races* event, will be held at Ten Oaks Ballroom. We'd like to thank Sue Ellen Grove, Barbara Romiti and Diane Conte for co-chairing the fundraiser. For information or questions please contact Sue Ellen at sueellengrove@hotmail.com. Stay tuned for exciting details!

Mrs. Murphy's Book Club

Mrs. Murphy's first book club meeting was a great success. The group decided to read "The Homework Myth" by Alfie Kohn for the next meeting. All parents are welcome to join in the discussion that will take place some time in January.

A Glimpse in the Classroom

In Kindergarten, the students spent the first day back at school gaining a deeper understanding of Advent. They are learning that it is a time of longing or wanting something that isn't here yet. The students learned that a wreath is round with no beginning and no end, just like God's love for us. The straw wreath in



KB will remind them that Jesus was born a "King" in a manger so humble. Purple is the color reserved for

Kings so we have three purple candles and Pink represents the excitement that the birth of Jesus is near. Each day we will light a candle and pray special advent prayers with the entire school.

Younger children find it very difficult to wait and have their little hearts "longing" for Santa and presents.

In Kindergarten, the teachers placed a small gift on the table for each child before they came into the classroom. They spent an entire school day with the gifts in sight longing to touch and shake them. No touching was the rule. Finally, the end of the day arrived and with much anticipation they eagerly opened the gifts.

Upon opening the gift, each child found a wrist band with the words "Jingle for Jesus" with some tiny jingle bells attached. Kindergarten children may wear the bracelet to school throughout the season of Advent to remind all of us that Christmas is about "Jesus" and God's love for us.

