



## PLUMSTEAD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL HIGHER ENERGY COSTS 2011-2012

January 24, 2011

Dear PCS Patrons,

Like your family, the leadership at PCS is seeking ways to operate within our means. And like your family, this includes controlling energy costs for heating, cooling, and transportation. Over the past 12 months, energy costs have skyrocketed and are approaching levels from 2007-2008 where the price of heating oil and gasoline came close or exceeded \$4.00 a gallon.

The Administration and staff, under the direction of the School Board, have evaluated every available short-term option to hold down energy costs. Regarding transportation planning, we have investigated cutting bus routes (and contracting transportation services to school districts or private firms), reducing the number of vehicle uses per week, and even instituting a user-pay policy for every off-campus vehicle use. Each of these ideas has been rejected, because, if implemented, they would seriously hamper our spiritual, educational, and operational standards at Plumstead Christian School.

We have also asked the local school districts that pay PCS to provide state-mandated busing of students to increase their payments to us to cover the increased costs of fuel. While that is helpful, their additional funding is not guaranteed and will not be enough to underwrite the increased fuel expense.

At the Peace Valley Campus, we have installed heat regulators in most classrooms that will help to maintain a consistent temperature and in the end, save on oil consumption. Each of these controls cost PCS \$4,000 to install.

In an effort to fairly distribute these unforeseen expenses, we are instituting an Energy Surcharge. A charge of \$200 per PCS family for the 2011-2012 school year – regardless of the number of children attending school at either campus – will be assessed starting in September (this will add approximately \$20 per month to your tuition bill – if you pay over a ten-month period). In the opinion of the Board, this is the fairest, least confusing, and most effective plan to cover the costs of providing heat, cooling, and transportation (which includes to and from school, athletic events, and field trips).

The Board also understands that energy expenses affect every patron household – no one is immune to the increased cost of filling your tank and heating your home, as well as all the other expenditures associated with them. While many of our PCS families can afford the additional charges, others may find the surcharge to be overwhelming. In response to that need, **we are creating the PCS Energy Assistance Fund**. This fund will serve to provide aid to those who can not cover the surcharge.

Thank you for your support for PCS, as well as your prayers for the Board, the Administration, the faculty and staff. We are looking forward to a very special school year, and watching how God will continue to provide.

Blessings,

Patrick Fitzpatrick  
Head of School