

MONDAY MEMO

November 16, 2009

EVENTS CALENDAR

Thanksgiving Food Drive All Week

Monday, Nov. 16

Advanced Band, 7:30am
Science Adventures, 3:15 - 4:15pm
NO Middle School Math
Kindergarten Parent Peer Group, Parlor, 7:00pm

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Beginning Band, 7:30am
Liturgical Choir, Chapel, 7:35am
Chess Club, 3:15 - 4:15pm
Writing Club, 3:15-4:15pm

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Soccer Uniform Return Deadline
Early Dismissal, 2:15pm
Webkinz, Rm 234, 2:30-3:30pm
BOT, Parlor, 6:00pm

Thursday, Nov. 19

Beginning Band, 7:30am
Sewing, Rm. 234, 3:15-4:15pm

Friday, Nov. 20

Free Dress/Box Top Store
Wear wacky colors to show school spirit
1st Trimester Spirit Day
Villa Voices, 7:30am

Sunday, Nov. 22

Open House, 1:00-3:30pm

Monday, Nov. 23

Advanced Band, 7:30am
Science Adventures, 3:15 - 4:15pm
Middle School Math, 3:15-4:15pm

Dear Villa Academy Families,

Many exciting endeavors are underway these days as the students and their teachers are engaged in the work of learning and collaborating. The classroom, common areas, and hallways are alive with a happy, purposeful hum of activity. Community service projects are in full throttle at many grade levels. November 16 is the first day of our all-school CleanScapes Food Waste program, which the Fifth and Sixth Graders are implementing in the Lower and Middle Schools respectively. It is a busy time of year and I encourage a close reading of the weekly Monday Memos in the weeks ahead as we move into Thanksgiving, Advent, and the Christmas season.

On November 16, a team of educators and staff members will attend a PNAIS workshop on "Creating Inclusive Communities: Teaching, Leading, Learning." Kate Brooks, Norma Jenner, Katie McPhail, and I will be joining colleagues from other independent schools to consider the ways we communicate with our internal and external constituents around issues of cultural competence and diversity. We will focus on strategies to develop communities that "work" for students and their families from different socioeconomic, ethnic, and racial groups.

This workshop is of interest to our school in light of its most recent PNAIS accreditation recommendation to "refine further the school's diversity statement and delineate the meaning of diversity and its impact upon the school community."

The Board of Trustees has already revised the school's Statement on Cultural Competency and Diversity and it appears as follows:

In the spirit of the Cabrinian tradition, cultural competency is essential

to the education of the whole child at Villa Academy. In an effort to honor, respect, and engage people from all walks of life, we nurture in our students a desire to seek solidarity with all whom they may encounter. We endeavor to create opportunities for constructive dialogue and responsible action. At Villa Academy, the entire community works together to develop a greater understanding of the complexities of a diverse and global society.

Villa Academy strives to be welcoming, inclusive and accessible to all members of its present and future school community. While acknowledging the value of all forms of diversity, we recognize the need to focus our efforts to build on the diversity that exists in our community. Therefore, in accordance with our Cabrinian heritage, we will seek greater socioeconomic, ethnic, and racial diversity and cultural competency within our school community.

Approved by Villa Academy's Board of Trustees,
June 14, 2008

Our workshop team has already met to talk about plans to follow up on the PNAIS conference with a goal to be consistent in our policies and practices, to create culturally responsive classrooms, to look at the best practices of other schools in regard to cultural inclusion, and to bring back a conversation about how we can continue to engender in our students a greater understanding of the complexities of a diverse and global society.

God Bless,

Polly Skinner
Head of School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Illuminata

7:00pm, Thursday, December 3, 2009

Hot cocoa, cookies, caroling, and tree lighting!

Come one, come all!

<http://thevilla.org/community/NewsandEvents/documents/IlluminataFlyer2009CWHJ2.pdf>

The Villa Christmas Programs dates and times are listed on the school calendar. Christmas will soon be here and the students have been preparing for some GREAT performances. All performances are in the Theater. Click the above link and scroll to the article below the *Illuminata* article for details.

Poinsettia Sale

Complete your holiday decorations by ordering lovely poinsettias through Villa! Click here:

<http://thevilla.org/community/documents/2009PoinsettiaFlyer.pdf> to download an order form. **Orders must be placed by Tuesday, November 24, 2009.** The plants will be available for pick-up at school on Tuesday, December 8, 2:00 - 6:00pm.

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, January 29, 2010 - 4th Annual Villa Poker Showdown. Click Here:

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

HEALTH NEWS

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.

H1N1 Website and Vaccine Availability

H1N1 vaccine will be arriving in area pharmacies each week and the supply per week should remain fairly consistent. The list of participating pharmacies will change, so is important to view the link below for updates or to phone your area pharmacy.

In the upper right hand corner of the page click on the YouTube video, "Stay Home When You are Sick" for help in determining when to stay home yourself or when keep your child home.

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/preparedness/pandemicflu/swineflu.aspx>

Families are being asked to avoid visits to the doctor unless it is an emergency. Click below for answers to common questions and for information about what constitutes an emergency.

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/preparedness/pandemicflu/swineflu/SeekingCare.aspx>

FROM THE ADMISSION OFFICE

It is almost here! Our first **Open House** of the year for prospective families is this coming **Sunday, November 22, between 1:00pm and 3:30pm**. We are looking forward to sharing lots of information about Villa's programs and activities with families who are considering applying to our school. Thank you in advance to the many volunteers who help make this important event possible!

Just a couple of reminders...

- If you have signed up to help on Sunday, please plan to **park at St. Bridget Church**. The church has graciously agreed to share their lot so that we can save as many spots as possible on campus for our guests.
- If your students are participating in one of the Open House activities, please make sure they arrive in **regular uniform**.
- If you are serving as a parent volunteer that day, we look forward to seeing you in the Parlor for our **volunteer training on Tuesday, November 17 at drop-off (8:30ish)**. If you will not be able to join us, please contact the Admission Office so that we can get information to you prior to Sunday's event.

Thank you!

Marlinda Siegfried
Admission Director

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Full Participation is Needed to Wrap Up the Annual Fund

64% of families have participated in the Annual Fund to date, but we need everyone's support in order to complete this year's campaign on target. Please show your support of the faculty and staff's phenomenal 94% participation in the Annual Fund by making your gift **online now** <https://thevilla.ejoinme.org/MyPages/DonationPage/tabid/97244/Default.aspx> or by submitting your check or pledge to the Development Office. **Gifts of all sizes are needed and greatly appreciated!**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Grade 2 collected donations for UNICEF on Halloween. Click here for story and photo gallery.
<http://www.thevilla.org/community/UnicefHalloweenDrive.html>

Grade 5 is baking pumpkin pies for the Thanksgiving meal served at the Matt Talbot Center in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood. "The Matt Talbot Center's fundamental strategy is restoration of lives through sustained and supported change."

Grade 6 is coordinating an all school Thanksgiving Food Drive in conjunction with St. Bridget Parish and the St. Vincent De Paul Society – If you wish to participate, food donations can be brought to your homeroom all week. Click here for details.
<http://thevilla.org/community/documents/2009fooddriveflyer.pdf>

Regina House Adopt-a-Family – Grades 1-8 gift-giving drive. Look for details after Thanksgiving.

VILLA BANDS AND VOICES NEWS

Sunday, November 22 – Villa Bands parents please take note! We have been asked to perform for the **Open House** on Sunday, November 22. This is for kids in both Beginning & Advanced Bands. We will perform in the foyer between Mrs. Skinner's office and the Parlor. We'll be doing some selections that we're currently working on for the upcoming concert in December.

I'd like us to meet about 2:00pm in the Music Annex (Band Room) to warm up and stow cases, coats, etc. If you know that your student is not able to attend, please let me know right away. We'll play from about 2:30 to 3:00pm.

Irv Kellenberger

Thursday, December 3 - Villa Voices parents please note! The Villa Voices Choir has been invited to lead the singing for the annual **Christmas Illuminata** on Thurs. Dec. 3rd. The event is scheduled for 7:00pm. We will meet in the Music Room at 6:45pm to warm up and stow coats, etc. This is an informal gathering. Please let us know right away if your student cannot participate in this opportunity. Thank you.

Ms. Johnson

Mr. Kellenberger

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Student Council Announces First Trimester Spirit Day!

November 20, 2009

Free Dress Option: Wear wacky colors to show your Villa Spirit!

Assembly 11:15-11:40 in Gym

Be ready for fun and games!

FROM THE PARENT ASSOCIATION

Please Pick Up Your VPA Gift Wrap Sale Order!

Orders are organized alphabetically in the first floor breezeway. Please pick up your order as soon as possible and check your order immediately to make sure it is correct. Please contact Jeanne B., or Meg O., with any problems.

EDP NEWS

HONK! Jr., Registration is now open to Students in Grades 3-8.

Auditions*: Tuesday, December 1, 3:15-5:30pm

Callbacks for lead roles: Thursday, December 3, 3:15-5:30pm

(Both will be held in the Rainbow Theater)

*If your child is auditioning for a main character, please have them prepare a short song of their choice to be sung a capella.

Holiday Gift Making Class is a six-session class to be held Wednesdays & Thursdays in December. Gift projects include beaded ornaments, wooden serving trays, and glass etched vases. Sign up now.

Sincerely,

Shea Salyer & Tom Doggett

EDP Program

edp@thevilla.org