



St. Edmund's Academy
An Independent School

Susan S. Miller
Associate Head of School

CURRENT HAPPENINGS AT SEA

March 1, 2010

Dear Parents,

Even though we only have three weeks until spring break, our days are plentiful.

As Dr. Kindler mentioned, I will be sending a letter in early March describing the few program changes that will take place as a result of the revised calendar. I am hopeful that we are moving closer to the start of Spring!

Please remember that Monday, April 5 is a school day IN SESSION; a snow make-up day.
Wishing you an enjoyable Spring Break!

Best regards,
Susan

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

Diversity Conference

- **Seventeen 8th grade students** will attend the **Diversity Conference**. Representatives from **PCIS member schools** have worked closely with Neal Holmes, Director of Diversity and Global Education at Sewickley Academy, to plan the Diversity Conference which will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, at Sewickley Academy. This event, held during the school day, will feature poet Mayda Del Valle, a well-known poet and winner of the 2001 National Poetry Slam, and Gene Batiste, Vice-President of Leadership Education and Diversity for the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). Conference participation is open to students in grades 8-12 from PCIS member schools. The program for 8th graders is designed to provide students with the opportunity to think in a focused way about issues of race, ethnicity, and socio-economic status.

St. Edmund's Annual Book Fair

- St. Edmund's **Annual Book Fair** will be held on **Friday, March 5**, in the dining hall. Books listed on our summer Reading Lists can be ordered for distribution in June, in addition to a great selection of other titles. **Thursday, March 4**, will be a **Preview Day** for parents and guests from **3:30-7:00 p.m.** Looking forward to seeing you.

The Carnegie Library, Phipps & the Science Center

- The **3rd & 4th grade science classes** will attend a **science collaborative** between the **Carnegie Library, Phipps & the Science Center on March 12**. Phipps: **Worm Composting**; Science Center:

Spectography - different color in light sources, **Art/Energy design**: sculptures made out of recycled items and the person who created it talking about wind energy and conservation; **Water and Science**: water molecules and how they stick together.

Regional Science Bowl Solar Car Race at North Allegheny High School

- Nine St. Edmund's 8th Grade students will compete in the **Science Bowl Solar Car Race** at North Allegheny High School on Friday, March 12, 2010. Team one: Jasper A., Faith D., Savanna S, & Joey S., and Team two: Adam H., Nathan H., & Zane S., along with Coaches Ms. Peterson and Mr. Holewski will represent St. Edmund's Academy.

7th and 8th Grade Production of "Bye Bye Birdie"

- Ms. Gail Novak and the cast and crew of **Bye Bye Birdie** have been rehearsing for weeks. Please make plans to attend the 7th and 8th grade production of **Bye Bye Birdie** on **March 17 or 18 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Hillman Auditorium.

Read Across America Day

- For the third year, **1st graders** will wear their PJ's to school to recognize and honor **Dr. Seuss** and be entertained by several guest readers during the school day as they celebrate **Read Across America Day** on March 2, 2010.

Annual 8th Grade/Faculty Basketball Game

- Join us as the entire school watches the 8th grade play against the faculty/staff during our annual **8th Grade-Faculty Basketball Game** at 2:00 p.m. on **Friday, March 19** in the field house.

Lacrosse Season for Upper School Students; grades 5-8

- **Lacrosse practice** will begin **the week of March 1** for all Upper School boys and girls. Practice is from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Students should be prepared to practice in the field house or outside. Practice for the 7th/8th grade **musical has priority** over lacrosse practice. All lacrosse participants **MUST HAVE a health assessment form** on file.
- **Practice for the girls will be held on: March 2, 4, 9, 11, 16 & 18.**
- **Practice for the boys will be held on March 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, & 17.**
- A complete game schedule will be distributed in April.

MathCounts

- St. Edmund's Academy participated in the Pittsburgh **MathCounts Competition** on Saturday, February 13 at Robert Morris University. MathCounts is a problem solving club held during recess at SEA, in which students work alone and in groups to solve difficult math problems. The St. Edmund's team, consisting of Zane S., Adam H., Joe D., and Aki N., finished in sixth place and Zane S. finished in 8th place as an overall individual. Zoe L., Carlisle T., and Philip K. also participated as individuals on Saturday. Regina B., Faith D., Claire A., and Reed W. also participated in MathCounts throughout the school year.

IEEE IndEEE 500cm Robot Car Race at the Carnegie Science Center

- St. Edmund's entered two teams: one **8th grade team** with Joe S. & Adam H. as members and one **7th grade team** with Sarah S., Joe D. & Austin S. as members, in the **IEEE IndEEE 500cm Robot Car Race at the Carnegie Science Center on Saturday, February 20, 2010**. Students from local area schools competed in the IndEEE 500 cm Robotic Car race as part of *Engineer the Future*. Coordinated by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Pittsburgh Section, the

Robot Car Race challenges each team of students to construct a robot car by applying elementary control systems, robotics, and mechanical and electrical engineering principles. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to apply their math, science and technology skills, enjoy a Saturday afternoon with some friends, and meet other local students with similar interests.

Community Service

- **The Eighth Grade** students completed their bowls for the 15th Annual **Empty Bowls Dinner**. The dinner will be held on March 7, 2010, at Rodef Shalom Congregation, Forbes Ave. in Squirrel Hill. The funds raised help support the **Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Just Harvest**. You may call 412-431-8960 or 412-460-3663 for tickets.
- **The 7th Grade** is collecting new or gently worn shoes for a program in South Africa, **Shoes for George** that was promoted by the father of seventh grader Breyne Guy. We are very proud to be able to collaborate as a school in his legacy. Shoes may be dropped off through March 12, 2010.
- **PreKindergarten-8th Grade** students created hand-made Valentine's cards that were delivered to hospital patients on February 14; **Valentine's For Patients**.
- St. Edmund's Academy supports Haiti. **St. Edmund's Academy** has embraced *supporting L'Hopital Albert Schweitzer* in its efforts to provide relief to **Haiti**. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, L'Hopital Albert Schweitzer provides medical care and community health and development programs for more than 300,000 impoverished people in the Artibonite Valley of central Haiti. St. Edmund's has committed to conduct fundraising activities within the school to assist in getting medicine and medical supplies to the region.
 - Students wore **Silly Socks** to school on Monday, January 25; nearly **\$200.00** was collected
 - **Penny Showdown**. Pennies were collected from February 1-19, 2010. The *Penny Showdown* featured a friendly competition including the Lower School, Upper School, and faculty/staff, with the winning group receiving a free dress-down day. The results: Lower School – \$429.72; Upper School - \$399.90; Faculty/Staff - \$106.24 = **TOTAL \$935.86 pennies collected**. St. Edmund's is very proud of our students, faculty/staff and families for their incredible generosity.
 - The PTA sponsored a **Bake Sale** on Friday, February 5, 2010 in the field house. **\$309.25**
 - Lower School students in grades 1-4 will be involved in **Running Laps** before each physical education class (up to 5 laps per class). Students will bring home 'pledge forms' for support of their efforts. Students are to return the pledge forms to their homeroom teacher (in the homework folder would be fine) when completed.
 - Mt. Tucek will sell **Snacks for Haiti** in his classroom during snack time each day.
 - Tuesday, February 16, 2010 was designated **Mr. T. Tie Day**; \$.50 to participate. PreK-8th grade students wore a dress shirt and a 'cool tie' (along with their normal Tuesday uniform) just like Mr. T. (Tucek) does daily. **\$25.05** was collected.
 - **Random Valentines** were sold from February 1 – February 12. Students paid \$.50, chose a name from a canister, signed her/his name to a 'gift tag', which is taped to a lollipop and delivered it to the recipient. **\$82.25** was collected from Random Valentines purchases.
 - Upper School 'teams' participated in **Hoops for Haiti**. Students racked up as many foul shots as possible in 15 minutes. Sponsorship forms were provided; all donations should be turned in by Friday, March 19, 2010.

- The **PTA Store** contributed **10% of February Sales** and plans to **contribute 10% of March sales**
- Additional **dress-down days** to be announced throughout the spring.

IMPORTANT MARCH DATES/EVENTS

- Tues., Mar. 2 8:00 a.m., Registered **8th graders** will attend the **Diversity Conference** held at Sewickley Academy
- Tues., Mar. 2 **1st grade** celebrates **Read Across America** and honors Dr. Seuss
- Wed., Mar. 3 **7th & 8th grade** French students take **Le Grand Concourse French Exam**
- Wed., Mar. 3 **7th & 8th grade** Spanish students take the **National Spanish Exam**
- Thurs., Mar. 4 **3rd grade Chapel coffee** immediately following Chapel
- Thurs., Mar. 4 **9:45-12:00 noon**, **2nd grade** visits the **Carnegie Museum**
- Thurs., Mar. 4 3:30-7:00 p.m., **Family Book Fair Preview Night**
- Fri., Mar. 5 **St. Edmund's Academy Annual Book Fair** and bake sale
- Fri., Mar. 5 9:10-1:40 p.m., **3rd grade** visits the **Frick Museum**
- Fri., Mar. 5 10:00 a.m., **Upper School** attends a **Gateway to the Arts** performance
- Fri., Mar. 5 3:00 p.m., **Upper School assembly** in Hillman Auditorium
- Sat., Mar. 6 SSAT Testing at St. Edmund's Academy
- Mon., Mar. 8 8:15 a.m., PTA Board meeting
- Tues., Mar. 9 **7th & 8th grade** Latin students take the **National Latin Exam**
- Tues., Mar. 9 9:00-11:45 a.m., **2nd Grade** visits **Sherm Edwards Candies**
- Wed., Mar. 10 8:30 a.m., **5th grade** **Travel Fair**
- Wed., Mar. 10 10:00 a.m., **Kindergarten 'Dinosaur Rock'** dress rehearsal
- Fri., Mar. 12 8:30 a.m., **Kindergarten 'Dinosaur Rock'** performance for parents
- Fri., Mar. 12 Registered **8th graders** compete in the **Regional Science Bowl Solar Car Race** at North Allegheny High School
- Fri., Mar. 12 10:00-11:30 a.m., **3rd & 4th grades** visit **Carnegie Library** to participate in a **science collaboration with Phipps and the Science Center**
- Fri., Mar. 12 2:00 p.m., **3rd grade** **Biography Readings** in the Hillman Auditorium
- Mon., Mar. 15 12:00- 2:00 p.m., **PreK II** field trip to **Dunkin Donuts**
- Tues., Mar. 16 1:30 p.m., **7th/8th grade** **Bye Bye Birdie** dress rehearsal
- Tues., Mar. 16 3:45 p.m., **Upper School Division meeting** with Beth
- Wed., Mar. 17 **7:00 p.m.**, **7th/8th grade** production of **Bye Bye Birdie** in the Hillman Auditorium
- Thurs., Mar. 18 **7:00 p.m.**, **7th/8th grade** production of **Bye Bye Birdie** in the Hillman Auditorium (alumni night)
- Fri., Mar. 19 Student council dress-down day; 50 cents
- Fri., Mar. 19 2:00 p.m., **8th grade** **basketball team vs. faculty/staff basketball team**
- Fri., Mar. 19 3:30 p.m., Spring Break begins
- Mon., April 5 **CLASSES RESUME FOR ALL STUDENTS**
- **Mon., April 5** **Mid-Semester II** begins