



News & Notes

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www.resstpaul.org

December 17, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Resurrection-St. Paul School community has certainly been sharing their talents and resources with those less fortunate during the month of December. Last Friday, three van loads full of food, clothing and toys were delivered to St. Katherine School for their families. Mrs. Calamari, our former 1st grade teacher and the school's current principal, was absolutely delighted! A special thank you to the Helping Hands Club for collecting the toys and gift wrapping them. We also want to express our appreciation to Mr. Paul Hogan who donated a van load of action figures to the cause! Ms. Frederick's second graders chose to send in their own money and collected \$80.00. On her student's behalf, Ms. Frederick went to Toys R Us where she was able to purchase toys to be donated! Please know that all of your donations will put smiles on many faces this Christmas.

RSPS's Educare Crocheting Group is working in conjunction with Save the Children's Knit One - Save One Program to provide crocheted hats for newborn babies in poor countries around the world. The Educare Crocheting Group is made up of eight 4th-8th grade students who have been learning how to crochet for the past six weeks under the guidance of Ms. Lisa Thompson. They decided to help this organization by making two hats each before the Christmas break. The hats will be sent to Washington D.C. to be part of care packages for new mothers. Please stop by this week to see their adorable hats on display by the first floor office!

Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hoff, grandparents of Morgan and Tommy Ruddo, grade 1, for opening the doors of their beautiful showcase home last week for our Christmas Decorator House Tour. With the assistance of daughter Kelly Ruddo, and plenty of help from Faith Fiocco, Dawn Norris, Amy Spears and dozens of parent and school staff volunteers, the one day event raised several thousand dollars for the school. Proceeds from the tour will be used to purchase equipment and supplies that are not covered in our current school budget for the computer, library, and music programs. We know that those who attended would all agree that the Hoff home and grounds were simply breathtaking. We want to especially thank Norma Hoff for her inspiration to create and host this unique fundraiser and for all the hospitality she extended to her many guests and volunteers. The Hoff's hope to repeat the event next year. There will be an article about the event in next week's Catholic Review. We hope that you enjoy reading about the splendor of the day.

Many thanks to Mrs. Susan Day and our talented school bands for the beautiful Christmas concert this past Monday. They definitely put us all in the Christmas spirit!

Congratulations to students in the 6A homeroom who won the Reindeer Race! They were the first class to make it around the race board. Over the past two weeks, classes earned the tickets that were pulled for the Reindeer Race board when they were caught displaying one of our Value codes. The winning home room received a healthy tower of treats for their class as their prize. Congratulations to the 5B homeroom who earned the largest amount of tickets by displaying the Values.

Congratulations to this week's raffle winners! Chris and Adam Schubert and the Schubert grandparents won \$250, Kim and Rob Edrington won \$150, and Vien Anh Tran won \$100.

We received an email for Dr. Ronald Valenti, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, regarding the closure of schools for the upcoming Inauguration Day. We wanted to pass along to you the information he conveyed. He states, "It is our position that the school will remain open. It certainly can become a teachable moment. The use of TV sets to watch the ceremony certainly would be encouraged. Other questions have been asked that if students are absent to attend the ceremony, is that an excused or unexcused absence, it is to be considered an unexcused absence."

During the first half of this school year, RSPS has had some of the most successful fundraisers we have seen in years. This is largely due to the wide variety of fundraisers and because every family has contributed in some manner. Please note that much of the money generated has not been through additional purchases, but by participating in loyalty programs. Here is a partial listing of accomplishments that we have made so far!

- Box tops: We turned in \$1,720 worth of box tops on October 31st. Prior to this year, the most the school has ever turned in for an entire year was \$800. Please keep sending them in!! There will be another out of uniform day in January for each child who sends in 10 box tops!
- Campbell Soup labels: We were able to obtain science videos, balance scales, microscopes, and PE equipment with the labels collected last year.
- Coke Points: By inputting numbers from Coke Products, if enough points are earned, we should be able to obtain additional PE equipment. If you do not have the time to input the codes please send them in to the school office and we will do it for you!
- UNO's Night: Our first ever UNO's night fundraiser netted \$700.
- Escrip – Safeway: Through parents and friends signing up or reactivating their Safeway cards we have turned this account into a top earner. So far we have earned \$263.50.
- Giant: Through parents and friends signing up or reactivating their Giant Bonus Card we are at a 30% increase over last years earnings.
- SCRIP: On our first initial offering, the school made a \$764 profit and of that \$250 will be credited toward next year's tuition for participating parents.
- Target: By registering your Target Visa, a percentage of your purchases are refunded to the school. This year, to date, we have received \$250.

We would like our families to realize that it is so easy to participate in giving back to the school without having it effect your wallet. The give back programs that we mentioned allow us to obtain resources for the school without having to budget for them and thus not having to pass on these expenses through tuition! If we can encourage our friends, families and neighbors to help us out with these sign up efforts, imagine how much we could all end up saving! Please give some thought to how you might be able to increase your participation in these activities!

As mentioned in the flier that went home last week, we will begin having scrip cash cards for ongoing use when we return from the Christmas break on January 5th. Today I am sending home a form for you to use when ordering cash cards (additional forms are available on the school website under Giving Back, Fundraising Activity). You will receive a re-usable envelope with your first filled order that you should use for future transactions. Please feel free to contact Karen O'Connell at koconnell@resstpaul.org or ext. 267 with any questions. Please remember that your purchases will earn you a 2% rebate to be applied towards your next year's annual tuition.

We have received word from the Archdiocese that parent access to Power School will not be available from December 22-26th as they will be doing maintenance to the system.

Tomorrow afternoon we will celebrate the Christmas Holiday with Christmas parties in the afternoon. Students may come out of uniform, but do need to dress appropriately. Many thanks to the dozens of parents who have been involved with organizing the afternoon activities.

Please join us on Friday at 11:00am as we gather in the Church for our annual Christmas Program which will include our traditional Christmas Pageant. All of our students will participate in this beautiful celebration of the Christmas Season. We hope that you will be able to join us. PE classes will not be held on Friday, so all students should wear their regular school uniforms. Boys may add a Christmas tie to their dress shirts and girls may add a Christmas bow, barrette or headband. We would like to alert you that we have received notification from the church that there will be a funeral in the church on Friday at 9:00am. We will not be able to allow any parents into the church until after 10:30am. Thank you for your understanding.

Following the end of the Christmas Program, the students will be dismissed first and asked to return to their homerooms to gather their belongings. Parents, grandparents and friends who have attended the Christmas Program should return to their cars to await their child's (children's) arrival. Once all of the children have returned to their homeroom we will begin dismissing the students, by grade, as we do each day. We would appreciate your patience, in the school and on the parking lot, as we handle dismissal in a safe and timely manner.

Final dismissal will be at 12:30pm on Friday with NO BUS SERVICE HOME. Educare will also be closed Friday afternoon. Please check your calendars to make sure you have made arrangements for your child(ren) to be picked up by 12:30 pm.

Coming home today:

- Scrip re-order forms
- Drama registration forms for students grades 5-8
- Thank you letter from Mrs. Calamari for the December Toy Drive
- Flier for upcoming Christmas Sing a long at the Church of the Resurrection

In your prayers this week, please remember all those who are seriously ill and in need of God's healing presence, especially Beverly McCoy, grandmother of Mrs. Mullenholz; Mrs. Carol Pfeiler, grandmother of Max Pfeiler; Mrs. Judy Sparks, grandmother of Mason Pung; Mr. Jack Moseman, grandfather of Kate, Robbie and Jenna; Mrs. Carolyn Cougnet, grandmother of Lacey and Lauren Davidson; Mr. Stanley Whitaker, uncle of Jason Grove; Mr. Anthony Altieri, grandfather of Kylie Handler; and Mrs. Barbara Seminuk, grandmother of Stephanie, Brian and Sean Moran. Let us also remember all of those that have died, especially Mr. Wanton Chase, great-grandfather of Eve Chase and Bernie Case, great grandmother of Mrs. Mullenholz.

**May the Lord Jesus truly bless you during this wonderful season
as you rejoice with family and friends.**

**May you open and cherish His gifts of peace, joy, grace, mercy, faith, patience,
kindness, self-control, salvation, hope and love and may you share the
blessings with all those around you.**

Merry Christmas!

Peace,
Karen Murphy
Principal