

NATIVITY OF MARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011



From the Principal's Desk:

Nativity of Mary School

Founded in Faith
United in Family
Joined in Service
Enriched in Wisdom
Celebrated in Success
Values for Life

Advent is a wonderful time to celebrate Jesus the Son of God entering into our lives and our world. As we begin this important liturgical season we are centered on preparing for the coming of Christ. In this season of Advent, let us remember to prepare spiritually through acts of kindness, charity and service to others. May the blessings of the season fill our days. As we gather with friends and loved ones may God's peace and love reside in our hearts.

REFLECTION FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



*O Wisdom,
Come to teach me the way of truth.
O Lord of Israel,
Come to redeem me with an outstretched arm.
O Root of Jesse,
Come to bring me new life; do not delay.
O Key of David,
Come to open my prison doors and set me free.
O Radiant Dawn,
Come to bring light to the darkness in my life.
O King of all Nations,
Come to save me and give me peace.
O God-With-Us,
Stay with me and send me forth in your name.
Amen.*

Values for December

Fairness is treating each other justly. With fairness we meet everyone's needs. We listen to views of others with openness and expect to be heard with equal respect. We don't focus on who is right but on what is right for all concerned.

Patience is quiet hope and faith. We recognize the lessons that come through waiting, and receive them as gifts unfolding with Divine timing. It calls us to be still in the moment to be restful and to listen deeply. Patience soothes our souls.



Important Dates Reminder

Thursday, December 1st: Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, December 2nd: No School-Professional Development Day

Tuesday, December 6th: Catholic Charities Dress Down Day-cost \$1.00

Thursday, December 8th:

- Immaculate Conception-School Mass 9:00am
- Pre K (3 year old) & School Picture Retakes
- Christmas Concert 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 21st: Early Dismissal 11:00am (all students)

Thursday, December 22nd-Monday, January 2nd
-No School-Christmas Recess

Tuesday, January 3rd:

- School Resumes
- Catholic Charities Dress Down Day-cost \$1.00



Christmas Concert



Our annual Christmas Concert will be presented on Thursday, December 8th at 7:00pm in the school gym.

Dress Code:

Band Members, Girls Choir and 6th, 7th & 8th:

- Boys: black pants, white shirt, tie (any color)
- Girls: black pants or skirt, white shirt (sweater, blouse, etc)

All other students are to dress-up in Christmas attire and colors (red, white & green).



Ice Cream Social

The 8th grade class will be sponsoring an Ice Cream Social after the Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 8th. Ice cream novelties will be available to purchase from \$1.00-\$3.00 each.

Immaculate Conception

The feast of the Immaculate Conception is Thursday, December 8th-we will be attending 9:00am Mass. We will not attend Mass on that Friday.



Peaceprints Advent Project

Evelyn Brady and her team from the Center for Non-Violence will lead our 7th and 8th graders in five days of presentations and activities from Monday, December 12th to Friday, December 16th. Several days before the project begins the students will view a DVD on Sister Karen and her works.

The Peaceprints Student Schedule is as follows:

Day 1—Personal introduction of Sister Karen and her mission

Day 2-3-4—Reading and writing reflections on forgiveness/non-violence

Day 5—Alternative to violence activity day.

Parent Conferences

Parent Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, December 1st

Grades 4-8: we ask that the students in grades 4-8 come with their parents to their conferences.

Child Care: the 8th grade class will offer child care from 8:00-11:30am that morning. A donation for this service to the class for their field trip is greatly appreciated.

Save the Date---Open House



Tell your family, neighbors and friends how great it is to attend Nativity of Mary School!

We will host an Open house on Sunday, January 29th from 10:30am-1:30pm.



St. Nicholas Day

We will celebrate St. Nicholas Day on Tuesday, December 6th. The kitchen staff will be making goody bags for all the students.



The Gala was a **TREMENDOUS** success! We are so pleased to announce that over \$60,000 was raised by the event! Thank you to the families who attended that evening. And a **GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to all of the committee members who worked so hard to put together such a wonderful event.



Drama Club

You are invited to participate in this year's new, fun, and exciting Drama Club!!

Who?

Anyone in Grades 6th - 8th

When & Where?

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm in the Library

Informational Meeting on Monday, December 12th

Regular meetings start Monday, January 9th

What will we be doing??

Skits • Play Writing • Monologues

• Drama Games • A Play

For more info ask Miss. Adams or Mrs. Bream

Congratulations to the December



Students of the Month



Kindergarten-Brett Erbacher

1st Grade-Amy Hamilton

2nd Grade-Luke Suchyna

3rd Grade-Claire Semko

4th Grade-Ashton Walter

5th Grade-Daniel Bergman

6th Grade-Grace Harvey

7th Grade-Nick Calabrese

8th Grade-Helen Gibson

Classroom Happenings

Chinese Teachers

学习

During the week of November 7th-10th, three teachers from China shared their talents with all the students from Pre-K-8th grade. They taught the students paper cutting, paper folding, and how to speak and write the Chinese language. They talked about their culture, the foods they eat, and what a school day is like in China. Chopsticks in grade 3 were the fork of the day.

These teachers were very impressed with both the teachers and the students. They loved the K and 1 music class, the 8th graders doing science experiments and the 6th graders building projects for social. They compared our children to others they have visited while they were here and said how quickly our students were able to pick up the language and how smart and happy the children were. This was a great experience for both our students and the Chinese teachers.

Art

Students in grades 4 - 8 will be participating in *WNY United Against Drug & Alcohol Abuse Inc. "Fly Above the Influence"* of drugs & alcohol by designing Wings for WiNny, the drug free Buffalo. WiNny will be unveiled at the First Night Buffalo press conference and will be on display at the Buffalo Convention Center on December 31st from 5pm - 10pm. WiNny will travel to schools and other locations throughout the year! All the details can be found on Mrs. R's teacher page.



2nd Grade

The 2nd grade class spent some time learning how to make apple sauce. Mrs. Gallo joined the class in the preparation of the treat for the class Thanksgiving feast.



Kindergarten Readiness

The K Readiness class is talking about Jesus and reading many stories about His birth, childhood and adulthood too! They also made a craft highlighting the four candles of the Advent wreath which will be a focus over the next four weeks of Advent. Each week the children will put a "flame" on their candles as we draw closer to Christmas.



4th Grade

The 4th grade class also made some delicious food to share-the class baked bread. Each student had a hand in making the bread. There were two teams and each person on the team had to measure one ingredient into the mixture. They needed to figure out what they needed to use to measure the ingredient (i.e., measuring spoons, measuring cup, etc.) The children also made butter. Mrs. Hudi had them pour whipping cream into a jar and they had to take turns shaking it until it turned to butter.

This was a great project to do for Thanksgiving, and it also incorporated math skills and life skills! We are most grateful to Mrs. Hudi for volunteering to help us and for bringing in all of the supplies!



6th Grade

The 6th grade Social Studies class concluded their study of ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Israel by enthusiastically constructing projects to reflect the culture and achievements of these civilizations.

Creativity, research and cooperation were demonstrated consistently by all the students. Congratulations on a job very well done!



Earth Science

The students in the Regents Earth Science class worked together to build and test a stream table.



**ON BEHALF OF THE FACULTY AND STAFF
AT NATIVITY OF MARY SCHOOL/PARISH,
WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH EACH OF YOU
A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**