

Principal's Newsletter

Volume 2

October 2011



Smooth Beginning

It is hard to believe that the month of September is swiftly coming to an end. The short days and longer nights remind us that the season of autumn is upon us. Everyone seems to have settled into the school schedule and has adjusted nicely. Getting to bed early, eating healthy

meals and being on time and prepared for class everyday will help your child maximize the learning experience. Thank you to all who have made a sincere effort to be on time. It has made a significant difference. Keep up the good work!



Special points of interest:

- Drop-ins are accepted in the BSP and ASP
- Greeters are needed for Family Masses
- School pictures are on October 6.
- Progress Reports issued on October 13.
- Dress Down Day is scheduled for October 28.

Family Mass Starts September 25

Sunday, September 25th is the beginning of our 9:30 Family Mass at St. Mary's Church in Melrose. All families are invited to attend this weekly Sunday Mass especially geared for families. Children 5-12 are invited downstairs during the Gospel and homily for a simplified version of the Word of God. Anyone who is available to volunteer to be greeters at this Mass can contact Michelle Walsh at 781-662-0724. Everyone is invited downstairs immediately following Mass for refreshments and socialization.

Back to School Night

Thanks to all who attended our back to School night for parents. It was a great beginning for our new academic year. The support of parents in the educational process has proven to be instrumental in the success of students.

October is the Month of the Rosary

October is the month of the rosary and is especially dedicated to Mary, our Mother. Your children will be praying the rosary every day in school this month. Please take the time to pray the rosary at home with your child. It is a wonderful tradition in honor of our blessed Mother.



School Pictures

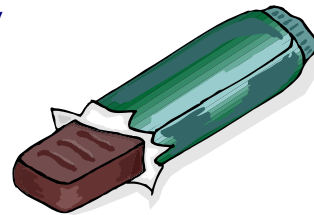
Our school pictures will be taken on Thursday, October 6. Students will have individual pictures taken on that day so that they may wear their own clothes. Order forms will be sent home. Class pictures in school uniforms will be taken at a later date.



Time to Pack Away Summer Uniforms

On Tuesday, October 11, the regular uniform policy will be in effect! All boys must wear their dress pants and shoes. Junior High girls must wear sweaters with their blouses. Grades 5-8 have a new **gym** uniform this year which is to be worn with the school tee shirt. If you have any questions, please check the school handbook which can be found on the website. Thank you to all who are always in

compliance with our uniform policy.



Candy Sale

Our second largest fundraiser of the year is about to begin! Candy will be distributed to each child on Monday, September 26. If every family does its part and sells candy, this fundraiser will be a huge success. Thank you in advance for your support of the PTO fundraiser.

After School Enrichment Programs

Adventures in Art and Irish Step start this week. The Homework Place will open in October and is open to students in grades 5-8 from 2:30-4:00. You can register by using a calendar or drop-in.

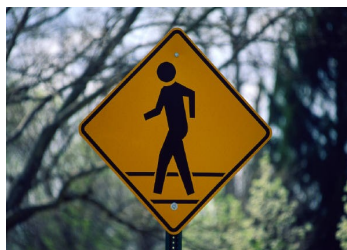
Kidstock Drama program flyers will be available this week. Please check the website for detailed information under the Student Life Activities tab. Classes will begin the week of October 3.



Please Use Crosswalks

Progress Reports

Progress reports will be sent home on October 13 to all students in grades 5-8. This will be the first formal assessment of how your child is doing. If you would like to meet with your child's teacher, feel free to contact them for a meeting.



Please note: Parking is not permitted in the Blue Bell Cleaners lot. This lot belongs to a private business. Violators will be ticketed and/or

Please be aware of the children as you drop off in the morning and pick up in the afternoon. **DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHLD TO CROSS OUTSIDE OF THE CROSSWALK!**

All students must cross the street in the crosswalks. The safety of all our students is our main concern. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Octoberfest

The Student Council will sponsor a Halloween Octoberfest on Friday, October 28. Each class will spend time at the park enjoying traditional outdoor activities. Please do not send in candy or food with your child. Our school time is valuable, so we will integrate celebrations into our reading, writing and music throughout the year.

Servants Heart Pantry

Thanks to all who have sent in items for the Servants Heart pantry. This month we are preparing for Thanksgiving, so many items are needed. The following items will be collected:



- PreK & K—canned corn
- 1—olives
- 2—stuffing
- 3—gravy
- 4—bread mix (banana, cranberry, pumpkin)
- 5 & 6—juice
- 7—instant potatoes
- 8—cranberry sauce

Dress Down Day

On Friday, October 28, we will have a dress down day. Students will pay \$1.00 and are asked to wear black and orange for Halloween. The money collected will be donated to the Servants Heart pantry to purchase turkeys.



Catholic Alumni Partnership

Supported by a grant from The Catholic Schools Foundation, St. Mary's School and forty-eight other elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Boston participated this past year in the Catholic Alumni partnership (CAP). While there is a strong tradition of alumni support at the college and high school levels, resource constraints have prevented many Catholic elementary schools from conducting effective alumni outreach. In con-

junction with CAP, SMS has launched a Development Committee. The goal of the Development Committee is to build the financial assets of the school for the benefit of current and future generations of students by targeting, engaging and stewarding alumni and close friends of SMS. Its efforts will not displace any PTO events, fundraisers or activities nor will its focus be on current SMS families. Rather, the Development Commit-

tee will supplement the PTO's fundraising efforts by building a pipeline of new donors. The Committee is comprised of individuals with strong professional backgrounds in non-profit fundraising, database management and alumni involvement. Currently, its members are Mrs. Cynthia Boyle, Mrs. Diane Elenbaas, Mr. Mark Flint, Brother Robert Green, Mrs. Eileen McSherry and Mrs. Cindy Silveira.