



A NOTE FROM THE DESK OF KAHTY LEAHY, PRINCIPAL

THE GIFT OF SHARING OUR FAITH TO OUR CHILDREN

On Saturday of this week we celebrate the Feast of all Saints Day. We do not normally think of this holy day of obligation as a time of gift-giving, but why not consider doing just that this year. Give your child or children a special gift that will be long remembered and treasured, make sure your child knows who his or her patron saint is. If your child does not have a patron saint, help him or her choose one.

Our children are surrounded by a media that profiles performing and sports personalities. Some of these personalities are positive and other decidedly are not. This all Saints Day, give your child a life-long treasure, a patron saint who will inspire a life of holiness. Research saints with your child on the internet and learn about their heroic and courageous love of God. If your child is doing a saint report for school

take time to sit with your child and discuss the importance of this saint and how your child can make a difference in their life and the lives of others by following the ways of this saint. Take this project and turn it into a learning tool for your whole family. Such a simple gift can influence your child's life of faith in a significant way!

Important Dates for November 2008

St. Martin de Porres School Dinner Dance	2
Celebration of the Eucharist-Feast of Saint Martin	3
Winter Uniform Begins	3
Safe Environment Training-6:30 pm	3
PSA Meeting 7:00pm	6
Celebration of the Eucharist 9:00 am	7 & 21
No School-Veterans Day	11
NYS Grade 5 Social Studies Exam	12 & 13
Holiday Tea Party	23
Parent/Teacher Conferences	24 & 25
Early Dismissal Grades K-8 11:00 am	24, 25 & 26
Thanksgiving Break -No School	27 & 28

A TIME TO SAY "THANKS"

Time and time again, ordinary people have served our Nation in extraordinary ways so that all Americans can pursue the happiness our Founding Fathers envisioned. By their service, they have kept America strong, and they have protected our way of life for more than two centuries. At this moment, men and women of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard are serving around the world.

As a school community we have set aside Monday, November 10,

to reflect, remember, and honor those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. At 10:00 am on this day we will gather as a school community in our gymnasium to share in our first annual Veterans Day Celebration. In social studies and music classes the children have been preparing songs, poems, cheers, short plays, and individual and group projects to share with our veterans as a means of appreciation for all they have done for our country. Members of Stewart Air

Force Base Color Guard will be joining us for this program along with more than 35 guests from our school and parish community. We are thrilled to have so many Veterans join us in our first annual day of recognition.

As a school community we look forward to this day as a wonderful learning experience as well as a way to acknowledge the dedication of these worthy Veterans.

PER YOUR REQUEST



As a result of your enthusiastic response to my survey, with over 100 families responding, I am thrilled to inform you that all of our full time teachers and almost all of our part-time teachers can now be reached via email. To use this form of communication, kindly go to our school web site, smartindeporschool.org, select teachers and staff, and highlight your child's teacher. Once on their homepage, select the icon for email and you are set. Please remember that this does not replace an absentee note and that teachers are teaching during the day and may not have time to respond to you immediately.

Also, per your request, in addition to a regular Friday lunch purchase, additional single slices of pizza can be purchased for lunch beginning Friday, November 7. The cost of an additional slice of pizza is \$2.00 per slice.

Beginning, Friday, Novem-

ber 7 and followed on all first Fridays, coffee, tea, and a light morning treat will be offered to our new school community parents and any seasoned parents that have a few minutes to gather to meet, answer questions, and socialize for a few minutes before heading off to your busy day. This monthly meet and greet will be held in our parish lounge. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and help others to become more familiar with our school community and understand and appreciate why Saint Martin de Porres School is second to none.

(More info regarding the results of the survey will follow later.)

A BUSY UPCOMING NOVEMBER

Feast of Saint Martin—On Monday November 3 our school community will gather for the Celebration of the Eucharist at 9:00 am in honor of the feast day of our patron saint. Later that same day an ice cream social will be enjoyed by all students. This ice cream social is sponsored by our PSA and we are grateful to all our parents for supporting the PSA.

Winter Uniforms—Monday November 3 marks the first day of winter uniforms. Kindly refer to our school handbook if you have any questions regarding the winter uniform.

Safe Environment Training—Our final fall safe environment training will take place on Monday evening, November 3 at 6:30 pm in the parish lounge. Please call the school office at 452-4428 to register.

TACHS Exam—Our grade 8 students will be taking the TACHS Exam on Friday, November 7th at OLLHS. All Students taking this exam are required to be there by

8:15 am.

Early Dismissal/Faculty Meeting—Friday, November 7 will be an early dismissal at 11:30 am due to a faculty meeting. Our extended day program is available for all parents who need this service.

Picture Retake/Class Pictures/ Graduation Pictures—Our Class pictures, picture retakes, and grade 8 graduation pictures will all take place on Friday, November 14. Class pictures will be taken in school uniform so please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately.

Grade 5 NYS Social Studies Exam—On Wednesday, November 12 and Thursday November 13, our students in grade 5 will be taking the NYS Social Studies Exam. Please be sure that your child has had a good night's sleep on both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The NYS Social Studies Exam is a cumulative exam based on information taught to the children prior to this grade level.

School Closed—School will be closed on Tuesday November 11 in honor of Veterans Day and November 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving Break.

Parent Teacher Conferences—On Monday November 24 and Tuesday November 25, parent/teacher conferences will be held to discuss your child's first quarter progress. To schedule your conference, sign-up sheets are posted in the cafeteria.

Tuition—All tuition through November 2008 and all other delinquent accounts must be paid in full to receive a copy of your child's report card. Report cards will not be distributed to those with an outstanding balance.

...Check our school website under calendar for more November happenings:)

May God bless you and your loved ones on Thanksgiving Day and always. Enjoy your holiday!!