



# Our Mother of Perpetual Help School

October 2011

## Thanks to our Phonathon Workers!

Special thanks to Mrs. Jennifer Kurisky, our Development Director, who coordinated the Annual Appeal and Phonathon. Members of the Development Advisory Team, our teachers and parent volunteers provided many hours of service to make the event a success. Thank you to those who assisted with phone calls and to all who responded to our letter and calls with a donation to the Annual Appeal. May God bless you for your generosity to the children!

## Forty Hours Devotion

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish will hold Forty Hours Devotion beginning Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to spend time with Jesus in prayer. Father Matthew Allman, C.Ss.R., the homilist for Forty Hours will meet with the school children on Tuesday morning.

## School Uniform Reminders

Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> will be the last day for students to wear summer uniforms. The children will return to our regular school uniform on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Please check the dress code found on pages 20 to 23 of the Parent Handbook.

As previously announced, girls in Grade 6-7-8 will no longer wear the vest since they are not available from the uniform company. The girls will wear the long or short sleeve button-down collar oxford blouse with the plaid uniform skirt as the winter uniform. In conjunction with this change we are switching to a regulation plain knit solid color navy blue *V-neck cardigan* sweater to be purchased from the uniform company. A sample of the sweater may be seen in the school office. We will phase in the cardigan sweater and phase out the pullover sweater over the next two years. Sixth grade girls choosing to wear a sweater in cooler weather will be required to wear the *V-neck cardigan* sweater. Girls in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade who may already have the V-neck pullover sweater may continue to wear it with the uniform. Cable-knit, crew neck and other styles of navy blue sweaters may not be worn during the school day.

As noted in the August Newsletter and in the Parent Handbook on page 21 **school shoes are to be a solid color** – brown, black or navy, heels no higher than 1 inch, no boot styles. Sneakers/athletic shoes are only worn on days when students have Physical Education class. They are to be **regulation sneakers – primarily white or a solid neutral color. No high tops or bright colors are permitted.**

Our school uniform is a mark of our community. Just as dress codes are in effect for many avenues of work and society, the school uniform sets us apart and represents much more than just an article of clothing. Parents are respectfully reminded of their responsibility to send their children to school neatly dressed and in compliance with the school's dress code. Your support of school policies sends a message to your children of compliance and respect for school directives. This will assist in guiding them to do so, as they move on to higher education, the work force and society at large. Thank you for your support.

## Fire Prevention Assembly

Members of the Ephrata Pioneer Fire Company will be visiting our school on October 12<sup>th</sup> to speak with students in Kindergarten through eighth grade on fire prevention and fire safety. We are very grateful for their dedication to this program and their efforts to keep our children safe!

## **Reminder Regarding Pictures and Postings on the Internet**

In compliance with the OMPH School Acceptable Use Policy which adheres to directives of the Diocese of Harrisburg's AUP regarding the Internet, parents are reminded that pictures taken of children at school events, other than your own child, can not be posted on the internet. Further, the school may not be identified in any picture that is posted. Our goal at all times is to assure the safety and privacy of our students. Thank you for your understanding and support of this directive.

As stated in the Diocese of Harrisburg Policy Handbook:

*"The Internet is a public forum with unrestricted access. For this reason, the schools in the diocese restrict permission for the posting of information related to the school, the staff, and students on the Internet. No person is permitted to use the school name or images of the school, the school logo or seal, school staff or students in any form on the Internet or in any form of electronic communication without specific written permission from the school administration. The posting of any such information on any website, social networking site, bulletin board, chat-room, e-mail, or other messaging system without permission, or posting or transmission of images or information in any format related to the school, staff or students that are defamatory, scurrilous, pornographic, or which could be construed as threatening or impugning the character of another person is prohibited and will make any person involved in the posting or transmission of such subject to disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the administration of the school, or by the diocese."*

## **Diocesan Mandated Safe Environment Program for Children in Grade 1 and Grade 5**

Again this year we will be following the diocesan mandated safe environment program for children in grades 1 and 5. Parents with children in these grades will find enclosed in the communication folder this week information sheets from the diocese. In the next few weeks children in these grades will have a lesson on safe environment. Children who are new to our school and have not had this diocesan mandated lesson will also participate.

## **Student Support Team**

Again this year we will utilize the Student Support Team process to provide support to our children in grades K to 8. Included in this week's communication folder is a brochure highlighting the process and the benefits of the program. SST is a team approach that maximizes the teaching resources within our school to meet student needs. Our faculty has received training in the program under the direction of the diocese and also from the SST training team of IU-13.

## **Halloween Hat Day**

On Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> we'll celebrate Halloween by wearing our favorite hats to school. The children may add decorations to their hats to create a Halloween theme or a theme of their choice. Hats may be worn in class as long as they are not blocking anyone's view. We're looking forward to seeing our students' creative designs!

## **Picture Retake Day**

For students who were absent picture day, whose picture did not turn out very well and for our three-year-old children, pictures will be taken on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM. More information will be sent home closer to the time.

