



From the Desk of Mrs. Leahy

The Gift of Time Together As A Family

One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is the gift of time. If you ask your adult friends what meant the most to them growing up, you will often hear fond memories of people who "had time for them." Given the fast pace of today's society and as quickly as our children grow up, it is extremely important that we spend as much time with our children as a family as possible. Listed below are some ways that you can build just a little more family time into your lives.

1) **Pray together daily and attend mass together weekly.** Always remember that there is no better gift that you can share with those you love than the gift of our faith.

2) Don't forget those old **board games!** Even young children enjoy sitting around a board game and playing as a family. This is also a great opportunity to help your child learn to be a good sport and have fun whether winning or losing.

3) In order for children to want to talk to parents, it is important that parents make the **most of every opportunity and be ready to listen.** Whether riding in a car, sitting on the couch, or just hanging out together, it is important to create opportunities for children to share what's on their minds with their family.

4) Enjoy a **short walk or hike together** as a family. This is a no-cost way not only to get healthier, but

also to build family memories.

5) Do everything you can to sit at the dinner table together. This **family meal** can be a relaxed time when the family can talk about the day and just enjoy being together.

Your family may already be creating great memories of times together. If you are, know that you are giving your child an invaluable gift. The important thing is that as parents we understand that it is the little gifts, often free, that mean the most to children. Your time together as a family is a more precious gift to your child than you could ever imagine!

Sharing The Joy of Reading

Beginning Monday, September 26, and running every other Monday afternoon, Saint Martin de Porres School will offer a book club for students in grade 1. Under the guidance of Mrs. Mariotti, one of our

first grade teachers, our first grade students will join together on Mondays from 3:00 until 4:00 PM to put their reading skills and interest in literature to use as they read, discuss, and engage in fun activities re-

lating to literature.



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Special points of interest:

- ☺ Class photos will be this Friday—Students need to be dressed in full winter uniform
- ☺ Please refer to our school calendar on line to review all daily activities
- ☺ School begins at 8:20AM—all students arriving after this time are late

Items for September:

Running Club Begins	9/19
Student Government Begins	9/20
Board Game Club Begins	9/20
Art Club Begins	9/21
Safe Environment Training - 7:00PM	9/21
Story Time 10:00AM	9/22

Remembering September 11, 2011

On the beautiful morning of Friday, September 9, Saint Martin de Porres School students joined together with the Knights of Columbus from Saint Martin de Porres Parish in a prayer service in remembrance of the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001. Lead in prayer by our eighth grade students, our hearts and minds focused on those who died in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania because of terrorist attacks. We prayed for those who died, those who grieve, those who survived, the first responders and rescue workers, and those whose lives are changed for-

ever because of the events of that day.



With open hearts, our students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through grade 8 prayed to God to give them the power to take His love to all they encounter and let them be examples of Christ in our world. Together with

the Knights, we joyfully prayed and sang the patriotic song *God Bless America* as we raised the new flag that the Knights graciously donated to our school.

As a school community, we are grateful for the opportunity to join with the Knights in prayer, and we are grateful for the 9/11 Prayer Remembrance Cards that they gave to all of our students and the flag they donated to our school.

Please feel free to view a few photos of this event on our school website under Mrs. Leahy's page *9/11 Prayer Service*.

Riding The School Bus

With a new school year often comes a new bus driver or route. While statistics show that riding the bus is the safest way to get to school, dangerous situations could occur if children don't follow school bus rules and procedures. Here are a few general tips you can review with your child to help your child remain safe on the bus:

Getting on and off: Insist that your child be courteous and use their manners when it comes to getting on and off the bus. They should wait their turn while they board and get off; never push or shove on the stairs; and say "thank you" and "good morning" to

the bus driver. While waiting for the bus, please be sure that your child is not waiting in the street.

Safety while underway: At Saint Martin's we require that all kindergarten and first grade students sit in the two front seats of the bus. Once on the bus, please instruct all children to follow the bus driver's rules. All bus drivers ask that the children find their place quickly and remain in that spot. They ask that the children do not harass other children and that they do not throw things or leave trash on the bus.

Good behaviors: Children need to

understand that there are some behaviors that might appear "cool," but can actually be deadly. Explain that it is dangerous, not cool, to stick their heads, or arms out the window. Nothing should ever be hanging outside of a bus window or tossed outside the bus window.

I am sure that as parents we will all agree that these few rules for riding the bus are a small price to pay for helping to safeguard our children.



A Few Important Reminders

Our last **safe environment training** session will be held on Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00 PM in our school gymnasium. This training is required to volunteer in our school or to attend any class parties or trips.

Parents in grades 1-8 who have handed in their gold sheet indicating

that you have read the parent/student handbook are free to come to the main office and get your pass into our SIS system and **view your child's grades from the convenience of your home personal computer.** Please be advised that all passwords must be used within the month of September or your password will ex-

pire.

Special thanks to all parents for your cooperation and support. We continue to be off to a fantastic start to what is sure to be a great school year!