



5001 NE 50th Street Seattle Washington 98105
T 206.524.8885 F 206.523.7131

MONDAY MEMO

October 26, 2009

EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, Oct. 26

Fall Book Fair

Advanced Band, 7:30am
Parents in Prayer, Chapel, 8:35am
1A Field Trip
Science Adventures, 3:15 - 4:15pm
Middle School Math Club, 3:15-4:30pm
EDP Registration for Conference Days Due

Tuesday, Oct. 27

Fall Book Fair

Beginning Band, 7:30am
Liturgical Choir, Chapel, 7:35am
MS Conferences 3:00-5:00pm
Chess Club, 3:15 - 4:15pm
SERT, Rm. 334, 3:15-4:15pm
NO Writing Club Today

Wednesday, Oct. 28

Fall Book Fair

Parent/Teacher Conferences
NO CLASSES
EDP Open 8am-5pm if pre-registered

Thursday, Oct. 29

Fall Book Fair

Parent/Teacher Conferences
NO CLASSES
EDP Open 8am-5pm if pre-registered

Friday, Oct. 30

Fall Book Fair Closes at Noon

Parent/Teacher Conferences
NO CLASSES
EDP Open 8am-5pm if pre-registered

Monday, Nov. 2

Advanced Band, 7:30am
Science Adventures, 3:15 - 4:15pm
Middle School Math Club, 3:15 - 4:30pm
MS Spirit of Prudential Award App. Deadline

Dear Villa Academy Families,

As we look forward to Parent-Teacher Conferences on Wednesday-Friday of this week, we anticipate one of the most important opportunities of the school year to join in partnership with you, to support your children as learners. If you have not yet had an opportunity to review the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Principles of Good Practice that I spoke about at Curriculum Nights in September, I encourage you to take the time now, before conferences, to refer to your Family Handbook (pp 6 & 7) to read the expectations we have of our parents and what you can expect from the staff at Villa Academy.

In particular, we believe that effective partnerships are characterized by clearly defined responsibilities, a shared commitment to collaboration, and open lines of communication, mutual respect, and a common vision of the goals to be reached. NAIS and Villa Academy expect that parents will seek and value the school's perspective on the student. From our side, we will seek and value your perspective on your child. We also will be accessible to you and model candid and open dialogue.

If your child is a student in Grades Three to Eight, you can expect that he/she will have an active role in the conference, through a "Student-Led" Conference. Please rest assured knowing that there has been a great deal of consideration given to what is developmentally appropriate for students to handle given their age and

experience. The teachers have provided necessary scaffolding – an agenda, student work samples, evidence of success, and evidence of needed improvement in learning areas, to share with you. We plan to ensure a well-thought out and well-run conference, one that will encourage your child to be an effective self-advocate.

The amount of time devoted by our teachers to planning and preparation for the conferences is significant. Within a relatively brief window of time they will share and seek input from the student and

from you. There will be time to examine work samples and talk about areas of strength and areas for improvement. They will acknowledge and celebrate your child as a valued and important member of our community. It is our intention to continue to grow in an understanding of your hopes for your child as a learner and a person, as well as your concerns or expectations of us, as we support your child as a learner and a person.

Our belief in the importance of the home to school, parent to educator partnership is so strong that we will be building in a round of Spring 2010 Parent-Teacher Conferences in March. Please stay tuned for details in an upcoming Monday Memo.

Thank you for the time you have devoted to ensuring that your child is ready to learn and for the support you give the teachers as partners in the education of the students.

Before I close my weekly letter, I hope that you will read further to learn about an exciting new "Parent Peer Groups" program being "piloted" by the Villa Academy Parent Association this year. Based on the success this program has had at other local PNAIS schools, we have devoted time and research to understanding how a program designed for parents to support each other, around non-academic topics, might work at our school. I want to thank the "R & D" team of parents who did the research and planning to get this program off to a strong start: Cindy P., Joanne R., and Lisa P.

God Bless,

Polly Skinner
Head of School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Questions about H1N1 or the availability of vaccine? The Flu Hotline is now staffed Monday through Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm. Call 877-903-5464.

Liturgical Choir - Open to Students in Grades 5 - 8. Click here.
<http://thevilla.org/community/documents/2009-10LiturgicalChoir.pdf>

Fall Book Fair: Thursday, October 22 - Friday, October 30.

Students will attend the Book Fair with their class on their library day. The Book Fair is open Monday through Friday, so stop by before or after your conference.

Hours: 8:30 to 3:30 Monday - Thursday
8:30 – NOON on Friday.

This event is a fundraiser for the Villa Library, so please take advantage of this opportunity to purchase wonderful books, encourage reading and support the Library.

St. Francis Pet Food Drive Update

The Seventh Grade class at Villa wants to express gratitude to the entire community for the generous donations to our Pet Food drive. It was great to see some of you at St. Bridget Church to celebrate with us at the prayer service. We collected over five hundred pounds of pet food. I will be taking all of our donations to the Humane Society. I am certain that they will greatly appreciate your efforts. Kudos to all of you, I feel privileged to be a member of a community that is so committed to the mission of Mother Cabrini. Her spirit is certainly alive and well.

Pam Sprute
Campus Minister

Symposium by the Catholic Newman Center, November 5, 7:00pm

Christine Ingebristen, Villa parent and Trustee, will moderate a symposium on the UW Common Book, Dreams from My Father. Click here for details:

<http://thevilla.org/community/NewsandEvents/documents/commonbookevent.pdf>

FROM THE ADMISSION OFFICE

Open House is only a month away...

It will be here before we know it! Many thanks to those of you who have returned **addressed invitations** this week and to those of you who requested more! We really appreciate your help in spreading the word about our most important recruiting event. If those postcards are still in the to-do pile of your desk, there is still time! Please take a moment to address cards to people you know who may be interested in learning more about our programs and our community. Drop them at Villa and we will add the postage and send them off for you.

If you are having trouble thinking of people to address the cards to, please consider posting them around the community. Perhaps there is a community bulletin board at work or a gathering place in your neighborhood (community centers, churches, libraries, coffee shops, yoga studios, etc.) to display a card.

Do you own a business? Would you be willing to set some cards out on your front counter? If you would like additional cards, please let us know. We are happy to send some home with your student.

Thanks for thinking creatively. We appreciate your help!

Marlinda Siegfried

Admission Director

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Faculty and Staff Show Strong Annual Fund Support!

Thanks to faculty-staff Annual Fund co-chairs Mitchell Mellors and Leslie Keeney, nearly all (**89%!**) of Villa Academy's faculty and staff have made gifts or pledges to this year's Annual Fund! What a wonderful statement of support for Villa Academy.

Kindergarten Parents Lead Annual Fund Charge!

While **54%** of all current families have made a commitment to this year's Annual Fund, the kindergarten parents lead the way with **68%** of their gifts in – THANK YOU KINDERGARTEN PARENTS!

Help Us Reach Our Annual Fund Goal!

School programs and operations rely on dollars contributed to the Annual Fund. Following last week's phone-a-thon, we still need many more gifts to reach our targets of \$300,000 and 100% family participation. If you have yet to make your Annual Fund commitment, please do so

online now <https://thevilla.ejoinme.org/MyPages/DonationPage/tabid/97244/Default.aspx> or submit your check or pledge envelope to the Development Office.

THANK YOU very much to everyone who has already participated in this important fundraising campaign!

PARENT - TEACHER - STUDENT CONFERENCES

Dear Middle School Parents: As we gear up for conferences with you and your students this week, we invite you to consider the following:

1. Is there something you feel your adolescents' teachers may not yet know about them and their learning, that you would like to share?
2. Do you have any specific questions you would like us to think about before we meet?

If so, please email your student's advisor.

FROM THE PARENT ASSOCIATION

Wreaths and Garland On Sale Now! Click [HERE](#) or pick up an order form in the Main Office. Orders are due by November 13. Orders available for pickup December 7 & 8.

Parent Peer Group (PPG) Kick-off:

The Parent Education committee is excited to announce a new program designed to provide parents an opportunity to discuss with one another the critical job of PARENTING. Over the past few years several parents have championed the idea of initiating the Parent Peer Groups (PPG) program at Villa, based on the successful program by the same name at Lakeside School. The Parent Association is enthusiastically sponsoring this program. Polly Skinner is familiar with this program and believes, too, this would be a wonderful experience for our parents.

The idea of a PPG is to provide a time and place for parents, who have children at the same grade level, to gather to discuss parenting issues. Because this is the inaugural year, we have elected to begin the program at four grade levels: Kindergarten, 4th, 6th and 7th. While the focus of these groups will be sharing common parenting concerns and issues, it can also serve as a time for community building and making social connections. It is important to note that conversations about school policies, curriculum, teachers, and specific issues about other children, are not part of the agenda. Instead, trained facilitators will lead discussions about issues common to all parents at particular developmental stages.

Two parents from each grade level agreed to serve as facilitators and have spent some time recently being trained for that task. They are excited to welcome you to join them in this common experience. Each PPG will hold two meetings this year, one in fall or winter, and one in the spring. Please watch the Monday Memo and an email from your grade representative announcing the meeting dates.

The 7th Grade PPG will meet on November 12, in the Villa Parlor, at 7:00pm. The Kindergarten PPG will meet at 7:00pm in the Villa Parlor, on November 16. The 4th & 6th Grades PPG meeting times are TBD but will be scheduled for this fall/winter. All meetings will be held in the evening.

The PPG will be a wonderful opportunity for Villa parents and we hope you will come to talk, share, discuss and strategize about ways to approach this journey called Parenthood!

CYO CORNER

Click here www.thevilla.org/community/SportsNews.html for CYO News, Soccer scores, Soccer Uniform Policy, Basketball details and more!

Soccer: Only one week left in our regular season, keep up the great work Vikings! Last chance for service hours during the soccer season – email me sbocian@thevilla.org if you want to referee any

games on Halloween, I still have spots open! I know that the coaches would love it if you could help out and referee a game or two!

Cross Country: Thank you to all our coaches, parent volunteers and athletes who made this Cross Country season so much fun! I had a great time watching all of our runners at Lower Woodland on October 18th!

Sincerely,
Shirley Bocian
CYO Athletic Director
sbocian@thevilla.org

EDP NEWS

Last chance! Register by 6pm tonight if you need EDP on Conference Days. Please note: the hours are abbreviated: 8:00am – 5:00pm only.

Grades 3-8 After School Youth Theater Presents: Honk! Click [HERE](#).

<http://thevilla.org/community/NewsandEvents/index.html>

Look for the registration form in a future Monday Memo.

Science Adventures on Mondays

Pre-enroll your child for all future Science Adventures sessions this year. Choose one session or sign up for all sessions. Enrollment forms (or cancellations) must be received one week prior to the start date of a new session. Click here. <http://thevilla.org/community/documents/scienceadventures0910.pdf>

Sincerely,
Shea Salyer & Tom Doggett
EDP Program
edp@thevilla.org