

# Saint Alphonsus Catholic School



## FAMILY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

### Calendar:

- Sept 20 – Catechetical Sunday 10:15 Mass
- Sept 24 – Mercy Day School Mass (10:15am) & Service Project  
Faculty Luncheon given by H&S
- Oct 2 – First Friday School Mass 9:00 am
- Oct 7 – Fire Prevention Assembly (Gr K-2 9-9:45am, Gr 3-5 10-10:45am)
- Oct 6 – School Pictures
- Oct 9 – No School / Faculty Professional Day
- Oct 12– No School / Faculty Inservice Day
- Oct 13– Students Begin Wearing Winter Uniforms
- Oct 14– PreK & K Open House 9 -11am
- Oct 18– H & S Family Fun Day 2 - 4 pm

### Yard Duty Schedule for Next Week September 21-25 \* Please arrive at 11:50am for yard duty \*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Zakrzewski	Phillips	Perri	Tilson	Peyton
Mook	Birnie	Clark	Cooper	Signoretta
Weglos	DeMaioribus	Anninos	Quinn	McLaughlin
Barton	Rizzuto	Dianno	Larivee	Tyrrell

We cannot do enough for our children's safety and enjoyment! If you cannot make your day, please find a substitute!

**PAPERS, PAPERS, PAPERS:** Thank you for your patience and diligence in completing the many papers that were given out the first day of school. Every year we are now required to have each form completed and updated. Thus, the paper rush! The MOST important paper to return is the Emergency Information Form. Kindly return this if you have not already done so. The other forms due are: Photo and Interview Permission Forms, Textbook Loan Form and Acceptable Use Policy for Technology; as well as agreement form for "Parent/Student Handbook."

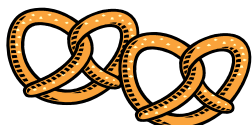
**Family Directory:** Last call for any new phone numbers, addresses, or email addresses before the 2009-2010 School Directory goes to press!! If you have not sent in an email address and would like one printed in the directory or if you have any changes to an email address, phone number, etc, please email Barbara at [bwaschenko@stalphonsus.com](mailto:bwaschenko@stalphonsus.com) by this Friday.

**Family Envelopes:** The weekly family newsletter from the office will be posted on the school website every Wednesday. To save paper, we will not send home a hard copy of the newsletter in the family envelope. Please visit [www.stalphonsus.com/school.htm](http://www.stalphonsus.com/school.htm) on Wednesdays -- click on the 'Family Envelope' tab at the top and then 'Weekly Newsletter'. The envelope itself will be sent home on Wednesdays only if return papers are requested. Parents are asked to return the 'empty' envelope and any needed responses on Thursdays! We do limit items in the family envelope to those that pertain **only** to school. Often various flyers, etc. are sent from local community organizations and these are placed on the table outside the office.

**Family Newsletter 'Blurbs':** All blurbs to be included in the Family Newsletter each week must be approved by Mr. Steck. **Please email blurbs** to Barbara at [bwaschenko@stalphonsus.com](mailto:bwaschenko@stalphonsus.com) by Monday morning for that week's newsletter. All flyers need to be approved as well. Please email flyers to Barbara for inclusion at the end of the newsletter.

**Absences:** If your child will be absent from school, please call 215-646-0150 then press “1” before 9:00 am. Please leave name of student, grade, teacher and reason for absence. If you would like class work and homework, please indicate the name and teacher of the student you want to have the work sent home with or at what time you will be picking up the work (from the table outside the office). Kindly request a time after dismissal since it is often not possible for the teachers to ‘stop’ class to prepare materials during the school day. The center door to school is the after-school CARES program and there is a doorbell if you cannot get into the building. If you are planning a vacation, work will need to be made up upon your return!

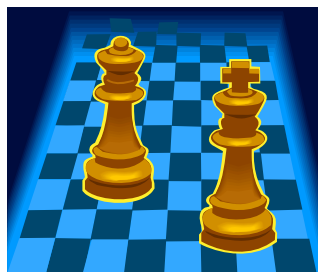
**CARES Program:** Saint Alphonsus School has an after school program (“CARES”) from dismissal until 6:00 pm that is available for our school children. Mrs. DiNenno is the moderator of this program. If you would like information please contact the office or call Mrs. DiNenno (ext 218). The CARES program will be in Room 113. Please ring the doorbell at the center door when you need to pick up your child(ren) from the CARES Program. This bell can be heard in Room 113.



**Soft Pretzels:** Small pretzels are sold every day at morning break for 35¢ each. Large pretzels are not being sold this year.

**Safe Environment Workshop:** Thank you for all your help with our children ... your presence and support are greatly appreciated. If you work with children on a weekly basis (lunchroom, library, classrooms, etc.) you are required to attend the “Protecting God’s Children for Adults” workshop.” Upcoming workshops include: Corpus Christi on September 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00pm, St. John of the Cross (Roslyn) on October 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm; St. Anthony of Padua on October 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm, Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Doylestown) on October 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm, and St. St. Cyril of Jerusalem (Jamison) on October 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7pm. Visit [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org) for more sessions and to register on line. Please be sure to give the office a copy of your certificate after completing the workshop.

**St. Alphonsus Chess Club on Wednesdays:**



Silver Knights Chess Club is back! All grades and skill levels are welcome! The first session of Chess Club will be held after school on Wednesdays from September 30 – January 27 from 2:40 – 3:40pm. There will be no Chess Club on November 25<sup>th</sup> or on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms are enclosed in today’s family envelope and can be mailed to Silver Nights directly at the address on the bottom of the form. **Please do not send Chess Club registration forms back into school!** Tuition is \$155 with a \$5 discount for online registration. Visit [www.silverknightschess.com](http://www.silverknightschess.com) for online registration. Further questions can be directed to [chess@silverknightschess.com](mailto:chess@silverknightschess.com) or (610) 446-0818. Don’t miss out on this wonderful opportunity to learn this life long skill!

**Family Fun Day:** Mark your calendars for this fun family event which is being held on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm.



**Shelter In Place Items:** Every student is asked to have in school non-perishable food/drink items to be stored in a bin for the academic year. Please place these items in a zip-lock bag with the student’s name noted. Items are stored in a bin at the designated shelter in place area.



**MEDICATIONS:** If your child requires any administration of medication (daily or as needed) we **MUST** have the medication form completed **with the physician’s signature**. Legally we cannot administer even an aspirin unless the form is completed by a physician. This form is available under ‘Forms’ on the website. Thank you!

**Altar Servers:** The new Altar Server schedule is being sent home in today's family envelope.

**Our Commitment to Service:** Our school takes pride in the Mercy Foundations of Character. The Mercy tradition challenges us to respond attentively with each other, to be honest, responsible, caring, fair and respectful of others. During this school year we will continue the Mercy charism of service. As part of our service education we have scheduled three school-wide service projects. You and your child will be invited to bring an offering or gift to serve someone in need: thus making the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy the living reality of our witness to Jesus. Our first service project will take place at our opening school Mass on Thursday, September 24th (Feast of our Lady of Mercy / aka: Mercy Day) at 10:15 am. Please know you are welcome to join us. A representative from the Nutritional Development Services for the Archdiocese will speak to us after Mass. To be attentive to the needs of others, we wish to prepare KID SNACK BAGS for those less fortunate, that are part of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Students are asked to 'earn' the money to purchase and donate the following items:

- PreK & K pencils or small package of crayons (8 to a package)
- Grade 1 Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Bars or Granola Bars
- Grade 2 packages of cheese crackers
- Grade 3 Dole individual serving cups of mixed fruit, orange, pears, etc.
- Grade 4 bag of individual size packages of dried fruits or raisins
- Grade 5 all natural orange juice drink boxes (Capri Sun or Minute Maid)
- Grade 6 erasers or some other small school supply i.e., post its, colored pencils, etc.
- Grade 7 all natural fruit (any fruit) juice drink boxes
- Grade 8 all natural fruit (any fruit) juice drink boxes.

The students will assemble the bags and write little notes to be placed in each bag.

Also, the following grades will give service (some direct and some indirect) to these works of mercy:

Grades 1 Write letters to the shut-ins in our parish and at Advent time visit them with their families and bring them an Advent wreath.

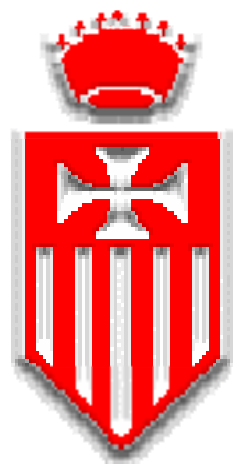
Grades 2 Make cards and possibly sing to the people at Dresher Hill Health & Rehab

Grades 3 and 4 Visit with Our Lady of Confidence

Grades 5 and 6 Visit with St. Mary's Manor

Grades 7 Visit with St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen

Grades 8 Visit with Mercy Neighborhood Ministries



**Now is the time to join the Band!** Students in Grades 3 to 8 are invited to begin the study of a musical instrument as part of the band program at St. A's. Weekly lessons and rehearsals lead to performances at school, and other locations in the area. Our band combines with other schools to perform at concerts and jazz festivals. Several of our students will participate in Archdiocesan band and string groups this winter. Don't pass up this great opportunity to enrich your child's life with music. This Friday, Dr. James Madden will talk with the third graders about the Band program. Lessons start on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**WaWa Hoagie Fundraiser Benefiting the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2010!** See flyer attached to end of this newsletter.



## A NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE



### When to Keep Your Child Home from School

**Fever** - If your child's temperature is 100 degrees or higher, your child should not attend school. On the other hand, many children are sick and should be kept home even though they do not have a temperature. We count on parents to use their best judgment. While at home, encourage your child to drink plenty of liquids. Your child must be fever-free for 24 hours (without medicine) before returning to school.

**Mild Cough/Runny Nose** - If there is no fever, and the child feels well enough, he/she may attend school.

**Lice** - Please do your part to prevent the spread of this communicable condition. Treat your child with a pharmacist recommended OTC product following the directions on the bottle **EXACTLY** as written by the manufacturer. Report lice activity to the School Office/School Nurse. Your child's confidentiality will be maintained. Your child may return to school after treatment is complete. He/she will be checked by the school nurse.

**Bad Cough/Cold Symptoms** - Children with bad coughs should stay home, and possibly see a doctor. A severe cold could be flu, bronchitis or pneumonia. When the cough improves, and your child is feeling better, then it's back to school.

**Diarrhea or Vomiting** - Keep your child home when they are experiencing diarrhea or vomiting and for 24 hours after the last episode (without medicine) at which time your child may return to school.

**Sore Throat** - A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be a symptom of strep throat - even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat are headache and stomach upset. Keep your child home from school and contact a doctor. Your child needs a special test to determine if it is strep throat. If prescribed, he/she can return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment begins.

**Earache** - The child needs to see a doctor to rule out infection.

**Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)** - Keep the child home until a doctor has cleared an OK to return to school. Pink eye is highly contagious and most cases are caused by a virus, which will not respond to an antibiotic. Bacterial conjunctivitis will require an antibiotic; your doctor will be able to determine if this is the case.

**Rash** - Children with a skin rash should see a doctor, as this could be one of several infectious diseases requiring medical treatment.

**Remember when in doubt; always call your doctor for advice.**

**Food Sensitivities:** Please take a moment to review the information for food suggestions for peanut free snacks. When in doubt if a food item is “safe”, it is ALWAYS best to contact the parent of the child.

### **SUGGESTED PEANUT FREE SNACKS**

If you plan to send in a special treat for a holiday or birthday celebration, the following is a brief list of some snacks that are “safe”. This is not a comprehensive list - it is for your convenience. Bakeries are not usually providers of “safe” items due to the possible cross-contamination of food prep areas. Also, manufacturers that produce specialty lines for holiday treats (such as Christmas Kisses or Halloween cookies) are not safe because they may be contaminated with peanut traces. Remember that reading a food label thoroughly is encouraged. If in doubt, contact a parent.



Plain Rice Krispy Treats  
Most Pretzels  
Plain Hershey Kisses  
Junior Mints  
Marshmallows  
Triscuits  
Skittles  
Tootsie Rolls  
Fruit Rollups/Fruit Snacks  
Pringles  
Cheez-its (NOT Chese Nips)  
Sweedish Fish  
Krispy Kreme Donuts  
Popsicles  
All candies produced by “Just Born”  
(such as peeps)

Regular Ritz Crackers  
Plain Nilla Wafers  
Plain Peppermint Patties  
Twizzlers  
Fritos  
Smarties  
Plain Hershey Chocolate Bars  
Most Popcorn  
Fruit Gushers  
Goldfish  
Nabisco Graham Crackers  
Rolo  
Regular OREO's  
Jello  
Wheat Thins

Here’s the *skinny* for all you *Hep-Cats* out there....

## **Auction Donations Are Needed!**

Go to the auction tab on the school website for information and donor forms.  
[www.stalphonusus.com](http://www.stalphonusus.com) (Auction) or log onto [stalphonusus.maestroweb.com](http://stalphonusus.maestroweb.com)

## **Home Room Pizza Contest Begins This Week! (ends 10/16)**

When your family makes a donation  
every child in your family gets 1 point added to their homeroom tally.

### **Highest homeroom participation wins a pizza party!**

Auction phone: (215)646-5695

Email: [auction@stalphonusus.com](mailto:auction@stalphonusus.com)

Donation Suggestions:

Sports tickets · Services (lawn, cleaning, babysitting) · Unique expereinces · Gift cards ·

Group Organized/Sponsored Events · Theme baskets · Cash

2009 St. Alphonsus Auction and Casino Night

**FEELING GROOVY!**

Sharing The Peace and Love 

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HOME & SCHOOL  
FUND RAISER

You'll find a donor form at: [stalphonsus.maestroweb.com](http://stalphonsus.maestroweb.com)

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# DONATIONS NEEDED!

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H  M E R   M

PIZZA PRIZE C  NTEST

When your family makes a donation, every child in your family gets 1 point added to their homeroom tally.  
Highest homeroom participation wins a pizza party!

**Cash and gift certificates make great donations!**

Go to the auction tab on the school website for information and forms.

**[www.stalphonsus.com](http://www.stalphonsus.com) (Auction)**

You'll find a donor form at:

**[stalphonsus.maestroweb.com](http://stalphonsus.maestroweb.com)**

Auction phone: (215)646-5695

Email: [auction@stalphonsus.com](mailto:auction@stalphonsus.com)

Contest ends  
October 16th



## MERCY DAY LUNCHEON 2009

To honor our talented and dedicated St. A's Faculty and Staff, the Home and School Association will be hosting the annual Mercy Day Faculty and Staff Appreciation Luncheon!

**Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>  
St. Alphonsus Parish Center  
11:30-1:00P.M.**

Please put your culinary magic to work and whip up something tasty!

We'll need appetizers, fresh fruit, vegetables, main entrees, breads, muffins and of course.....desserts!! Please let us know what you'd like to donate by filling out the form below and returning it to school.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Food item: \_\_\_\_\_

I can help out the day of the Luncheon! Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Set-up at 9AM\_\_\_\_\_ Clean up at 1PM\_\_\_\_\_

Please refer questions to Judy Felix: [jfelix1194@comcast.net](mailto:jfelix1194@comcast.net) OR  
Maura Zimmerman: [mmurphz@yahoo.com](mailto:mmurphz@yahoo.com)