

PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

September 8, 2016

SSPP SCHOOL

Welcome Back!

It is so good to see everyone again! We really miss you all over the long summer months! Welcome also to our new families—we are glad you are here. We are looking forward to a positive happy year!

We're starting off the year with a "bang"! **Family Fall Fest** will be held this Sat., Sept. 10th from 5:30-10:00. There will be a chili and soup cook-off along with Cupcake Wars, a petting zoo, pony rides, food, music, beer tent, pumpkins, crafts and more! Please come out and join in on the fun...all families and friends of families are welcome!

In your Family Folders today, you will find the application for the **Free and Reduced Lunch Program** offered at SSPP. Please look over the information provided, and if you feel that your family may qualify for either a free or reduced price lunch, complete the application and send it in an envelope to the main office to my attention. Applications will be evaluated and you will be informed as to whether or not you qualify for this benefit. If your family received these benefits last year, your child (ren) will continue to receive the benefits until the end of the month, but a new application must be completed each year.

To welcome students and families back to SSPP, we will again be hosting our **Opening Family Mass** next Wed., September 14th at 8:00 am. Parents are asked to go directly to the church where you can locate the marked pews where your child's class will be sitting. The students will join you from school following attendance and morning announcements. If you have more than one child attending our school, please feel free to have your other child(ren) sit with you in whichever class is most comfortable for you.

If you are interested in having your son or daughter in grades K-5 study **violin** this year, please email Greta Speller at gquartet@verizon.net for more information.

Please consider ordering hot **school lunches** this year! They are healthy and filling. Mrs. Simons offers many choices daily. This is a very important program that we offer with assistance from the federal government, so we need to be sure that we sell enough lunches each week to keep the program available for students.

Please submit any changes you would like made to your address, phone number(s) and/or email address (es) for our **Family Directory**. If you would not like to be listed, please let me know this as well. Each year we produce a Family Directory for each PreK-8th grade family so that you can easily communicate with one another. These should be available to you within a few weeks.

I remind you of several **procedures** we have in place.:

- When we are loading busses in the parking lot at the end of the day, you may not leave the lot in your vehicle.
- Please be very careful and drive slowly through the school parking lot. Children exit through the side door frequently.
- Do not exit the parking lot onto Main Street next to the church—that is strictly an entrance only.
- Do not park in the fire lanes on the side of the school during school hours, even if you are just dropping your child off.
- If your child is doing something out of the norm after school or will be picked up early, we **MUST HAVE A NOTE FROM YOU**. This involves staying after for clubs, or going to the After School Program, or riding the bus if it is something your child normally does not do.
- Parents are not allowed on the 2nd floor at any time, unless given permission from the office. This is especially important in the mornings during drop off. Teachers have a great deal going on at this time and are not able to spend time with individual parents. Also, it ensures the safety of all of our students. Parents who have children on the 1st floor are also encouraged to drop their children off at the side door where a teacher will be on duty.

Parents of students in grades 3-8, if you have not yet signed up for a **Parent Portal account**, please send me an email and I will set it up for you (dlester@sspps.school.com). Those who have had Parent Portal accounts already established will be able to continue to use them. These accounts will allow you access to your child's grades, assignments, report cards and progress reports.

Enclosed in your Family Folder are order forms and catalogs for our 1st school fundraiser. We are using a new company this year for the **Wrapping Paper Sale** and we are hoping for an increase in sales to benefit our school!

Parent Reports are being generated from BOCES for those students who participated in last year's **NYS ELA and Math Assessments**. They will be sent home to you as soon as we receive them.

SSPP School **car magnets** are back! These are great promotional tool for our school. For a \$5.00 donation, you can proudly tout your child's school on your vehicle. Order forms are enclosed in your Family Folder.

Please "Like Us" on **Facebook**, "Follow Us" on **Twitter**, comment about us on **Great Schools.org**, and sign up for your **Remind** text messages! We want to provide you with as much information as possible in as many ways as we can!

Please remember to read the **Parent/ Student Handbook** (on our school website under the "Parents" tab) and sign and return the Signature Page to the school office. These are due to me by each K-8 family by September 23rd. The handbook outlines all of our school policies and procedures which is important for each family to know, understand and follow.

We have so many **uniforms** of various sizes that have been donated back to the school which are available for the taking. They are displayed in the main hall. Please take what you can use.

Four **conversations** that will help you stay involved in your child's schooling:

- "Let's see what you brought home."
- "Show me what you have for homework."
- "Describe a book you enjoyed today."
- "Tell me what you've learned that you'd like to know more about."

We have established a **School Board** which consists of parishioners with various skill sets from our church. These members will be instrumental in working with Fr. Jerry and I on the school budget, policies and other school related matters. The establishment of the Board was mandated by the Diocese and we have met several times over the past 8 months or so. They will be attending Meet the Teacher Night on Sept. 22nd so that you can meet them. They also have a page on our school website under the Parents tab and a contact email if you have any questions for them.

Fr. Jerry is once again in need of students who would like to perform as **Altar Servers** for school and weekend masses. Any student who has completed their sacrament of 1st Communion is eligible. Training will be held directly after school on Sept. 19th, 21st and 22nd from 2:15-3:30 in the church. Please email Mrs. Anain at janain@sspps.school.com if your child is interested in training for this service.

Bishop Malone is requesting that all eligible people register to vote. There is strength in numbers, and the Bishop feels that a strong showing by Catholic voters can help pass the Education Tax Credit this year which will benefit you as parents. A **voter registration form** and letter from the Bishop are enclosed in your folder.

As mandated by law, all students are to receive **school bus emergency evacuation instructions** on the morning of Fri., Sept. 9th. Each driver of each bus will provide these instructions to the students before the bus is unloaded at its final destination. The drill should only take 2-4 minutes.

Interested in knowing what the "Top 12 Teacher Tips for Back to School" are? Check out our **blog** under the "About Us" tab on the school website, on Facebook or on Twitter!

Please note that **lunches** are now \$2.70 and **ice cream** treats are now \$1.25.

By now, you should have paid your tuition in full or should have signed up for FACTS. If not, please do so immediately. Questions? Call Mrs. Sutton at 632-6146.

Our Character Trait for September is Truthfulness

*Sincerely,
Mrs. Deborah Lester*