

## December 16, 2009

**Fri., Dec. 18**  
**NO MASS**  
**Reconciliation 1pm**  
**Grades 6, 7, 8**

No newsletter week of  
December 21  
Forensics Cancelled  
for 12/21/09

**Wed., Dec. 23 Baby**  
**Jesus' Birthday Party**  
**NOON DISMISSAL**

## January 2010

**Return MON., JAN. 4**

**Mass Dates: Jan. 8,**  
**15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> at**  
**1:15pm**

**Mon., Jan. 11 Middle**  
**School Orientation**  
**7:00 pm**

**Mon. Jan. 18 NO**  
**SCHOOL**  
**Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
**Day**

**Wed., Jan. 27 Report**  
**Cards**

Zachary Rovee, Alpha third grader, trains at the Sewickley Martial Arts Academy under the instruction of Miss Jose Steiger, 4th Degree Black Belt. After 3 years of training, Zachary successfully passed his 1st degree black belt testing on Friday, December 4th.

Congratulations!



No newsletter week of December 21  
Forensics Cancelled for 12/21/09

*Happy Holidays!*



Dear Parents,

After 3 months of extremely hard work, we finally participated on Saturday, December 5th, in the Pittsburgh State FLL Tournament held at the National Robotics Engineering Center. Titled "Smart Moves", the event featured scores of teams, each equipped with a custom-designed NXT Lego Mindstorms Robot, and team members eager to have a go at the competition tables. The day featured a frenzy of packed crowds, bustling practice areas, intense presentation sessions, and of course enthusiastic robotic runs at the missions on the main gameboards.

I would like to thank the students, mentors, parents, and all who contributed their time and talent to this prodigious undertaking.

Listed below are some of our teams' rankings:

There were 71 teams present on site and 149 teams from the Regional Pittsburgh area.

Robot design - 10th place

Robot programming - 11th place

Team work - 12th place

Overall performance - 28th place

Director Awards - 26th place

Research - 42nd place

I believe the students did a wonderful job. The results demonstrate that Alpha School is educating children to be independent thinkers and imaginative problem solvers.

Thank you,  
Denise Barker

**HARK!**

Lost and found items are overflowing in the cafeteria. Alpha hoodies, fleece jackets, and sweat shirts combined with winter jackets and coats are waiting to be claimed. We also have lunch boxes, gym shirts, blue uniform pants, a denim shirt, and a variety of shoes for all seasons. Please remind your child to look through these items before they are donated to used uniforms or a local charity. I would like to clear everything out before the holiday. Thank you.

**Thank you Musical Theatre 360 students** for your wonderful performances in "Super Claus"! We have so many talented students who really enjoy performing. A special thank you as always to Mrs. O'Hara-Tapp and her father, Bill O'Hara who bring years of experience in music and performing to Alpha and make the Christmas program such a success. We are looking forward to next year!

#### **GRADE 5 SOCIAL STUDIES - MRS. POZNIK**

The Fifth Grade social studies class recently created a "Fact Book" about various Native American tribes of North America. Through research, students discovered where in the United States the tribes were located, how they got food, from what materials their houses were made, and cultural aspects of the group. Each student presented the book to the class. We learned about many groups including the Hopi, Navajo, Flatheads, Tlinglet, Algonquin, and Cayuga. The students did a fantastic job! The papers are displayed on the second floor. Enjoy reading them.

#### **GRADE 4 LANGUAGE ARTS - MRS. POZNIK**

As part of an enrichment activity in language arts, the fourth graders created an original idiom class book. Actual meanings of idioms were discussed, as well as their literal meanings. The children enjoyed writing and illustrating various idioms. They did a wonderful job. The booklets are displayed in Mrs. Poznik's room.

#### **The Nutcracker**

It is once again time for Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's production of The Nutcracker, and each year more than 100 of the talented students of Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School help to bring this holiday classic to life. We are very happy to inform you that two of our students, Kate Foster and Alexandra Foster, will be performing in this season's production from December 11 through December 27. Contact Mandy Wilson at [www.pbt.org](http://www.pbt.org) for ticket information.



Elizabeth Groetsch poses next to the cake at the celebration for the students who were awarded prizes in the county wide Fire Prevention Poster Contest. Lizzy won \$75!

## Carnival Time

This year we have been learning about Bishop Emmanuel von Ketteler, who is a co-founder of the Sisters of Divine Providence. He is remembered for his work with social concerns, the poor, and education. On Monday, December 14th, the Student Council hosted a carnival for the students with the proceeds going to the Sisters of Divine Providence in Santo Domingo whose mission is to work with the poor. We congratulate the students for contributing \$2,271.52 to this project which is in keeping with the spirit and mission of Bishop Ketteler. Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthwhile project.

Sr. Rochelle

**Reminder:** It is very hectic at the end of the day, especially when students come in at dismissal and say the dismissal list is incorrect and they were told something entirely different or they are not on the list at all. Please take a few minutes and enter your child's information. What you enter on the list will be used for dismissal. You can call until 2:00 if there is a change in routine. Trying to contact parents at the bus bell (2:25) is very hard on both students and staff. If I am unable to contact a parent regarding a dismissal conflict the child will go to daycare.

Thank you.

Eileen

# Introducing Alpha's **Musical Theatre 360**



## **So You Want to Be A Star!**

Students grades 3 and up wishing to be a part of this musical opportunity are encouraged to register!

## **Musical Theatre 360 Program Description**

The 12 week Musical Theatre program, led by Shelly O'Hara-Tapp and Lynn Farina, and Bill O'Hara will expose students to many facets of the theatre including singing dancing, and acting techniques. All students participating in the After School Musical Theatre Program will participate in a spectacular Broadway Review during the afternoon and evening of **April 30<sup>th</sup>**.

## **Participation Details**

- ♪ Must be in at least **3rd grade**.
- ♪ Must be available to **audition Thursday, January 14th 2:30 – 3:00**
- ♪ Must be available on Thursdays for Musical Theatre rehearsal from **2:30 – 3:45**
- ♪ Tuition \$350 for the program. Second child in the program \$300.
- ♪ We will only be accepting **36** students for the program. **Therefore, we will accept the first 36 students that register on time.**

**Interested? Send the completed form below and check payable to:  
PHAS, no later than Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>....NO EXCEPTIONS AFTER THIS  
DEADLINE**

✂ cut here -----

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell ) \_\_\_\_\_

# SALSA KIDS FRIDAYS

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and February 5<sup>th</sup>

Location: Ketteler Hall

All grades all welcome - only girls

Cost: \$ 65 per child

From: 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Instructor: Mrs. Barker

Pop it in and crank it up with Salsa Kids. You will be shaking, moving, rocking and slamming to Latin and international beats like reggaeton, hip-hop, salsa, calypso, cumbia, meringue, samba and more. You won't stop until you drop!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Check payable to PROVIDENCE HEIGHTS ALPHA SCHOOL**

# ROBOTICS LEGO NEXT MONDAYS

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

Location: Robotics room

Grades: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

Cost: \$ 150 per child

Instructor: Mr. Douglas Beacham

Using Lego building elements, motors and sensors, students built different robots and programs them with a computer to move, react and make sounds to solve challenges.

Please send your registration ASAP. Space limited.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Check payable to PROVIDENCE HEIGHTS ALPHA SCHOOL**

# FUN WEDNESDAYS WITH DAVE GRAY ULTIMATE SPORTS

January 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and February 3<sup>rd</sup>

From 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Location: Alpha Gym

Fee: \$ 50 per child

The Ultimate Sports Fun Fridays the perfect place for your child to have fun. Children will enjoy and benefit from age- appropriate sports activities and recreation while developing new physical, mental and social skills. Activities include: flag football, grand slam wiffleball, basketball, field games, team building, outdoor adventure programs, water games- the list of fun activities is endless!

**SPACES ARE LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!**

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THE ULTIMATE SPORTS FUN FRIDAYS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

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Check payable to PROVIDENCE HEIGHTS ALPHA SCHOOL

# DRAWING AND SKETCHING

January 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and February 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4 weeks only

From 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Location: Ketteler Center - Spanish room

**Grades - 5-8 - 15 spots available**

**Fee: \$ 40 per child**

Explore various drawing techniques such as contour drawing, shading, perspective, and optical illusion. Students will expand their knowledge and learn techniques to help them draw what they see.

**Instructor: Mrs. Ruthann Farinacci** - bachelor degree in Arts. Taught 15 years at the North Hills Art Center and served as board president.

**Necessary materials for first class: sketching book, drawing pencil 2B or HB, kneaded eraser and charcoal pencil.**

**SPACES ARE LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!**

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DRAWING AND SKETCHING

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

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**Check payable to PROVIDENCE HEIGHTS ALPHA SCHOOL**

# WeDo Robotics Construction THURSDAY

The LEGO® Education **WeDo™** Robotics Construction Set is an easy-to-use set that introduces young students to robotics. Your students will build LEGO models featuring working motors and sensors and program their models using the LEGO Education **WeDo** Robotics Software. Combined with the **WeDo** Robotics Activity Pack, students will explore a series of cross-curricular, theme-based activities while developing their skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, as well as language and literacy.

**January 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**From 2:30 pm to 3:20 pm**

**Location: Ketteler Center - Robotics Room**

**Grade 2 and 3**

**Fee: \$ 150**

**Instructor: Mr. Douglas Beacham**

**12 spots available**

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## **WeDo ROBOTICS— REGISTRATION FORM**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_ **check#** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK PAYABLE TO PROVIDENCE HEIGHTS ALPHA SCHOOL**

Lab Ratz Science Club is coming to the Alpha School, meeting each **Tuesday**, beginning **January 12th**, after school (from **2:30-3:30\***). Lab Ratz Science Club is a five week program (1/12-2/9) that presents basic Science principles in an engaging, hands -on manner that encourages students to be inventive and creative, to question the world around them, and make discoveries through firsthand experimentation. This session is open to all students in grades K -5.

Fun, safe, and educational, Lab Ratz Science Club addresses flagging interest in the sciences among students nationwide. By catering to the natural curiosity of children, Lab Ratz Science Club creates a learning environment where students are led to answers through questioning and hands -on experimentation, rather than with lectures. In addition, the individual creativity of each participant is stimulated to promote problem solving and to apply concepts.

All new participants receive the official Lab Ratz Science Club Laboratory T -shirt – to protect school clothes from spills – and all students will receive the Lab Ratz Lab Manual, to record data, and compare results of experiments they can continue at home .

The cost is **\$50** per student, payable to Alpha School. To enroll, detach and return the permission slip, along with a check, to your student’s teacher by **Friday, December 18th**.

Participants need only bring curiosity and an open mind!

Visit [www.LabRatzScienceClub.com](http://www.LabRatzScienceClub.com) or call 412.965.3024 or 3497 with any questions or comments

\*Classes meet in the upper school science lab. All students are dismissed from lower level daycare

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name Home Phone Guardian mobile/work phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency contact Name Relation to Student Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Grade level Teacher T-Shirt Size youth S M L  
Quantity\* \_\_\_\_\_ Adult S M L

Please note any additional information such as medications, allergies or medical conditions that Instructors may need to be aware of

\* please enclose \$15 per additional shirt,

**◆IF ANYONE NEEDS A YOUNG REMBRANDTS REGISTRATION FORM, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE. CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 4.**