



March, 2010 Newsletter

Dear Cardinal Shehan School Family,



I will begin with a reminder that, because of all the days we lost to snow, we will be cancelling the Perry Concert for this year. Because of this cancellation and because of the days of school lost to snow, Friday, March 5 will be a full day of school. However, we will be hosting an evening starring our Choirs and Dancers, at CSS, in the spring. We will keep you advised.



We continue to celebrate *Lent*, and this year students will be attending Stations of the Cross at St. Matthew's. Students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 attend Stations on March 12 and Middle School students attend on March 19. We will have prayer services at CSS for students who don't go to St. Matthew's. Our Final Lenten Prayer Service is scheduled for March 31 at 1:45 p.m. at St. Matthew's. Please join us for one or all of these celebrations of our Lord's life, death and *GLORIOUS RESSURECTION!*

Progress Reports will be distributed on March 11, 2010. Teachers have been in contact with parents throughout the year, as necessary, and I have been a part of many of those conferences. Should your child be in danger of retention for the year, you will be notified in writing by me no later than March 31st, per our handbook, p. 12.



If your child is receiving a certificate for Honors (Gr. 4-8) or Perfect Attendance (PreK-3-Gr. 8), there will be a notice in your child's Progress Report. Please join us for our Honors' and Perfect Attendance Assembly on March 17 at 9 a.m.

REMINDER:

Monday, March 15 is a Professional Day and school is closed to students.



STANDARDIZED TESTING is scheduled for the week of March 22. As you know, students cannot study for standardized testing, but can be prepared with a good night's sleep and healthy breakfast, both of which are **so important for optimum performance**. Please remember that we use the results of this testing to measure the effectiveness of our programs and our teaching and to make curricular decisions. **We ask students to MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE IN SCHOOL AND ARRIVE ON TIME THIS WEEK!! We must adhere to deadlines set by the AoB and make-up testing interferes with this.**

CONSULTANT'S CORNER

Talking Over Your Child's Progress Report

It's that time of year again- the either highly anticipated or dreaded delivery of the school PROGRESS REPORT! Parents often seem obligated to use the report card moment as a time to give a pep talk or punishment. But child experts aren't sure this is the right way to go. Children rely on and internalize their parent's reactions. Stay calm and remember that this is your child's progress report, not yours. Poor grades are not necessarily a reflection on the quality of parenting a child receives.

Use progress reports as a conversation starter, a means of gathering information from your child's point of view, so that you as a parent may guide your child in making progress in academics:

- Ask your child how he thinks he performed, and LISTEN to his response.
- If the teacher is commenting on your child's behavior, don't set yourself up for an argument. Instead of asking why she engages in such behavior, ask, "Why do you think the teacher feels you have trouble behaving?" Getting your child to explain from the teacher's point of view enables her to think about how her actions are being interpreted.
- Offer specific praise and encouragement instead of broad statements. Try: "Your improved study habits really paid off with your math grade," instead of "Great job in math."
- Separate your child from his grades, helping him to maintain his self worth while recognizing his areas of need. Consider statements like, "I love you, but I don't like this progress report" as a way to distinguish between the two.
- Focus on a way to do better. Create an improvement plan with your child, write it down and share it with her teachers so that everyone is on the same page.

Remember that progress reports are simply a way for schools to formally record your child's PROGRESS. It's a way for parents to see what their child is learning and how he is performing in school. But it's not the final say on how smart or gifted your child is. If you approach progress reports with that attitude, you'll be able to offer the encouragement your child needs for success in school.

Maureen Lester, LCSW-C
School Consultation
Tue/ Thurs 9am-3pm

The CANDY SALE Kick-Off Assembly is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, and the candy, two boxes per family, will be sent home on Monday, March 8. This



year we are using a new candy supplier - all chocolate except some **Twizzlers**. We received feedback from parents who told us that chocolate is the most popular item. The candy fundraiser concludes on April 12 and all money must be turned in by April 12. You should have received the accounting of your fulfillment of your fundraising obligation for this school year. If you have not, please call the office, 410-433-2775. We greatly appreciate your support of our fundraisers which are a critical item in our budget. The cost to educate each student at Cardinal Shehan is more than \$1,300 over what we charge in tuition.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!


PreK 3 Jada Conyers
PreK 4 Breonne Swinton
KA Jayden Hicks
KB Sierra Ellis
1st Brandi Swinton
2nd Courtney Robinson

3rd Zonnie Peterson
4th Michele Macklin
5th Jordan Jackson
6th Julius Thompson
7th Jazmine Vice
8th Ajee? Johnson



Easter vacation begins on April 1st. Holy Thursday. School resumes on April 12.

Please take note of the upcoming March dates:

- March 3 - 5th Grade to *Freedom Train*
- March 4 - 2nd & 3rd to *Junie B. Jones*; Candy fundraiser assembly
- March 5 - Stations of the Cross; Perry Concert cancelled; regular 3 p.m. dismissal
- March 8 -12 - 6th Grade to NorthBay
- March 11 - Progress Reports distributed
- March 12 - Stations of the Cross
- March 15 - Professional Day; school closed to students
-  March 17 - Honors and Perfect Attendance Assembly
- March 19 - Stations of the Cross
- Week of March 22 - Standardized Testing Week
- March 31- Final Lenten Prayer Service
- **April 1 - 11** - Easter break
- **April 12** - School resumes

Since Ash Wednesday is a reminder of the need for spiritual renewal and change in our lives, I suggest that we all take some time to review our lives and name those areas where we need renewal. Once we have identified these areas, we must also identify ways to make changes. Personally, I am reviewing, praying and seeking the Lord's guidance as I identify the changes I need to make. The Lord always speaks to us... it is we who need to listen and heed.

*With the Peace of Christ,
Most Sincerely,
Mrs. Paula Redman*