

EPIPHANY TIMES

Volume I - November 2007



Wildcat Water Cooler

This month we give thanks for all of the wonderful families that make up our school community. Without their efforts, we would not have the sports teams, the successful fundraisers, and the extracurricular programming. This month I will be making sure that we have completed volunteer forms from each EOL family so that EOL can continue to offer the best educational opportunities to its students.

Yours truly,
Erin Friday

Q: What services exist for an EOL child with special needs?

A: The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (IU) provides intervention services for those students who need additional help. There is a liaison to non-public schools that assists Epiphany in providing its students with the necessary services. Services include but are not limited to speech therapy, reading help and counseling. Additionally, EOL has at least one teacher certified in special education who can provide input into educational planning for students who need some accommodations.

Q: What about for a child at the gifted end of the spectrum?

A: While the IU no longer handles testing, it is the state law in PA that the school district provides testing when requested by the parent and a Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP) if the team determines that the child is gifted. Testing involves a combination of IQ and standardized achievement tests to help establish what accommodations, if any, would benefit a student. Accommodations range from full grade acceleration to pull out gifted enrichment programs offered by the district. I would be happy to provide additional information to interested families.



EOL News

By Ryan O'Donnell

The 7th grade class wrote letters to Ryan O'Donnell's cousin, Brett Gambacorta and to Madison Skrocki's brother, Ryan Perry. Both gentlemen are currently serving in the Middle East. We also assembled care packages for each of the soldiers. We brought in small boxes of cereals, magazines, mints, hand sanitizers, face and body lotion, and wet wipes. The letters were nice and funny. We hope we brought a few laughs and smiles to those serving our country.



Spot Light On...

Kindergarten Teachers

Mrs. Donna Koneski by Stuart Gibson

Epiphany of Our Lord is blessed with many great teachers. Among the teachers is our kindergarten teacher, Donna Koneski. Mrs. Koneski graduated from St. Joseph's University and has been teaching for 25 years. After graduation, she taught at Immaculate Heart of Mary School for 11 years. She taught fourth grade for six years and first grade for five years. Then she joined Epiphany of Our Lord School where she has been teaching for the past 14 years. She opened the preschool here where she taught for four years. For the past ten years, she has been our kindergarten teacher.

Mrs. Koneski says she has always loved school, especially being with children. From my own experience, I remember the wonderful class trip to Merry Meade Farms as well as the letter people. Learning was always fun, never a chore. Thank you, Mrs. Koneski, for all you do for our students!

Ms. Jennifer Perachio by Katie Comber

We are blessed to have another kindergarten class this year! Ms. Havey hired the newest addition to the EOL teaching staff, Ms. Perachio. Ms. Perachio is from Broomall. She attended Rosemont College where she majored in Psychology with a Teacher Certification and is currently pursuing her Master's Degree with Reading Specialist Certification at Cabrini College. Before coming to Epiphany, Ms. Perachio worked at Upper Darby Kindergarten Center and was also a Reading Interventionist. Best of all, she loves teaching!

When I asked Ms. Perachio how she makes learning fun in the kindergarten, she replied, "I try to do a lot of hands on projects. For instance, last week we had to learn the letter P, so we had a pajama party!" That sounds like fun indeed! Welcome to Epiphany of Our Lord School, Ms. Perachio! We hope that you'll be with us for a long time!



Upcoming Events

See the back of this issue for details from Casey McBride

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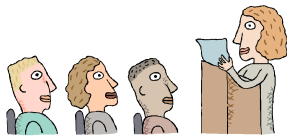
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November Events

November 1		No School – Holy Day of Obligation Extended Deadline for Winter CYO still needing players
November 2		No School
November 8	3:00 PM to 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	Grade 4 Field Trip Book Club – Grades 7 & 8 Confirmation Parent Meeting
November 9	8:30 AM	7 th Grade prepares weekly school mass
November 13		Grades 6 & 7 Field Trip to Adventure Aquarium
November 15	3:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Grade 8 High School Visitation Day Book Club – Grades 4-6
November 16	7:00 PM to 10:30 PM	6 th Grade prepares weekly school mass SPCA Presentation CYO Dance
November 17	8:00 AM to 11:30 AM	IBL Registration
November 21	7:30 PM	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Evening Service
November 22		Thanksgiving – No School
November 23		No School
November 25	12:30 PM to 2:30 PM	IBL Registration
November 28	6:30 PM	Barnes & Noble Night
November 29	3:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Book Club Grades 7 & 8
November 30	3:00 PM to 11:00 PM	5 th Grade prepares weekly school mass End of First Semester Craft Show Set-up entire school

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Kindergarten Wrap Up

by Casey McBride

Recently I had an opportunity to ask the kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Koneski and Ms. Perachio if they needed any supplies or donations for their classrooms, in particular the learning centers. Do you remember the Learning Centers in kindergarten? I remember having so much fun playing in centers, but I wonder if parents understand what the Learning Centers are set up to do. So here's a brief description:

Learning Centers are set up in classrooms for children to learn through active play. The various centers include:

- An Art Center designed to develop imagination, small muscle skills and creative expression.
- Block/Building Centers help to build muscle skills, develop math skills (size and shape) and work together with others.
- Pretend/Kitchen Centers develop social skills and work together with others.
- Writing Centers help to develop small motor skills, develop eye-hand coordination, and use a variety of materials for writing.
- Reading Center is where the children learn to enjoy, appreciate and care for books. They practice their reading skills.
- Play dough Center develops small muscles, create and learn to share.
- Listening Center is where the children listen to a variety of stories read by different people.
- Math Center help the children learn about pattern comparing, sequencing and working with shapes.

Some of the items that will need to be replenished on a regular basis would be items for the writing center, such as markers, crayons, paper and gently used books for the library.

Ms. Perachio's philosophy on teaching called "I Believe"

I believe in creating an environment which children feel comfortable and safe. **I believe** in helping children develop a sense of self and sense of others. **I believe** in educating children to be respectful of all races, genders, religions, and beliefs. **I believe** in a classroom that is able to express themselves openly and eagerly.

I believe in creating a classroom of lifelong learners. **I believe** the only way to teach a child to become a lifelong learner is to be one yourself. **I believe** in shaping a child's mind to have the desire to want to learn. **I believe** in making the classroom a place where children are excited to gain knowledge.

I believe in implementing a discovery learning, hands-on approach to inquiry. **I believe** in being flexible with my instruction to meet the needs of all of my students. **I believe** in meeting the needs of all children. **I believe** in reaching those who consider themselves unreachable. **I believe** all children can learn and I will help them find the way that they learn best. **I believe** in being joyful, giving, nurturing, caring and passionate. **I believe** I will inspire.

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