



# News & Notes

---

3155 Paulskirk Drive • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 410-461-9111 • Fax: 410-461-8621  
[www.resstpaul.org](http://www.resstpaul.org)

---



December 9, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we move forward into our second week of Advent, we are reminded that we need to get our lives in order to help prepare for Jesus' birth. This past Monday, students in grades 3-8 had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. Four area priests in addition to our own were able to hear all of the student's confessions. We thank them for setting aside the time out of their schedules to do this for us.

As you will recall, all of our extracurricular activity groups are being asked to participate in service projects as part of their mission. In addition to the It's Academic Team collecting toys for deserving youth, Mr. Deegan's creative writing club has been busy writing letters to Santa. These letters have been taken to Macy's where the store has agreed to donate \$1 to the Make A Wish Foundation for each letter written!

Did you happen to see Mrs. Hoff, Mrs. Ruddo and Morgan Ruddo on the television yesterday talking about the Open House Fundraiser for our school? Gather your adult friends, family and neighbors for a wonderful evening outing at the annual Hoff Decorator Show House Tour. The Open House is today, Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 3:00pm and this evening from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. This spectacular event showcases the Clarksville home of Tom and Norma Hoff featuring 19 holiday decorated rooms. It is a not to be missed Christmas treat. Please note that the "Wine and Design" tour will take place from 6:00-9:00pm. Tickets are available at the door and additional information may be found on our main webpage. The evening Wine and Design Tour is \$30.00 per person. We hope you can join us!

Tomorrow night we invite you to join us for our school group walk through the Symphony of Lights in Columbia. The donation for the walk is \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 per family. The donation will benefit the Howard County Hospital who has been so generous to us over the years! In anticipation of the walk, students will be allowed to wear their blue ribbon t-shirts with their jeans or school uniform sweatpants and tennis shoes to school tomorrow. The walk begins promptly at 4:30pm. All family groups need to have a signed waiver of responsibility form and should bring it with you or sign one when you get there. You are encouraged to invite along family, neighbors and friends for this wonderful experience! The weather is expected to be cold- but dry.

We are still collecting toys and gift cards up until this Friday to be given to the Grass Roots Shelter. We suggest that your child pick out an inexpensive toy or item that they would like to receive themselves for Christmas and bring it into school and place it in the bins in the foyer. Small gift cards to McDonalds, Chick Fil A and Subway are also needed and very much appreciated!

What a terrific time we had last weekend at our annual Breakfast with Santa. This year's event was a little sad for some of our veteran parents because their youngest child will be graduating this year! Many thanks to veteran parents Mary Ann Matthews, Laura Glaudemans, Karen and Scott Cooper and Sue Curley who are turning over the reins of this wonderful event! We thank them for their years of hard work and dedication to this event. In some cases the total number of years involved with this event ranges from 9-20! While we do have chairs in training for most of Breakfast with Santa, it is a good reminder to our "younger" families that there is a need for new blood, sweat and energy in order to keep these wonderful Home and School Association events alive! Please prayerfully consider how you want to share your talents with us.

Many thanks to Trudi Louzon, Greg Schaaf and all the volunteers who braved the cold to sell Christmas trees this past weekend. We still have some Trees and Greens for sale this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Everything needs to go so there will be some great deals. The sale will be up at the shed on Friday Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:00pm-9:00pm, Saturday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am.-7:00pm and from Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-1:30pm.

We are always happy and grateful that so many of our school parents refer families to our school who are seeking a catholic education for their children. As you see people over the Christmas break, please continue to spread the word of our Blue Ribbon School to others. Open House information may be found on our website. We are offering informal tours at 9:30am this Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, December 18<sup>th</sup> and on Friday January 15<sup>th</sup>. These tours are by appointment only. Interested parents should call Mrs. Valerie Bateman, ext. 241. We will have our formal Open House on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am- 11:00am. Parents do not need to register for the January 20<sup>th</sup> Open House.

During this time of the year, when the weather may be questionable, students will be inside for recess. It is at this time of the year when our lunch time volunteers start to drop off. No classroom can ever be left without adult supervision, so there are several times when teachers never get to leave their classroom for a lunchtime break. Double volunteer hours will be given for the months of December, January, February and March to any parent who volunteers for lunch duty. If you can give us 45 minutes to 1 hour- we would love to see you! Please check in at the office and then again with Mr. Hoffman in the cafeteria. For indoor recess days, he will assign you specific classrooms to monitor during your time with us.

Just a reminder that a final special order for SCRIP gift card sales for this Christmas Season are due this Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please visit [www.scrip.com](http://www.scrip.com) to see a list of all merchants available. A big thank you to all of those who used this program for holiday gift giving this year. Cards will still be available year round! Please make it a habit to use them weekly for everyday grocery shopping, dining out or prescriptions.

The January 30, 2010 "Winter in Monte Carla" Gala is approaching fast. Come join in a fun and exciting night to help raise money for our children's education. The evening will include dinner, drinks, live music, casino games, gaming tournament, silent auction and a chance to win great raffles. We were blessed with having the Spedding family's donation of the live music, "The Bottom of the Fifth", which dad Jim Spedding is a member. Invitations were mailed last week. Don't miss out on a fun night with other RSPS parents, friends and guests!

Vision and Hearing Screening for students in Kindergarten will take place January 14, 2010 and February 12, 2010. Vision and Hearing screening for students in grades 1 and 8 will take place January 21, 2010. Because of changes in state screening guidelines, the screenings will only be conducted in grades K, 1, and 8 this school year. Parental consent is necessary. Please return all consents by December 21, 2009.

This year our Student Council will sponsor our annual Reindeer Race. They will be selling tickets in homerooms each morning for .25 for one ticket or 5 tickets for \$1.00. The Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will be earning tickets for abiding the values from our values code. Students who purchase/earn tickets will write their homeroom class number on the back. On Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, we will all gather in the gym and the students will participate in a live “board” game. Tickets will be drawn at random and student representatives from each class will move forward as they travel around the gym to get to the end. Proceeds from this event will be donated to the Oblate Sisters. The Oblate Sisters are trying to build a house for the sick and aged. The economy has put even previously committed funds in jeopardy. The Oblate Sisters are known for starting Catholic Schools for African American students in the Baltimore area. Their order has always struggled for funds and support so our fundraising efforts will be most appreciated. Donations will be accepted each morning. Thank you once again for supporting this fund raiser!

Coming home today:

- Picture re-take photographs
- Scrabble tile pendant information flier
- Grade 5 and Grade 8 Mom Gift Gathering Brunch flier
- Church Christmas Concert and Sing-A-Long flier

Upcoming Dates:

- Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>- RSPS Group Walk through Symphony of Lights at 4:30pm – Parents should meet at the Symphony of Lights
- Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>- RSPS Christmas Band Concert- 2:00pm in the Church

In your prayers this week, please remember all those who are seriously ill and in need of God’s healing presence, especially, Brother James Kelly, President of Mt. St. Joseph High School; Tom Herbert, brother in law of Valerie and uncle of Graham Bateman; Addison Dewey, step-father of Ms. Patton; Annette Garib, grandmother of Sarah and Meghan Hudson; Ben Price, nephew of Mrs. Mansfield and cousin of Jack and Mark Mansfield; Delma Ramsay, grandmother of Bella and Alena Nosel; and Mrs. Lynsey Mullenhloz’s cousin, Cheyne.

Peace,

Karen Murphy  
Principal