




*Cardinal Shehan School
September, 2009
Newsletter*

Dear Cardinal Shehan School Family,


WELCOME!! We have planned well and are ready to meet the needs of our students, your children, as we begin the new school year. Our Lord is our guide and our strength and He leads us in the path He has chosen. We are listening and open to His direction. There are new initiatives as well as changes to our current programs to share with you.

I do want to begin with a VERY, VERY IMPORTANT REQUEST. We cannot expect to remain strong as a school without you. The economy has certainly reached us; we are not immune to the effects of the rising costs of all services. You MUST help us to market CSS AND to network with your friends and acquaintances – you know what we offer to you and your children.


SOME SUGGESTIONS:

- Take opportunities to talk with other, potential families  about CSS. You are our best advocates. Remember that we offer \$200 towards tuition to families who refer new students (not siblings of current students) to CSS, \$100 with enrollment and another \$100 in January.

- Talk with your employers  about contributing resources to CSS. Many businesses commit financial reserves to non-profits.

- Contact alumni and encourage them to get  involved in and support CSS. We would happily host alumni events if there is an interest.

- **Become involved in CSS, if you're not already. Be a room parent, attend all CSS functions, volunteer for an hour to**

read to the class  or share your vocation or avocation with our students. There is strong evidence correlating parental involvement in school activities with student success – your children value what you value.

Our Choir has been invited to perform at Archbishop O'Brien's Gala on September 26. This is a very great honor. Also at this Gala, our school will be showcased for our use of technology in instruction. Kudos to the

Faculty and Students of Cardinal Shehan School!!!



NEW CELL PHONE POLICY!



Students are only permitted to have possession of cell phones because we know that many students walk or take the bus to and from school and parents need to be able to maintain contact before and after school. Cell phones may not be seen and must be turned off at all times. A first offense carries one demerit and the cell phone is confiscated. The second offense carries 4 demerits (an automatic detention) and the cell phone must be turned into the office each morning. The first time that a student uses the phone to text will result in an automatic detention (4 demerits) and the cell phone must be turned into the office each morning. The perception of texting will also result in the same consequences. Students do not need the distraction of cell phones during the school day and if they need anything, we are always here to help.



H1N1 Update: We are disinfecting desks and doorknobs each day, and the cleaning crew uses disinfectant products each night on bathroom surfaces. Each classroom has hand sanitizer and our young students will be instructed in proper hand washing procedures (just to be sure). I reiterate that if your child has symptoms of flu (fever, cough, aches, etc.), keep your child home and consult your physician.

ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAM



We are beginning our program to address bullying. Students will be surveyed about their experiences, and Mrs. Lester, our school consultant, will be overseeing the program throughout all grades. Parents, mark your calendar for October 29; Esther Williams, a nationally known expert, will present to you on the subject in the evening at CSS. Ms. Williams will conduct a workshop for our faculty on the following day. CSS will be closed to students on Friday, October 30.



Eighth Grade News... On September 13, there will be a Catholic High School Fair at Martin's West from 3-5 p.m. On September 20, another fair will be held at College of Notre Dame, also 3-5 p.m. All Catholic Schools have Open Houses and Shadow Days. Our CSS Eighth Grade students will be bringing home flyers with lots of information. These flyers will also be available on our website.

STAND TRAINING – Remember that if you or a family member might want to accompany your child on a field trip, or help in school, you must complete an Application for Volunteer Service and participate in STAND Training. Applications were included in your child's Back to School folder. Training is available online at www.archbalt.org, or you may call the school to schedule training at CSS. If you were trained 5 or more years ago, you must submit a new Application, but do not need to view the video again.

Home School Association (PTA) Events! Our HSA is planning exciting activities throughout the year for fellowship and fellow-shop(!), although the former is the most important. The first event is a **BLOCK PARTY (rescheduled) on September 4 from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. There will be a DJ, food, our own garden produce, and fun, all provided by the Home School Association!** This free event is intended to bring families together to renew relationships and also build new ones. **The first Home School Association General Meeting is scheduled for September 24 at 6:30 p.m.** We sincerely pray that every family will join the Home School Association and show support for the great work parents do for Cardinal Shehan! **Don't forget to pay your Home School dues of \$25.00!** You will be HELPING your child and CSS and you will receive discounts on HSA events if you join.

A reminder that parents are always welcome at our Executive Committee meetings listed on the monthly calendar.

Other HSA events include (Dates are TENTATIVE)

- *HSA General Meeting, 11/19/09.*
- *Santa's Workshop, 11/30 - 12-4.*
- *Breakfast With Santa, December 5.*
- *HSA General Meeting, 1/13/10.*
- *Valentine's Day Activity Night, 2/12.*
- *HSA General Meeting, 4/15/10.*
- *McDonald's and Burger King nights and Bingo, TBA.*

Here are some news items and reminders - PLEASE take careful note!!



- **Spaghetti Lunch** – We have cultivated and prepared the soil, planted seeds, weeded, watered and finally harvested....now it's time to eat! Mrs. Abrams and Mrs. Stewart, with the help of students and other faculty members, will prepare a Spaghetti lunch for our students on September 23 using our tomatoes and basil. There will be a nominal charge to cover the cost of other ingredients. There will also be an Italian ambiance to the meal!
- **SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM:** Many of our students are eligible to participate in this program which provides lunch at a subsidized rate. A letter and application were included in your Back to School folder. **Please, please complete this application and return it to school; even if you think you don't qualify, just write NOT INTERESTED and return it to us.** It is SO important for you to complete the application because our allocation of government funds for textbooks and other programs depends on **your** participation. The lunch menu appears on our website each month. If you would like a paper copy, just ask at the office. A reminder that if your child fails to pay for lunch after two days, he/she will receive a jelly sandwich and not the featured menu item.
- **REMEMBER TO RETURN THE EMERGENCY CARD FOR EACH OF YOUR CHILDREN AND PLEASE NOTIFY US IN WRITING IF YOUR INFORMATION CHANGES.**

- **Another very important reminder: No medication, prescription or over the counter, may be dispensed at school without a written doctor's order. The medication must be in original packaging.**
- **Register now for our Child Care Program. If you register, you are eligible to use the regular service, drop-in, and child care on early dismissal days. Please see Mrs. Byrd for further information. Forms are downloadable from our website.**
- **Another reminder...the mandatory fundraising fee of \$200 can be completely offset by participation in our fundraisers. Information about our first fundraiser will go home on September 16..**

Back to School Night for Gr. K-8 is Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in our Gym.
(Meet and Greet at 5:30 p.m. for new parents in our Cafeteria)

Join us for our Peace Pole Re-Dedication on September 21 at 9 a.m.
Our Opening Liturgy is Friday, September 18 at 8:30 a.m. at St. Matthew's.

Calendar:

September 4 – Handbook Form due back to us; Home School (PTA) Block Party, 5-8 p.m.
 September 7 – Labor Day – school closed.
 September 9 – Back to School Night, K-8, 6:30 p.m.
 September 10 – Home School Executive Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 September 13 – Catholic High School Fair, Martin's West, 3-5 p.m.
 September 18 – Opening Liturgy, 8:30 a.m. at St. Matthew.
 September 20 – Catholic High School Fair, College of Notre Dame, 3-5 p.m.
 September 21 – Peace Pole Re-dedication, 9 a.m.
 September 23 – **Spaghetti Lunch.**
 September 24 – Home School General Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 September 25 – Faculty Retreat, school closed to students, no Child Care; Shadow Day at IND.
 September 26 – Choir to sing at Archbishop's Gala.

BEGINNING IN OCTOBER, THE NEWSLETTER WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE ONLINE VIA OUR WEBSITE, www.cardinalshehanschool.org. If you would like a paper copy, please send in a note to the office and we will be happy to fulfill your request.

As always, I want to know if you have questions or concerns. I am always available to you, please don't hesitate. Our Lord has brought us together and we trust in him.

*With the peace of Cardinal Shehan,
 Mrs. Paula Redman*