

July 15, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the slower paced and hassle free days that the season of summer tends to bring. The good news is that we still have 5 weeks of summer left! I just wanted to fill you in on everything that has been going on at the school and give you a peek of what we will be doing during the next school year.

Our theme for this school year is "Called by Name". We truly believe that God has called each one of us by name to be at Resurrection-St. Paul School at this place and time. It is our mission this year to let all students know that they have been called by God to do great things with their lives.

We have had an exciting and productive summer so far. We have just about finished all of our hiring and are very pleased with those teachers who have accepted the call to teach at RSPS this upcoming year.

As we continue to expand the school and our programs and look to add a pre-kindergarten program for the 2009-2010 school year, it has become necessary to add a second Assistant Principal. We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Wendy Cottrell will fill this position. Mrs. Cottrell has over 15 years teaching experience is excited about this new challenge.

Mrs. Lynsey Mullenholz will join Mrs. Julie Boston in first grade this year. Mrs. Mullenholz has had previous experience with teaching grades 1 and 3 before coming to RSPS two years ago. Mrs. Finamore will join our resource team and will be teaching Math to Kindergarten and grade 1 as well as working with Mrs. Destino on a special school wide student project that we will explain on Back to School Night.

Mrs. Patricia Nugent and Mr. Alexander Will will comprise our third grade team. Mrs. Nugent is a certified teacher who has previously taught in Howard County Public Schools. She currently resides in Sykesville with her family. Mr. Will is a graduate of RSPS who went on to study at MSJ and Mt. St. Mary's before earning his degree in Education. He has spent the last two years teaching second grade in the Frederick County Public School System. Mr. Will and his wife reside in Catonsville.

Mrs. Alaina Morgan, is the new fourth grade teacher who will be joining Ms. Buppert. Mrs. Morgan is originally from Texas and spent the last year teaching 5th grade at a Catholic School in Illinois before moving here a few weeks ago. She and her husband live in Columbia.

We have had several Priest personnel changes as well. At the end of June, Fr. Collin was reassigned as Administrator at St. Mary's in Hagerstown. He will return in September to say Mass for the students and give us a chance to say a formal goodbye and thank you for

his service the past two years to the school. We welcome Reverend Matthew Buening who has been assigned as the new Administrator to St. Paul's Parish and to Reverend Michael Triplett who has been assigned as a new Associate to the Church of the Resurrection. We look forward to seeing them both around our school!

In addition to preparing for our new Pre-K program, we will be focusing on two major areas in enhancing our curriculum.

1. We will be focusing on how we can become more environmentally friendly in all we do. We need to be models to our students on how to care for God's earth that has been given to us. One of the changes you will notice is that we will be more conscientious of our resources. Starting this year, the weekly newsletter will be sent home via email on Wednesdays by noon. Please take some time this summer to register for the newsletter to be automatically sent to you at www.resstpaul.org. If for some reason you can not receive emails and would prefer that the letter be sent home to you, we will make an exception. While we will be scanning all the attachments and putting them on the web, we will still be sending home all of the enclosures to the newsletter each week.
2. We are constantly being reminded that our bodies are temples and we need to take better care of ourselves. Our second focus will be making sure our students have healthier food choices when they are at school. Members of the staff, Mrs. Suarez, and representative parents have met over the summer to set goals for the Healthy School Initiatives. We are pleased at the progress we have already made and want to share with you our goals for the upcoming year.
 - a. Our first goal is that our Hot Lunch Menu has been changed to include healthy choices that reflect RSPS nutritional standards.
 - b. As part of the Healthy Schools Initiative, the student's birthday celebrations will no longer be celebrated by bringing in food items to share with their classmates. Alternative suggestions include birthday pencils, stickers, a donation of a classroom gift on behalf of the student to be used for indoor recess, purchasing a book from the Birthday Book club in the library to be shared with all the students.
 - c. Members of the Healthy Schools Initiative Theme will provide nutrition education to faculty, students, and families via monthly handouts, learning modules and/or classes. A family survey will be sent home at the beginning of the school year so we can make sure we better meet the needs of our students.

Several members of our school staff have been consistently meeting to redesign our school website. We have been working the past 2 months with our web designers and hope to be able to go live with the new site sometime in August. Keep checking!

The Curriculum Mapping Committee is preparing to meet next week for review of the Social Studies curriculum that we mapped this current year. We will meet to review the data, compare it to the Archdiocesan standards and make changes and recommendations to the staff in order to ensure a Social Studies program that does not have major gaps or redundancies.

Also meeting next week is the Standardized Testing Committee. The test results are back and this committee will review the overall test scores, analyze the data and make recommendations to the staff about instruction that will ultimately result in even higher test scores. This information will be conveyed to parents at a meeting on August 14th, in the library of the school. Individualized reports will be sent home on back to school night.

Keep saving your Campbell soup labels and Box tops for Education! Our goal is to have every family bring back a combination of 20 box tops and labels to jump start our program this year! The box tops actually translate into money for the school and the labels translate into items to enhance our science program and PE equipment! Please refer to our school website for more details.

Coming home in this mailing is a flyer from Target to remind you to register your Target Red Card for rebates back to the school. This is a good time to check out these easy school fundraisers that do not take money out of your pocket!

Please remind your child(ren) that now is the time to do their reading assignments! School supply lists are on the website.

Upcoming dates you need to be aware of:

August 12th- New Family/New Student Welcome 6-7:30pm

August 14th- Parent Meeting to Review Standardized testing- 7pm in Library

August 15th- Class lists to be posted on the school website after 10am

August 20- Meet your teacher! If you are in the area, stop by the school and say hi to your teacher and see your new homeroom anywhere from 2-3:30pm.

August 25th- First day of school. 12:30pm- Dismissal- no buses home, parents pick up. Wear your uniform, please bring a heavy snack!

August 26-29th- Regular school days with bus service both ways

Hot lunch Program and the milk program will not begin until after Labor Day. Please make sure your child has a lunch and a drink with them the first week of school.

Please continue to keep the vonHagel family and Mary Destino in your prayers as they continue to mourn the loss of their loved ones. May God continue to bless you and your families with rest and rejuvenation! We look forward to seeing you at the end of August,

Peace,

Mrs. Karen Murphy
Principal

