



# Principally Speaking

JOYFUL CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO ALL

Vol. 2 No. 3

St. Mary Prep

December 15, 2009

## *We Look to Christmas*

*When Jesus was born, the compassion of God most truly broke into the world. Ever since that blessed event, the Light of Christ has illuminated the world's darkness with the power of divine love. Christmas celebrates this amazing presence. Let us look for Love and be Love this Christmas season. We remember that Emmanuel is God-with-us. This great love continues to light up the darkness of our world today through human vessels like ourselves. We contain an enormous potential for Christmas-ing one another. Let's do it together.*

### O Christmas Tree

This Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM, the students of St. Mary Prep will present their Christmas Pageant. We ask all of our parents to come and support them in their effort to bring you a little of that Christmas-ing as we move closer and closer to the Feast of the Birth of Christ. They have much to offer us and we are in real need of that kind of love for ourselves and for our world. **All of the Students from grades TK through 8 will be part of the performance.**

We ask that all of the students arrive at school no later than **7:00 PM**. They are to go directly to their classrooms. We ask that you then go to the auditorium to find a seat and await the opening curtain. Mrs. Warga has asked that I remind you to be sure that the children are all wearing **dark green turtle neck shirts**. Black pants or black skirts complete the attire. Dress shoes or school shoes, **NO SNEAKERS**. The children will be on stage for the entire performance which we estimate to be between 45 minutes and 1 hour. This is time that will be well spent as preparation for the joyful season before us. I hope to see all of you thereon Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### EARLY DISMISSAL

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> at 12:45 pm**, the students will be dismissed as the teachers have a very important Faculty Meeting. **There will be AFTER CARE from 12:45 until 6:00 pm.**

**On Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a 12:45pm dismissal** which will begin our Christmas Vacation. **THERE WILL BE NO AFTERCARE ON THIS DAY.**

When the students return on **Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**, **we will have a full day**. There may have been a misprint on the web site calendar but we have corrected it.

### READ ON

When you finished this page, please turn over, there is more on the back. **Thank you.**

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE

Over the past 3 ½ months we have had difficulty with obtaining all of our textbooks and workbooks. I know how frustrating that has been to you, to the teachers, and to myself. There were a number of reasons that this occurred, but I know that God is in charge and I trust Him implicitly to remedy all of the situations that are often out of our control. And He has done so. We have received confirmation for the last books that we ordered. I know that the teachers have worked hard to provide the copies needed for the daily work of the students and I thank the parents who have provided paper for these copies. The students are right on target in their classes. Due to the very early copyright dates, our book orders had to go to other vendors who would be able to procure the books for us; and because other books were out of print, we ordered new books with very recent copyright dates 2010 and 2011. This should never happen again. Our orders will be filled by July of 2010 and we will be ready to go for September 2010. Once again, I thank you for your patience and your understanding. God bless you as you continue to help us provide the best Catholic Education for your children.

### A ROUND OF WELL - DESERVED APPLAUSE

Our newly formed Beta Club has done a marvelous job in carrying-out Breakfast/Lunch with Santa. We have over 250 guests and the entire morning went like clock work. It was so well organized and the students really took over and worked with precision and accuracy as they served, answered questions, took care of the photo shoot and a hundred and one other duties that they performed as responsible adults. You should be most proud of them - - **WE ARE!** Miss Krista Kvist, their moderator really summed it up, when she said that she just supervised - they did all the work. **HIP, HIP, HURRAY for our Beta Club Members - Miss Kvist**

## CAR & VAN PICK UP

As mentioned in our last Principally Speaking, all of half-day dismissals will be at 12:45 PM and our pick-up will be by way of the back parking lot. If you pull in that way, there will be no congestion or tie-up because of our noon Mass or whatever else may occur. **This will be the procedure for all ½ day dismissals.** Our full day dismissals beginning **December 1, 2009 will be at 3:15 PM.** This dismissal pick up will be usual by way of the front entrance along the side of the building. Thank you for all of your cooperation and understanding patience throughout this whole procedure.

## ACCIDENTS WAITING TO HAPPEN

We have tried to make morning drop off and dismissal pick-up as safe as possible but we have some parents who do not follow the procedure. Morning drop off cannot be that you leave your car in the moving lane and walk your child into school. If you would like to do this, **you must park your car in the parking area and walk your child into the building.**

If you are in the lane to exit, you cannot wait there until you see your child enter the building. This causes people behind you to pull out to pass you which endangers students who are being let out of their cars to walk to the building. If an accident occurs, the liability will be great.

Secondly, dismissal pick-up is via the fire lane along side of the building. **THERE IS NO PICK-UP BY WAY OF THE PARENT ENTERING THE BUILDING AND WAITING FOR HIS OR HER CHILD. We have 2 parents who walk home and 2 older students who walk home on their own. THESE ARE THE ONLY 2 EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE. I am sorry if you do not want to wait in line but the rule is SAFETY FOR OUR CHILDREN FIRST. I have been in the cafeteria to monitor the accuracy and speed of our dismissal. The first students are called at 3:10 and by 3:35 the majority are gone and there are no cars in the fire lane. We have a few parents that come a little later and there is no waiting in line at that time.** Please help us keep your child safe and our dismissal orderly.

Thirdly, at 3:05-3:08 pm, the students pack their belongings and we have a closing prayer. It is difficult to ask the children to pray reverently, when the parents in the foyer are talking and laughing. May I ask you to respect the reverence of our prayer and if you are in the foyer buying Cash Cards or waiting to meet a teacher etc., please pray with us. Thank you for your kindness in helping us teach the children the importance of following directions.

Thank you for your understanding. We want the best for our children and only we can provide that best by our good example.

## TO BE or NOT TO BE UNIFORMS

Our dress code has been a uniform for both boys and girls. The uniform was clearly spelled out in calendar handbook for both boys and girls. Right now, anyone visiting the school has a hard time trying to figure out what the actual uniform is. We have students who are wearing blouses and shirts over their skirts or pants. Boys are not wearing ties and their shirts are not buttoned to the top button. They are wearing various colors of socks rather than the navy blue that is uniform. Jackets, sweaters, warm-up shirts of a variety of colors are being worn over the uniform. **This is not Uniform.**

The girls in the upper grades are wearing their skirts pulled up at the waist so as to leave 6 to 7 inches above the knee bare. **This, too, is not Uniform.** I am attaching a full description of the official uniform with this issue. **Please be sure that the students have the proper uniform when they leave the house.**

The **Lost & Found** is becoming a full time job. **PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOUR CHILD'S NAME IS IN EACH ARTICLE OF CLOTHING THAT HE OR SHE WEARS TO SCHOOL.** This means uniforms, sweaters, gym sweat shirts and sweat pants. I have spent hours trying to locate items that students have left around the school. I know that there is a more useful way to spend my time.

## WRITING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**CONGRATULATIONS AND KUDOS** to the students of Grades 5-6-7-8 and Ms. Kvist, their Language Arts Teacher. Ms. Kvist sent in 33f student entries from Grades 5-6-7-8 to the Creative Communication's Writing Contest. From the 33 entries, we received word that 20 of our students would be published. This award is given to schools whose students' entries to the Essay Contest were of exceptionally high merit. **GREAT JOB DONE AND AGAIN CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STUDENTS AND MS. KVIST FOR PUTTING ST. MARY PREP ON THE TOP OF THE ESSAY MAP.**

## SMP BINGO POT LUCK DINNER

Just a reminder - Our Pot Luck is **Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.** in SMP Gymnasium.

Come for an evening of fun, food and bingo.

Families with the last name:

A thru C - Bring a Beverage

D thru K - Bring a Snack or Appetizer

L thru R - Bring a Main Dish

S thru Z - Bring a Nut Free Dessert

Please RSVP to [missindi@aol.com](mailto:missindi@aol.com) with the number of adults and children attending by 1/8/2010. See you there.

