

# OCTOBER NEWS

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

Galatians 6:9

October 14, 2009

How lucky are our children to be growing up in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century! The world is literally at their finger tips. At the touch of a button they can explore outer space or experience online adventures. At anytime they can communicate with their friends on facebook, myspace, im, and texting. However, sometimes the knowledge of that technology can lead to unacceptable behaviors. I'm sorry to say that in the past week I have heard of several different situations that have led to hurt feelings. While the incidents mentioned did not happen in school, the effects have carried into school and have fostered uncomfortable relationships. Please review the following excerpts from our Handbook with your children.

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The key to forming a happy faith community at St. Philip Neri School is respect and cooperation...Respect and cooperation will create a school environment where children are free to learn and are learning to exercise freedom within the framework of responsibility. A spirit of peace and justice will be able to thrive in such an environment.

The discipline code applies to students and parents/guardians in school and at school sponsored events, **as well as in the school/parish community and outside the school/parish community where the behavior is contrary to Catholic teachings** or could bring disrepute or embarrassment to St. Philip Neri School.

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The use of cell phones on school property is prohibited.

Page 11 Harassing and Inappropriate Conduct

- Disrespectful behavior of any kind toward or about any staff, student, volunteer, or parent
- Teasing or bullying
- Intimidation, harassment, or threats of any kind

The following is from the Acceptable User Policy that all of the students have signed:

**Examples of Unacceptable Uses:**

Users must not use equipment to harass, threaten, deceive, intimidate, offend, embarrass, or annoy any individual. Users must not post, publish, or display any defamatory, inaccurate, violent, abusive, profane or sexually oriented material. Users must not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude or threatening language. Users must not knowingly or recklessly post false information about any persons, students, staff or any other organization.



CAROL GILLESPIE '08

All St. Philip Neri students participate in the Archdiocesan technology safety program. I have asked Mrs. Tisoskey to repeat the program. The seriousness of this problem and potential dangers require our diligent attention.

I am sure that you all understand why I felt it was necessary to write to you about this and I thank you for your support. I am also going to ask you to do something else. Please check your child's phone for last Wednesday evening, October 7<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM. This was the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. I heard from several people that there were a number of students in several grades that were texting one another as we were praying as a school community.

May God bless you and your families.  
Mrs. Schleeweiss

Reminders:

- KidsStuff Book money is due by Friday. Please send in your \$25.00 or return your book.
- Home and School Association General Meeting—Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Neri Center. Your attendance yields Dress Down Day passes for your children.
- D.E.A.R. Day is this Friday, October 16 – raffle tickets, lemonade and brownies will be sold. Teachers will be addressing the students on proper dress code for those participating in dressing up as a literary character on this day.
- Science in Action Club is Thursday, October 15
- Scrapbooking Club is Tuesday, October 20

Enclosed in today's communication envelope:

- Tuition Statements from the rectory
- Letter announcing student safety classes
- CYO Basketball Flyer
- Tipping School Picture order forms
- "Playground Monitors Needed" – Please volunteer your time if you are able!
- Scrip Order
- Grades 6-8 Invitation to St. Isidore's Dance