

Notes from Dr. Greco
January 12, 2012

Dear Parents,

To add to Msgr. Diamond's sentiments in his letter to you, the actions of the Blue Ribbon Commission were a shock for myself and our faculty and staff. It is certainly appropriate to be upset, angry, and fearful at this time. Please be assured that our students remain our priority during this difficult time. On Monday, teachers held classroom meetings with students and we continue to answer questions as they are posed and address the topic of the mergers during our classes. Monsignor and I will also be visiting all the classes on Friday afternoon.

On Tuesday evening, January 17th, at 7:30pm, an information meeting will be held with parents and parishioners in Conahan Hall. Questions and concerns can be addressed to Msgr. Diamond before Tuesday through icsandblueribbon@gmail.com.

The news media has covered the Blue Ribbon commission recommendations with varying degrees of accuracy. I simply ask you to remember not to believe everything as factual unless you hear it from either me or Msgr. Diamond.

There will be a Transition meeting for all teachers and administrators affected by the mergers on Wednesday, January 25th at Penns Landing. Therefore, there will be no school on the 25th but we will cancel our Faculty meeting on Friday, January 27th and school will be in session.

Catholic Schools Week will still be celebrated during the week of January 29th. Join us for the 9:30am Mass on Sunday. After Mass, we will have a chance to socialize in the Church Hall with doughnuts!

Sincerely,
Dr. Greco

On January 17th, we welcome two new student teachers for the Winter/Spring semester. In grade 4, Mrs. Kots will be the cooperating teacher for Debra Washington from Chestnut Hill College and in grade 5, Mrs. Regan will serve as the cooperating teacher for Maryann McDonough from Gwynedd Mercy College. Ms. McDonough is an experienced teacher who is completing her student teaching for her state certification.

Looking ahead - Our Home & School Association is sponsoring a parenting workshop on January 25th from 6 to 7:45pm. Our speakers are Suzanne Blatstein and Debra MacDonald, parenting educators, from the Abington Parenting Center. The topic, *Truth About Consequences*, is geared to parents of students in grades K to 4. The notion of consequences can be a complicated concept for a child to grasp, but using them effectively can help you to clearly teach your children how you want them to behave and what your values and expectations are.

Sometimes parents are stymied because they don't know what consequence to impose. This common dilemma will be addressed by helping you to find the hidden areas of power that all parents possess. Teaching your children how to make amends is another key aspect of consequences. You'll learn how to construct a plan for using consequences when all else fails. Come and learn from the shared experiences of our Parenting Educators.

Help us with Octathlon! We appreciate your saving and sending in your Time and Newsweek magazines (January and February issues) for the students to use as a current events study guide. Thank you so much. Practices are nearly ready to begin.

Important information for our Philadelphia Families: March 1, 2012 is the deadline!

The Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia is accepting applications for 2,000 new, four-year, K-8th grade scholarships for Philadelphia children. The application process is free and easy to complete. These need-based scholarships are available to students entering grades K-8th in September 2012 and are awarded by random lottery. There are 2,000 new scholarships available for a maximum funding amount of \$2,150 per year, per child. To be eligible, families must: meet income requirements, be residents of Philadelphia, have a child entering grades K-8th in fall 2012 and complete the required essay question. The essay is required but not "judged" as part of the qualification process. The Fund strictly adheres to a random lottery process. The application deadline is March 1st. The easiest and quickest way for families to submit an application is online at www.csfphiladelphia.org. Now is the time to act.

**Don't forget to send in your canned food donation for the NJHS canned food drive.
TAG DAY is Friday, January 13th.**

Calendar Revisions:

- Universal Visitation Day for 8th grade students will be on Thursday, January 19th.
- No School on Wednesday, January 25th.
- School will be in session on Friday, January 27th.
- School will be in session on Tuesday, January 31st.
- Father-Daughter Dance is rescheduled for Saturday, February 11th.