

October 2018-2019 Monthly Newsletter

Happy October to our Families!

I cannot thank everyone enough for such an excellent start to our school year. Hopefully the hot weather days are behind us giving way to cooling temperatures and the joys of Fall. As we look forward to the Month of the Rosary here in October, please refer to our activity calendar that we distributed in the folder and emailed home this past Wednesday. Please take a moment to read the rest of the newsletter to see what is on the horizon.

May God richly bless you and your family,

Ray Bonnette, Principal

Month of the Holy Rosary

Our 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade students are very excited to participate in the Living Rosary on Tuesday Oct. 16 at 2:00 PM. We will attempt to say portions of the rosary in different languages as we pray together. If family members are able to come and honor our Blessed Mother, we would love to have you in attendance.

Progress Reports

We will be following the same practice for Progress Reports as was done in years past. Each student in First(1st) through Eighth (8th) Grade will receive progress reports. Progress Reports are based on a body of work half-way through the first marking period and are communicated on a comment/code basis as opposed to numerical grades. There can sometimes be bumps in the road any time a child moves up a grade level. Different expectations exist in the new grade-level compared to the previous grade-level in terms of workload, time spent on preparation for assignments and assessments and individual responsibility. Our teachers and staff are here to help guide our students through these bumps (if they exist) so these bumps do not appear as roadblocks.

RenWeb

For families in Kindergarten through 8th grade, please try to log into RenWeb if you haven't done so already. This system houses all student grades and is updated in real time. It is very important that all families have this access, so if you have trouble logging into our new system, please get in touch with the office and we will try to point you in the right direction.

Teacher websites

Please check the teacher's webpage found on our website to see the upcoming information that your child will be learning in the coming week. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the direct link. To alleviate checking four different sites, we are currently working on combining the Middle School onto one page which will hopefully be up and running in the coming weeks. All information should be current by the first school day of the week (ie. Tuesday this week because we have off for Columbus Day).

High School Visitations

Over the next few weeks, representatives from Catholic High Schools in the area will be visiting our 8th grade students to speak with them about their programs. This will allow our 8th graders to get a taste of each school and gather information to hopefully make an informed decision about their high school experience.

Student Attendance and Tardiness

A new year means new challenges to get out of the door in the morning. That said, please keep in mind that all students are to be seated in the cafeteria at 8:15 AM because we begin our day right away. We have such a special gift given to all of us that we can come together as a school community and pray. We stop in a busy world and set aside time to give God thanks and pray for those who may need our prayers. We need time to prepare our minds and hearts for this special time and in many cases, it is the major reason why we exist as a Catholic School. If students arrive after 8:15 AM, they are considered Tardy and report to the office to receive a Tardy slip. Please refer to the handbook located in the student agenda that outlines the Tardy policy. If you need to call your child out of school, please call the main office.

School Uniform

As the weather is starting to get cooler, it means that our Winter Uniform is just around the corner. In an upcoming Wednesday Communication, you will receive a chart with the approved winter uniform for this school year (also found in the agenda). Any student may wear the winter uniform before it officially goes into effect on Monday November 5th, but all students must be in winter uniform by that time. Students are permitted to wear jackets and hoodies into the building, but the expectation is that all students remove these items during Homeroom.

Donations

We are currently looking for donations in the following areas to help improve our school. If you are able to help us out, we would greatly appreciate it and we can give you a donation letter for tax purposes. If anyone is interested in donating items, or denominations of money for these items, please contact Mr. Bonnette **before** filling up the car to drop off items or writing a check. By the time a response is received, we may have already had this donation filled or the item may not meet our need.

- **Digital Cameras** to take pictures of school-sponsored activities / events
- **Keyboard** for our Music/Choral program – our preference would be a full-sized (88-key) keyboard with stand, sustain pedal and adapter, but if you have a 61- or 76-key keyboard at home, we could use that too.
- **Gently Used Musical Instruments** – many students may want to play an instrument and can afford the lessons but cannot afford the rental of the instrument. If you have an instrument tucked away, we might be able to use it for our program.

Open House

Thursday Oct. 18 we will have our first Open House of the year. There is usually no better publicity than the energy and excitement that our families give to others in a face-to-face setting. Please be the beacon of light for Good Shepherd on the sidelines of sporting events, the dance/art/music studio, the supermarket, the libraries and the playgrounds to name a few. We have so many great things that go on that others need to know about. Oct. 18 is when we have a physical chance to show what we have to others. Let's let our light shine.

Halloween Celebration

On October 31, we will be celebrating Halloween for a portion of the day accompanied by the traditional parade. There will be no dismissal needed for any students on this day as the Middle School Dance is Saturday Oct. 27th. Details on both events will come at a later date.

Annual Fund

Mrs. Gallagher will be sending out our Annual Fund letter and pledge cards in the coming weeks. As this is a major fundraising event that happens periodically throughout the year, if you receive them, please pass these cards on to relatives and friends of Good Shepherd School. As tuition and other school costs are already a family investment, having others help with this Fund is an excellent way to “pay it forward” to our students. All monies raised are

used to help our students directly. If you are able to make a tax-deductible donation as well, we would be very appreciative.

#GivingTuesday

We know about “Black Friday” and “Cyber Monday”, but do we know about #GivingTuesday? Please help us as we join the Global Giving movement that was founded seven years ago to call attention and bring “people together around the values of service and giving back” (givingtuesday.org/about). This Day of Giving will be Tuesday November 28, 2018. Please visit our Facebook and Twitter pages to like and share/retweet our posts about it. Our focus for this fundraiser will be revealed in the November newsletter.

Parent Volunteers

Thank you to those individuals who have been able to go through our volunteer process and are cleared from the Diocese. If you are interested in volunteering (room parent, chaperone, assistant coach, chaperone) please visit our Parent Volunteer Center ([CLICK HERE](#)) to find out the process. St. Peter’s in Merchantville is hosting a Virtus training on Thursday Oct. 18 for those who need to satisfy that requirement. Thank you in advance for going through this process to provide opportunities for our students. If you are interested in getting involved in the Parent’s Association, please email GSSParAssoc@goodshepherdcollingswood.org.

Designer Bag Bingo

This event is one of the biggest fundraisers for our Parent’s Association. Please see previous Wednesday Communications and our social media pages for detailed information. Thank you for making this event so successful. The event is Friday Oct. 26.

Athletics

If your child is interested in trying out/playing a sport for the school, please visit the Athletic Clearance ([CLICK HERE](#)) page well in advance of the start of the sport so all medical clearances can be approved **before** the start of the season. Winter season will be starting soon, so please make sure everything is handed in early.

Academic Calendar:

- Friday Oct. 5 – Half Day for students (Faculty Meeting and Staff Development)
- Monday Oct. 8 – No School for Columbus Day
- Wednesday Oct. 17 – Progress Reports Issued
- Monday Oct. 22 – No school for students (Diocesan In-Service Day)

Social Media

Please follow our Facebook and/or Twitter Pages to keep current with school activities, events and announcements. Let the GSS light shine on the web so that our family, friends and others in the community will know what we are about. Hide is under a bushel? No! We're going to let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine! Please like, share and retweet.

- Facebook → <https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdCollingswood.org/>
- Twitter → <https://twitter.com/GSSCollingswood?lang=en>