



News & Notes

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December 16, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

December's value of Responsibility is being taught in a variety of different ways. Our Pre-school and kindergarteners are earning cotton balls for their Santa beards each time they display one of the values. In Social Studies the 6th graders wrote a message about responsibility that has been translated into Egyptian hieroglyphics from an online hieroglyphic translations site. They are displayed in the school hallway. We welcome you to take a look at them all next time you are in the building!

Our fourth graders have had several guest speakers in their classrooms this past week. On Tuesday, December 8th, Msgr. John Dietzenbach came to visit with both classes. The 4th grade students are prayer partners for Msgr. John and they wanted to get to know him better and find out what types of prayers a priest may need. They are very thankful that he could join them in class. They learned many things about him that they did not know. He spent 40 minutes with each class and the students look forward to having him become more active in 4th grade events.

On Thursday December 10th, Mr. Jansto visited both 4th grades during their Science classes. He shared his collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils with both classes. It was great to have a geologist parent who was able to share his excitement and knowledge for "Earth Science" with our students.

We want to thank the Hoff family for once again hosting last week's Holiday Open House Tour. Their home was decorated beautifully for the Christmas season, indoors and out. This year the evening tour featured how-to tips as well as wine and refreshments. We would like to thank Kelsey's Restaurant (the McManus family) and Putting on the Ritz Caterers for the donations of the delicious appetizers, finger foods and desserts! We appreciate all who came out to support this wonderful event! As you get out your calendar for the 2010 year make sure to hold December 8th for next year's Holiday Open House. Please plan on attending. It is a wonderful gift for yourself and a real treat for your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers that will surely get everyone into the spirit of Christmas.

Thanks also to Lauren Lacey for organizing the Walk through the Symphony of Lights last Thursday. We had 185 people participate in the walk and Howard County General Hospital commented that it was such a nice group of families and children and that they look forward to having us back next year. Everyone who turned out for this event had a fantastic time as we walked the grounds surrounded by the beautiful lights and moving displays. It was great to raise money for Howard County Hospital after all the financial support they have given us over the years!

Fr. Mike is looking for volunteers to help prepare the Church to welcome the Christ Child at Christmas. There will be a cleaning party in the Church of the Resurrection this Saturday, December 19th at 9:30am. The whole family is invited to come up and help. He is looking for extra vacuums and extension cords to make the job go faster. Remember more hands make for lighter (and faster) work. What a great service opportunity for the whole family! If you would rather decorate then clean please join him on Wednesday, December 23rd following the 9:00 mass. Thank you for considering this.

Our annual Reindeer race will take place on Monday, December 21st at 10:45am in the gym. We appreciate the money that has been sent in to be donated to the Oblate Sisters building fund. This race is always a favorite activity of our students. Students will be allowed to come out of uniform and are encouraged to wear red and green and may also add any elf or reindeer accessories that they may have on hand. Pre-K will have their Christmas party in the morning before the race and grades K-8 will celebrate with their parties in the afternoon after lunch. There will be free pizza for all students who filled out the order form.

On Tuesday, December 22nd, students will gather for our traditional Christmas program. We will begin at 11:00am in the Church. All are invited to join us. There will be no PE classes that day so **GRADE 1-8 STUDENTS SHOULD BE IN REGULAR WINTER UNIFORM.** Preschool and Kindergarten will be coming to school in their Christmas dress clothes. The program is expected to last approximately 1 hour. At the conclusion of the program, students will be asked to return to their classrooms with their teachers. All students will be dismissed from school at 12:30pm. **PLEASE DO NOT** ask to take your child out of school earlier than that on that day. While we know everyone is excited at the anticipation of the holiday, we are continually reminding the students that we are still in the season of Advent and want to keep things as quiet, calm, and routine as possible for the children. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this. **Just a reminder that dismissal that day is at 12:30pm with no Educare and no bus service home.**

As part of their commitment to service, and in keeping with recycling, the Environmental Club is participating in the St. Jude's Ranch Recycling Program. Our participation in the program requires that you simply send into school your family's used Christmas (or any other holiday) cards after we return from the Christmas break. The Environmental Club will collect the cards and send them to St. Jude's Ranch where they will be reused to create income for the Ranch. For more information you can visit their website at: http://www.stjudesranch.org/help_card.php Thanks!

Parents, over this Christmas vacation, I ask that you please take a second and look at your child's uniform and familiarize yourself with the Dress Policy found in our handbook on pages 15-18. We are seeing an increasing number of short skirts (need to be no more than 2" above the knee), students in need of haircuts, incorrect hair accessories, students wearing incorrect shoes and no belts. Please make sure your child is in compliance upon return in January. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

After the first of the year, Kindergarten students will dismiss with the regular school down by the link. Pre-school will continue to dismiss at 3:30pm up by the playground.

Coming home today:

- Letter for all 8th grade boys about Mt. St. Joseph Speech Competition
- Knights of Columbus Basketball competition for students in grades 4-8

Upcoming Dates:

- Monday, December 21st - Reindeer Race at 10:45am, free pizza lunch, and Christmas Parties in the afternoon.
- Tuesday, December 22nd- 11:00am Christmas Program- Pre-K- Grade 8
12:30pm Dismissal. No bus service home. No Educare after school
- January 4, 2010- Return to school from Christmas Vacation

In your prayers this week, please remember all those who are seriously ill and in need of God's healing presence, especially, Brother James Kelly, President of Mt. St. Joseph High School; Tom Herbert, brother in law of Valerie and uncle of Graham Bateman; Addison Dewey, step-father of Mrs. Patton; Annette Garib, grandmother of Sarah and Meghan Hudson; Ben Price, nephew of Mrs. Mansfield and cousin of Jack and Mark Mansfield; Delma Ramsay, grandmother of Bella and Alena Nosel; Mrs. Lynsey Mullenhloz's cousin, Cheyne; Eileen Ballenger, my mother; Mary Murphy, mother of Mrs. Clar; and Mrs. Gaye Euler. May God bless them all with His healing presence.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Resurrection- St. Paul School, we wish you all a blessed Merry Christmas and pray that celebrating the birth of the Christ Child brings an epiphany to all!

Peace,

Karen Murphy
Principal