

January 18, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The schedule for Catholic Schools Week is included in this week's newsletter. We hope that you will be able to participate in many of the events starting with the school Mass on Sunday, January 29 at 9:00 AM. Then make it a point to come over to the school with your family and support the PTO donut fundraiser. Also, share a "free" cup of coffee and a donut with other St. Stephen families. Remember Catholic students are required to attend and to wear their uniforms.

The second marking period ends on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Report cards will be available on *Churchwerks* on February 2, 2011. If your child is experiencing academic difficulty or is in danger of retention you will be asked to come to the school for a conference on February 9, 2012. Working together we can help your child reach their highest potential.

It is now time to re-register the 2011-2012 school year. The forms are available on the website. Please take the time to fill out the forms since some classes are already filling up for next year. The registration fee of \$100 remains the same as in previous years. According to the Diocese, no one is considered officially registered until that fee is paid or arrangements have been made with the principal. This regulation prevails throughout all Diocesan schools. Once this form is returned you will receive the appropriate contract. The forms for registration are on-line. The deadline for registration for current families is February 17, 2012.

I know that with the price of everything around you increasing you are expecting an increase in the amount of tuition. Surprise! Tuition will remain the same for next year. However, due to the decrease in the amount of money given to our school for textbooks by the State of New Jersey and the increasing cost of the information system that advises you of school closings it will be necessary to charge an information fee of \$150 per student. Payment of the fee can be paid in three installments if necessary—September 4, 2012, January 7, 2013 and March 1, 2013. It cannot be included in your SMART payment. An opportunity through the purchase of SCRIP may allow you to offset the information fee. More information will be shared about this opportunity when it becomes available.

Keep in mind the usual procedure canceling school for the day. There will be an announcement via KYW and Channel 6 and you should also receive a phone call from the school. If you receive no such notification the school will be open. The school closing number is 635.

Hopefully, all of you are planning on attending the Spaghetti Dinner this Saturday, January 22. The PTO committee is working very hard to provide a totally homemade dinner. I am sure that you will enjoy our 8<sup>th</sup> grade waiters too.

**I look forward to seeing you there.**

**Finally, thank you to the parents of the students in grades 6, 7, and 8 who attended the information meeting last evening. I hope that it was of benefit to you. Mrs. Ciarrocca will be back in the spring to meet with 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents only to help them with preparing for high school.**

**I will continue to keep all of you and your families in my prayers.**

**Sincerely,**

**Patricia Higgins M.A. ED.  
Principal**