

A message from our Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Advent is a time for new *beginnings* as the Church actually begins its new year. Advent this year is a *new beginning* for all of us as we start the liturgical changes in our responses and prayers at the liturgy.

Advent reminds us of three new beginnings; the first two weeks of advent readings focus on the coming of Jesus at the end time, when "Christ will come again." A reminder to us to be *focused, watchful and not fearful*.

The last two weeks of Advent call our attention to the *first or historical* coming of Christ. These readings remind us that, "God is truly with us on our journey." This Advent might be a good time for us to be more attentive recognizing God's presence in our daily lives.

Have a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas season.

Our Daily Prayers

The Rosary

In addition to our daily morning prayers, upon returning from lunch, our students announce the mystery and pray a decade of the rosary. By the end of the week, they have completed the entire rosary and one set of mysteries.

Concluding Prayer

Every afternoon ends with our announcements, and a concluding prayer asking God to help us be more aware of God's love in our lives.

Parent –Teacher Report Card Conferences

Wednesday, December 7th teachers will meet with parents/guardians to distribute report cards and share a few words about your child(ren).

The meeting will take place in the gym, at assigned tables, in the afternoon from 3 to 5pm and again in the evening from 6:30 to 8pm.

Please let the teacher know whether you will be coming in the afternoon or evening.

When meeting with the teacher please be mindful of the parents waiting. If you feel a lengthy conference is needed use the time to plan a mutually convenient day and time.

The Art, Computer, Library, Music Phys Ed, and Spanish teachers along with Sr. Antoinette and Sr. Jane will also be available for your visit.

What's Happening

Early Dismissal Days

Students are dismissed at
12:30pm after lunch
Friday, December 2nd
Friday, December 23rd
Each day is a TAG DAY.

Santa Sale

Will take place on Wednesday,
December 7th at the GSA Gym
between 8:30am and 2:30pm.

Santa Luncheon

Sunday, December 11th at the
GSA gym. Purchase your tickets
in advance for a great opportunity
to have lunch and a fun
time with Santa.

2nd Graders

First Confession will take place
on Monday, December 12th at
1:30 p.m. at Holy Family
Church

Christmas Program

Mark your calendars for our
Yearly Christmas Show.
Thursday, December 15th at
7pm in the HF Church.

Congratulations to:

Luciano Family on the birth of
their son.
Tan Family on the birth of their
daughter.

HSA Meeting News

- Anti-Bullying program - was concluded this month for all grades. During our meeting the 2nd graders, Nicholas Houck, Makayla Kenny, and Stella-marie Halpin presented a role play illustrating those involved in a bullying incident: the victim, the bully, and the bystander superhero, or the bystander statue. Giovanna Mangrella and Antonio Amaral from the 6th grade explained topics such as "I messages", Passive, aggressive and assertive behavior, and cyber bullying. Both felt that now they would feel more confident if in a bullying situation.
- Teaching touching safety - program will start in January as part of the Family Life Program.
- Tardiness - Please recall that the first bell rings at 8:10am so children may come into the building. The late bell rings at 8:20am; at which time if your child is not in the building, he/she must come in through the main entrance on Brookline Avenue and will be given a late pass.
- New Phone System - is in place and now includes 3-digit extensions. Main office is #100, extended care #105 and nurse's office #106.
- Reporting Student Absence - please report all student absences to the Nurse's office, extension 106. The secretary will review messages and notify the teacher regarding make-up work.
- Santa Sale - will take place on Wednesday, December 7th between 8:30 am and 2:30pm. Participating parents please remember to also attend the event set up on Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00pm in the gym.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Along with the Santa Sale and Santa Luncheon the students will also participate in the Annual Christmas Program on Thursday, December 15th at 7pm in the CHURCH. We look forward to this event as it provides our students the opportunity to share the joys and spiritual meaning of Christmas, Christ's birthday.

The third through eighth graders will celebrate the sacrament of penance on Monday, December 19th at 1:30pm in the academy.

The teachers and students will gather on Tuesday, December 20th at 8:45am for an Advent Liturgy. Parents/Guardians are always welcome to join us in prayer.

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni and alumni parents have been meeting to prepare an Alumni Newsletter for publication in January. All information about Alumni is welcome. If you know the address of an alumni please send it to the office.

THE CATHOLIC CHALLENGE

Once again our 7th and 8th graders will participate in the annual Archdiocesan Catholic Challenge in March. Let's pray for the students as they prepare.

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION.
KEEP THEM COMING!**

MARKETING NEWS

GSA's latest Marketing Meeting took place on Tuesday, November 21st. Among other topics, they focused on the upcoming Santa's Luncheon, Sunday, December 11 and GSA Open House to take place Sunday, January 29th.

GSA PRIDE!

Thanksgiving Prayer Service

Thank you to all our students and teachers for a beautiful Thanksgiving Prayer Service which took place on Wednesday, November 23rd at the GSA gym. Besides the prayers of thanks we also provided ten boxes of food for needy people this Thanksgiving.

Thank you for your generosity.

Multicultural Event

Was a success! Thank you for all those who attended and a special thanks to the parents who participated, brought in delicious food and provided an excellent opportunity for great quality time among GSA parents and friends.

GSA's Book Fair

GSA's Fall Book Fair was a success. Thank you to everyone who attended and for your purchases. A special thanks to our volunteers and helpers.

CONGRATULATIONS

Madison Dalton qualified for Irish Dancing World Championships during Thanksgiving weekend. This event will be in Belfast, Ireland in April 2012.

We are proud of you, Madison.