

St. Francis de Sales – St. Stephen School

Parent Memo – September 15, 2016

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it: shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

~ Matthew 22:37-40

Good Samaritan Embracement

For the past several days during Morning Prayer, the students have been listening to Scripture passages about the **Great Commandment** and the **Good Samaritan**. I have continued to remind them about being the hands and feet of Christ and treating others as they would like to be treated. All of this is leading up to a program we are instituting this year to recognize students who demonstrate Christian values in their treatment of others.

I am asking families to **send in individual 4 x 6 prints of their student(s) wearing their dress uniforms**. Please photograph **pre-k and kindergarten students dressed in red, white, and blue**. We will use these photos to recognize our winners of our **Good Samaritan Embracement** each week. Please send these prints as soon as possible. When a student goes out of his or her way to show mercy and kindness to another person in our building, a faculty or staff member or adult volunteer may recognize them with a Good Samaritan certificate. The student will place part of the certificate into a bin in Mrs. Booth's office. He or she will bring the other part home to share the recognition for positive actions with their families.

Each week two slips will be drawn from our Pre-K to fourth grade classes and two students from our fifth to eighth grade students. **Their pictures will be placed on our Good Samaritan bulletin board** located in the side entrance hallway, and they will receive a dress down certificate (or another prize for pre-k and k).



Reminders:

- † Please remember to **fill out and return the emergency release form** sent home in last week's parent envelope. **You must have a backup plan** for your child(ren)'s transportation in the event that we are unable to reach you when your child is ill or if the school has an unscheduled early dismissal.
- † **Any student requiring medication** to be administered during the school day **must have doctor's orders** for those medications for the **2016 – 2017 school year**. **This includes over-the-counter medications**. You must also **provide the medications to the school nurse for secure storage**. If you do not have these orders and your child requires medications, you must bring the medication to school and administer it yourself. Students may not carry any medications with them or keep them in backpacks, etc. without doctor's orders.
- † **Our doors open at 7:45 a.m.** for those families choosing to use the **early drop off**. The fee is **\$10.00 a week** per family. Students on the early buses do not have to pay the fee. Students arriving at 7:45 should use the Elmwood entrance. All other students should not enter the building until 8:05. The High Street door will open at that time.
- † **All of our exterior doors are locked during the instructional day**. If you need to enter the school for any reason, please ring the doorbell of the entry door in the small (rectory) parking lot. You will be buzzed in and should **report immediately to the reception hallway to sign in** before going anywhere else in the building **or to wait for your child(ren) to be sent down to you** if you are picking them up. **Our faculty, staff, and students are NOT allowed to open ANY exterior door for you** even if it is your own child or you are well known to us. Again, this is in order to help us maintain a secure building and keep your very precious children safe. We appreciate your assistance in reinforcing and respecting this policy.

School Band Program



Today's family envelope contains a registration form for **Paul Effman Music Service instrument lessons**. Playing an instrument can provide a lifetime of enjoyment and can help with build stronger math and language skills. I encourage you to avail yourselves of this wonderful opportunity for your 3rd through 8th grade students. Registration forms are due by next Thursday 9/22/16.

Reporting Absences

Please call the school by 9:00 a.m. to inform us if your child is absent from school. This will prevent our staff from having to call you. This is another safety concern. We must be sure all faculty and staff know which students are in the building on a given day. **When your child returns** to school after any absence, whether partial or full day, or any occurrence of tardiness, **please send a note stating the reason for the absence.**

Legal reasons to keep a child home from school, to bring a child to school late, or to dismiss them early include illness, medical, counseling, or legal appointments, and serious illness or death in the family. Family vacations are not a legal excuse for absences.

Without a note your child is recorded as "absent, unexcused" or "tardy, unexcused." We are required to report attendance to NYS due to compulsory attendance laws. For your convenience, **a form has been posted in the parent section of the school website** that you may print and complete to make the necessary notification.

Lunch:



- Another generous member of our school community has offered to buy the students a **pizza lunch on Friday, September 16, 2016.**

- Our **hot lunch** program will begin next week on September 19th. Please make sure you immediately complete and return the lunch order form to school so that we may place our orders in a timely manner.

Lunch Menu for the Week of 9/19:

Monday – meatball subs
Tuesday – chicken fingers with dipping sauce
Wednesday – macaroni and cheese
Thursday – turkey or vegie subs
Friday – Mark's pepperoni pizza

Dates to Remember

Fri. 9/16 & Sat. 9/17: **"Gigantic" Fabric Sale and Rummage Sale**
St. Joseph the Worker Parish (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. both days)
St. John's Hall, 43 W. DeZeng St., Clyde, NY 14433

Mon. 9/19: **Magazine drive kickoff event** – 1:45 p.m.
Tues. 9/22: Happy First Day of Autumn!
Fri. 9/23: Grade 8 – **Civil War Encampment field trip** – 8:35 a.m.
Grade 5 – **Fire Prevention poster contest presentation** – 9:00 a.m.
Thurs. 9/29: **PTO** (Parent Teacher Organization) **meeting** – 6:30 p.m. in the school library.
Thurs. 10/ 6: School Mass 8:30 a.m.
Fri. 10/7: Diocesan Superintendent's Conference Day – **No School for Students**
Mon. 10/10: Columbus Day - **No School for Students**





Did you know that when you shop at TOPS you can earn money for our school? Simply register your bonus card at <http://www.topsmarkets.com/Education/> and select our school when you register. TOPS will contribute 5% of the value of all TOPS brand, Full Circle, Top Care, TippyToes, Valu Time, or Best Yet products you purchase to our school.

Please remember these other easy ways to support our school:

Take your **returnable bottles and cans to Coon's Cans** and tell them to credit our account

Bring usable items to the **St. Pauly Textile collection shed** located in the school parking lot.

What to Drop-off:

Used clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets, curtains, and stuffed animals.

Bring the following items to school:

Box Tops for Education
Campbell's Soup labels
Sunny D labels

Thanks to General Mills & Walmart, every Walmart exclusive Box Tops certificate that we collect until 11/2/16 earns our school a chance to be one of 20 winners of 50,000 bonus Box Tops. That could provide \$5,000.00 for our school!



Did You Know?

The **Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Ontario County** is an initiative of the Partnership for Ontario County. Their vision is a **substance abuse free Ontario County**. To achieve this goal, they are launching the "Monitor, Secure, Dispose" Campaign across Ontario County to help build awareness around restricting availability of medications at home. During a survey conducted by the coalition involving over 2000 county residents, it was reported that 32% of the youth surveyed got prescription drugs to use for non-medical purposes from either their own home or that of a friend or relative.

You can help prevent substance abuse by monitoring your medication – count doses to make sure none of it goes missing, **securing** your medication – keep medications that you and your family use in a locked drawer or medicine cabinet, and **disposing of unwanted, unused, or expired medications properly**.

To safely dispose of medications, bring them to the drop box at the Geneva Police Department located at 255 Exchange St, Geneva, which is open 24 hours a day. For other locations throughout the county where you can safely dispose of medications, and for information about what you may and may not drop off, visit the coalition's website at: substanceabusepreventioncoalitionofontariocounty.com

PLEASE READ, COMPLETE, AND RETURN THE BOTTOM OF THE FORM ON THE REVERSE OF THIS PAGE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A ROOM PARENT FOR YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM!