

# Saint Alphonsus Catholic School



## FAMILY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

### Calendar:

- 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)  
School Rosary in Church at 2:00pm for the “Year of the Priest”
- Oct 6 – School Pictures
- Oct 9 – No School / Faculty Professional Day  
Grades 7&8 Dance in Parish Center 7:30-10pm
- Oct 12– No School / Faculty Inservice Day
- Oct 13– Students Begin Wearing Winter Uniforms
- Oct 14– PreK & K Open House 9 -11am
- Oct 15– Parent Sacrament Meeting for Grades 2, 3, 6 (7-8:15pm in cafeteria)
- Oct 17– Sacrament Sunday at 5pm Mass
- Oct 18– Sacrament Sunday at 10:15am Mass  
H & S Family Fun Day 2 - 5 pm



### Yard Duty Schedule for Next Week September 28-October 2 \* Please arrive at 11:50am for yard duty \*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dierkes	Gallagher	McNutt	Hook	Fitzpatrick
Cardosi	Drummond	Klammer	Sullivan	Ierardi
Maiolino	Devlin	Morrissey	Franklin	Hand
Felix	Yoast	Gentile	Marzullo	Shagogue

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



**Help Needed in the Nurse’s Office:** There has been a change of schedule in the Nurse’s office and we do not have any nurse coverage on Friday mornings. If anyone is interested in helping out in the Nurse’s Office on a regular basis from 8am to 12Noon on Fridays, please call the office or email Barbara at [bwaschenko@stalphonsus.com](mailto:bwaschenko@stalphonsus.com). Thank you.

**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.



The need for increased emphasis on school safety, along with quick response to inclement weather conditions and other in-school emergencies are top priorities for St. Alphonsus School. We must be able to communicate quickly with school families when situations at school or in our community arise that affect the welfare and safety of our students.

**One Call Now is our School-to-Parent Broadcast Service**

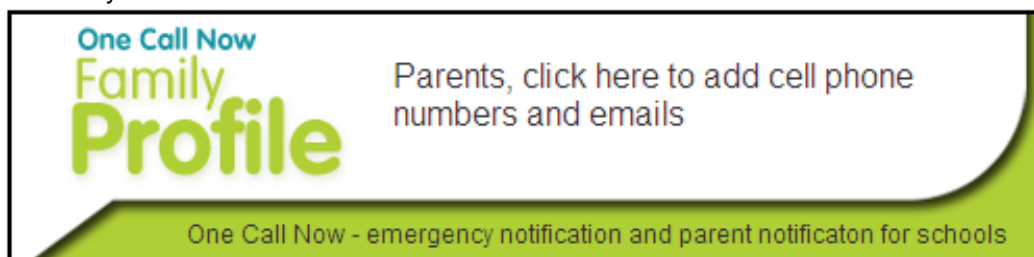
**This service has been programmed with only your primary (home) phone number and one email address. School broadcast announcements will be sent only to your primary (home) phone number, until you add additional phone numbers yourself. Last year’s phone numbers are no longer in the system. Every school family, both New and Returning Families, must add additional phone numbers. It is up to you to add work and cell phone numbers and any additional phone numbers and emails.**

Families wishing to include additional phone numbers and emails may do so by one of the following two ways.

1. Click the following link  
<https://www.onecallnow.com/Access/FamilyProfile/FamilyProfile.aspx?G=bo7CSe9fKbNNNe7Qsg2VeA%3d%3d>

or

2. Go to the St. Alphonsus School website, click on the Family Envelope tab, and then click on the One Call Now Family Profile web banner



Each family can add up to five more phone numbers and four more email addresses. **If you choose not to add more emergency contacts, messages will go to your primary (home) phone number only.**

If you have questions please call Barbara in the office.

**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>. Tuition is \$155 with a \$5 discount for online registration. Visit [www.silverknightschess.com](http://www.silverknightschess.com) for online registration. **Please do not send Chess Club registration forms back into school!** 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 2-5 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!



**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. Lessons start this Friday September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Target Take Charge of Education Program:** Many thanks to those using a Target Credit Card & Target Visa and designating St. Alphonsus School to receive cash back. We received a check for \$210 on behalf of Target and the Take Charge of Education program. St. Alphonsus receives 1% of purchases made at Target. If you have a Target card, please call Target at 1-800-316-6142 or visit [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) and designate St. Alphonsus School ID# 14687 to receive cash back. Thanks for your continued support!



**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 tomorrow, 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.

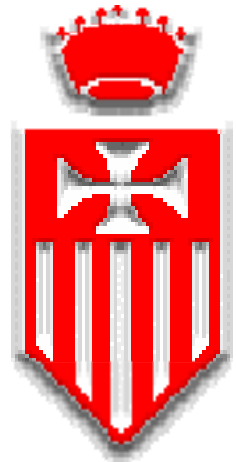
Grades 2 Make cards and possibly sing to the people at Dresher Hill Health & Rehab

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



Calling all boys who love to sing! The **Archdiocesan Boys Choir of Philadelphia** is holding auditions for boys on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm – 2:30pm at St. Peter the Apostle School 5<sup>th</sup> and Girard Avenue in Philadelphia. The Choir offers a rich musical and spiritual experience for boys in Grades 2-8. Don't miss this opportunity to become a member of this unique choir. To schedule and audition or for more information, please call Tom Windfelder at 215-425-6995.

**Eighth Grade Fundraiser:** Sally Foster Gift Wrap brochures are in this week's family envelope. Half of every sale goes directly to our eighth grade to assist with graduation expense. ***Orders are due back to school by October 14th.*** Wrapping paper will arrive at St. A's on November 23rd so that all orders will be received in time for Christmas.



## 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

# STOP in the name of...

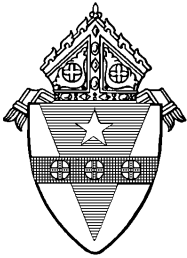
## Donations!



Please take a minute to complete a donor form (ideally on line at the auction web site) so that we can log your donation as a credit to your child’s class for the pizza party.



You’ll find a donor form at: [www.stalphonsus.com](http://www.stalphonsus.com) (Auction)  
[stalphonsus.maestroweb.com](http://stalphonsus.maestroweb.com) · Auction phone: (215)646-5695  
Email: [auction@stalphonsus.com](mailto:auction@stalphonsus.com)



# ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

## SECRETARIAT FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

222 North Seventeenth Street • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1299  
Telephone (215) 587-3700 • Fax (215) 587-5638 • e-mail: [mrochford@adphila.org](mailto:mrochford@adphila.org)

September 21, 2009

### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Parents and Guardians:

In the spring of 2009, a new flu strain (known as pandemic influenza A/H1N1 or swine flu) appeared and spread throughout the United States. We plan to continue many of the measures previously put in place to protect our students during the spring. We will also follow new guidelines as they are released from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In our schools, students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently. Also, surfaces that are regularly touched or handled will be disinfected often. If a child is sick, he or she will be moved to a sick room designated by the school, and a parent and/or guardian will be contacted to take the child home. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now stipulates that a student with the flu will need to stay home until he or she is fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (Tylenol, Motrin, etc.). In most cases, a child would be fever-free in anywhere from three to five days.

If the number of flu cases becomes severe, school closure will remain an option. We will only take such an action if there is evidence that other measures are not working. The Archdiocese will work closely with local and state health departments in making closure decisions. Each situation will be evaluated individually to assure the best course of action is taken to protect our students and school staff, as well as to minimize the burden and impact on affected families.

We encourage you to speak to your children about taking the following everyday precautions to help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses such as influenza A/H1N1—wash hands often with soap and water, keep nails trimmed and cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing. It would also be helpful to discuss, as a family, plans for caring for your child, should he or she develop the flu.

Parents may also want to consider having children vaccinated against seasonal flu and this new flu strain. Recently, persons between ages five and 24 were identified as a priority group to receive the vaccine for the H1N1 flu strain. The Department of Health estimates the first doses of the new vaccine will be available in October and details of distribution of the vaccine will be forthcoming.

For more information on the flu, and how you can protect your family, please visit [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us), [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).

As always, the safety of our students remains our first priority. Please feel free to contact your school administrator with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary E. Rochford".

Mary E. Rochford  
Superintendent of Schools



2009 St. Alphonsus Auction and Casino Night

**FEELING GROOVY!**

Sharing The Peace and Love

2009

HOME & SCHOOL  
FUND RAISER

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

**DONATIONS NEEDED!**



HOMEROOM  
PIZZA PRIZE CONTEST

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

# Celebrate Fall at St. Alphonsus' all new

## 'Family Fun Day' With Music, Food and Games

October 18<sup>th</sup> 2 – 5 PM



**Featuring:** DJ, Moon Bounce, Professional Face Painting and Spray Tattoos, Pumpkin Decorating Contest\*, arts and crafts, Candy Scramble (*in lieu of Trunk or Treat*)  
Carnival Games and Fall-Themed Field Contests & Events for the entire family

Your **Home and School** has so many fun activities planned; all that is needed is you!

Please return form and payment to Terry Zajac c/o Stephanie Room 111 by October 9<sup>th</sup>.

\*Look for a separate flyer announcing the Pumpkin Decorating Contest and Prizes

\*This event will be held indoors if the weather does not co-operate

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

#of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ # of Kids \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: (5\$ per child or max of \$10 per family) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cash or checks made payable to St. Alphonsus Home and School)

I can help : \_\_\_\_\_ Set Up \_\_\_\_\_ Clean Up \_\_\_\_\_ Work a booth (for 1 hour)

Email \_\_\_\_\_

