



ST. EDMUND'S ACADEMY

WILLIAM L. KINDLER, PH.D · HEAD OF SCHOOL

KEEPING IN TOUCH

September 10, 2009

Dear Parents,

I am providing an update on the H1N1 virus and the G-20 issues and an announcement. First, I want to express sincere thanks to all for your support as we are making every attempt to open the new school year as effectively as possible.

THE H1N1 VIRUS

We have had several students absent due to illness with a variety of symptoms including fever, aches, cough, chills, etc. While many fell ill during the first few days of school, this, according to health officials we have spoken with, is probably reflective of the level of illness in the community at large. The reality is, with school now in session, that illness will spread more quickly.

We all need to be reminded frequently that children who are ill should not be sent to school or remain in school. While this has always been the guideline, it seems much more relevant this year with the H1N1 virus in the community. **Those with a fever should not return to school for a minimum of 24 hours following the resolution of the fever.** You have probably seen in the media or have been told by your family physician that the current impact of the virus is at the mild to moderate level, therefore, advice from health professionals to schools is to temporarily allow more leniency to students who miss school due to illness as long as we clearly state **that children should not return to school until the illness symptoms, especially a fever, are absent for at least 24 hours.** I have spoken with several parents confused on what to do as they are supportive of the school's guidelines and directives, yet are not receiving the same level of concern from their health professionals. Let's all use some common sense and sound judgment; repeating again: **ill children should not be in school.** We are all experiencing this issue together, and our faculty and staff are making every effort to provide a healthy environment for all. We will continue to let you know if additional guidelines need to be activated as described in earlier communications due to an increase in the severity of the virus. Also, please be assured that SEA continues daily with its preventative measures of facilities and with reminders to students to sanitize their hands often (classrooms, before lunch, assemblies, etc), cough into their elbow, and avoid touching their faces in addition to other important defensive actions. Finally, those out of school due to illness will receive full support from their teachers in "catching-up" on any work or assignments missed.

THE G-20 SUMMIT

As of this time and date, St. Edmund's Academy will remain open on September 24 and 25. My only reason for opening with "as of this time," is that we must remain vigilant to any security alerts, although we have not received nor do we expect to receive any security alerts. I have remained in daily communication with city and local community officials on every aspect of the Summit's potential impact on Squirrel Hill and vicinity. I remind

you that the ALERT NOW system is in place and will be “tested” next week now that we have received the necessary data from our families. You will receive a separate communication on this test. As reported earlier, city school buses are not operating on September 24 and 25. We also recognize that only YOU know the complexity you face in traveling to SEA during the Summit. **We will support the decision you make regarding school attendance. Obviously, we hope that all children will attend school, but as with illness, we must be in tune with reality.** Teachers have already been informed not to schedule tests, reports, special assignments, labs, etc. on those days. Again, any student absent will receive full support from their teachers in “catching-up” on any work or assignment missed.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Heather Moreland has been appointed Admissions/Marketing Associate and Business Office Assistant starting on September 16, 2009. Ms. Moreland’s selection for this newly created full time position was made from a review and assessment of more than seventy-five applications and five finalist interviews. Heather has been a part of the St. Edmund’s Academy community since 2003. She is well known as the SEA mother of Hayley – Kindergarten, Christian – First grade, and Isabella – Sixth grade. She has also served on the PTA Board and has worked closely with our Admissions Office and Development Office on several projects. Heather earned a degree in Business from The Pennsylvania State University and has a strong background in business and communications. She will be working with Lucy King, Director of Admissions/Marketing, and Diana McAllister, Director of Finance and Operations. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Heather Moreland in her new professional position at St. Edmund’s Academy.

Please do not hesitate to seek clarification on the content of this communication or on any other item related to St. Edmund’s Academy’s operation.

Sincerely,

William Kindler