



St. Joseph School

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Catholic Schools – Faith, Academics, Service

December 5, 2011

We need your assistance – On Tuesday, December 6, we need two volunteers to help with the MCT testing beginning at 8:00 AM. Please call the office, and let us know if you can lend a hand.

On December 14, we need two volunteers to assist with Scoliosis testing – we will let you know the time on that one. Again, please call the office and let Mrs. Winter know if you can help.

Family Prayer

“Lord Jesus Christ,

We give you thanks for your love for each of us during Advent and always.

May this season be a time of new beginnings
for our family as we begin a new church year.

Show our family how to live in hope
during this holy season of Advent.

Help us to share our thoughts, our joys
and our struggles with one another.

May we follow you always
as the light of our lives.

Guide our family during this season of Advent
and teach us to share your love with others.

Help us to be people of compassion
who look beyond our own family
to make a difference in the lives of others
through our words and actions.

We ask our blessing on our family
this day and through all the Advent season.

As we journey together toward Bethlehem,
May we walk in faith, hope and love.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Amen.

Thank You

To Bert Mulchaey, who graciously picked up a Christmas tree for our lobby. It's full and beautiful, and the scent is deep and fragrant. The smell calls up happy thoughts of being five years old and wanting nothing more than a train with “smoke” or a new Barbie doll. We appreciate your help.

To our decorating wonder, Marie Shalz. We cannot thank her enough for the spectacular job of decorating the entrance area in the K-5 building with all kinds of “good cheer and holiday décor.” It was greatly appreciated!

To Diane Fay, who generously donated money to the “school,” and we were able to purchase 9 stereo computer speakers, 3 portable, battery powered sound systems with handheld microphones (to use in the classroom during student presentations), and 1 “Elmo.” The “Elmo” is known as the Teachers Tool, which allows for virtual and interactive presentations for students. It lets you show just about anything on a large screen through any LCD projector and monitor. We know the children and teachers will enjoy the new technology!

To Denise Marin, her faithful crew, and the Seventh and Eighth Grade volunteers who helped put on a wonderful BINGO evening. You might want to consider coming to the next one on February 11, which will be sponsored by Kindergarten, First and Second Grades. It’s a fun evening out. There are monetary prizes for winning a round of BINGO, and lots of raffle prizes to be won. ☺ The food is delicious, the company is friendly, and it’s just an entertaining time. All proceeds go back into the school for use with the children.

Box tops for Education

Box tops for Education are due by Friday, December 9.

Smile Train for Advent Almsgiving

This year, we are once again assisting Smile Train in their mission of providing a child born with a cleft the same opportunities in life as a child born without. Their organization provides “free cleft surgery to hundreds of thousands of poor children in developing countries. Clefts are a major problem in developing countries where there are so many children who are suffering with unrepaired clefts, be it lip or palate. Most cannot eat or speak properly. They aren’t allowed to attend school or hold a job, and they face very difficult lives shared filled with shame and isolation. Their clefts, usually, go untreated because they are poor – too poor to pay for a simple surgery that has been around for decades.” For \$250.00, we can provide a child with a life changing procedure.

This Advent season, we are selling Smile Train Smile Grams for \$1.00. Our Smile Grams are in the form of a postcard with a Smiley Face adored with a Santa’s Hat on the front. On the back, there is a place to write the recipient’s name, along with an area to write a holiday message to that special person. Now, this is not just for the children . . . the parents may get in on this merriment, too! A yummy candy cane will be attached to the Smile Gram before they are passed out to the children during the last week of school before Christmas vacation.

Smile Gram sales will take place this week and next as follows: Tuesday, from 7:30-7:45 AM in Mr. Barton’s Room * Wednesday through Friday, from 7:30-7:45 AM in Mrs. Brazil’s Room * Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 3:00-3:15 PM in Mrs. Albright’s Room, and Monday and Tuesday, from 7:30-7:45 AM in either Mrs. Albright’s Room or Mr. Barton’s Room. HELP US, HELP OTHERS. ☺

Reminder

Please Do Not pull up to the front gate to drop off or pick up your student(s). This is a safety issue for our children, as well as our adults who are waiting on the sidewalk to gather up those who are going home with them. We also still have parents/guardians who are double parking in the City Lot, and taking up spaces in the Post Office parking area. These spaces are going to be needed by those who are trying to mail packages and holiday greetings to their family and friends. You, certainly, can park down in the church lot or up on the hill, in a legal parking space in the City Lot, or on a close neighborhood street. There’s always the option of going through the drop off or pick up line, too. Thank you, in advance, for your help in this matter.

Leaving Early

Please alert the teacher(s) and Mrs. Winter, if your student(s) will be leaving early for the day. If you send an email to the teacher, please cc Mrs. Winter at lwinter@csdo.org

Lunches

A lot of lunches are being dropped off to the office on a regular basis . . . please work on packing your child’s lunch the night before, if necessary, or if they are old enough, they can certainly pack their own morning snack and afternoon lunch selections. It can become a disruption to the office personnel, who then need to deliver it to the appropriate grade level. Also, remember that “fast food” will need to be eaten in the office.

Play Practice

Please note the dates for play practice in the month of December: December 8 from 3:30 –4:30 PM
December 15 from 3:30 – 4:30 PM

They will either be held in the Middle School or the gym, depending on availability of the space.

Partners in Faith

Please note the highlights in this issue –

- * It's hard not to let the barrage of holiday selling and commercialism overtake your family Christmas celebration. Try the tips for focusing on the incredible love that marks the real reason for the Christmas Season. (see the main article on page 1)
- * Even seemingly secular Christmas traditions like the Christmas tree have glorious Christmas roots. Read about the history of the Christmas tree and St. Bonaventure in the main article on page 2.
- * One parent's embarrassment at her lack of knowledge about the ancient Catholic tradition turned into a wonderful new devotion for her family. Read it in the Parent Talk section of the newsletter.

Something You Might Be Interested In . . .

Crèche Making Activity

Saturday, December 10 - 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Seating limited. Join us for a wonderful social gathering with family and friends for an afternoon of learning how to make a crèche for your family. Co- sponsored by the Oakland Diocese Department of the Catholic Schools and Department of Catechesis and Evangelization. Please sign up on the Cathedral web site at www.ctlcathedral.org Look for Crèche Festival icon.

Calendar:

- 12/7 New Teacher In-service, all day
SCRIP orders due today by 3:00 PM
- 12/8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 9:00 AM Mass, "hosted" by the Seventh Grade class. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.
- 12/9 Principals' Meeting
- 12/10 Guadalupe activity from approx. 5:00 – 10:00 PM in the gym
- 12/11 PTG/Knights of Columbus "Breakfast with Santa." This is a fabulous way of ringing in the holiday spirit! Come join us for a delicious breakfast, pictures with Santa, and Christmas elves selling their holiday creations. For more information, see the flyer in several previous envelopes that have gone home.
- Third Sunday of Advent * The key words for today are JOY and REJOICE! They show up in most of the scripture texts for the day and will probably be found throughout the liturgy. Children (and many older worshippers) need to be reminded of the difference between joy and happiness. Happiness can be fleeting, e.g. having your favorite food for supper. Joy is deeper, more important to you, and can't be taken away. Joy is knowing that your parents love you and will take care of you – always. Joy is knowing that you love your parents and will do all sorts of things to love them back. Joy is knowing that God is in charge of the world and is taking care of it – even when things are going all wrong at the moment.
- *** Don't forget, our Christmas Program is on Tuesday evening beginning at 6:45 PM. The children need to report to their teacher at 6:30 PM in the church. They are so excited to entertain you!

Holiday blessings,
Mrs. Marseille

Mission Statement: St. Joseph School is a Christ-centered community of life-long learners. Each child is valued and respected as a unique individual and as a member of God's family. St. Joseph School is committed to providing a well-rounded education for our students. We promote the Christian growth of each child as he/she develops spiritually, morally, intellectually, socially, culturally, and physically.

Fully accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

