



The Saints Go Marching On!

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

- DECEMBER 9
Advent Penance
Grades 3-8;
12:30 p.m.
- DECEMBER 15
Early Dismissal
12:35 p.m.
- DECEMBER 17
Christmas Pro-
gram 1:00 p.m.
- DECEMBER 18
Recycling
- DECEMBER 20-
JANUARY 2
**CHRISTMAS
VACATION**
- JANUARY 3
School Resumes
- JANUARY 15
Recycling
- JANUARY 19
Early Dismissal
12:35 p.m.
- JANUARY 21
End 2nd Quarter
Movie Night
- JANUARY 24
NO SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear Parents:

Technology: During the last three weeks, email has been sent and received without any issues. I appreciate all the assistance that Mr. Paulsen and Mr. Shackett gave to this undertaking.

Interactive Boards – The Middle School Classrooms will be experiencing technological advancement for the second semester. During the Christmas break, Mr. Buchman's and Mrs. Jarchow's classrooms will both have a mimeo board installed. The mimeo boards are a brand name and are both comparable to the Promethean Board in the Multi Purpose Classroom. The Diocese of Superior was contacted by a company who has a representative in the Eau Claire area who arranged for a discount package for any school which ordered by November 30th. There were three schools besides ours which took advantage of the discount. The capabilities of the board are the same as a Smart Board, which is a more universally recognized name for this type of learning tool. The purchase was made possible by two grants and one of the school's investment funds that is designated for Technology. Both teachers will have an in-service on how to use the boards so they may prepare lessons for January. There are four schools in the diocese which have interactive boards in every classroom so we are trying to make progress in that direction.

Christmas Festival – It took hours of preparation to prepare for this yearly tradition. Mrs. Christine Charbonneau, Mrs. Arlene Tenner, and Mrs. Sue Westphal planned, organized, and implemented the day with a high degree of energy and enthusiasm. I appreciate their efforts as well as those who helped with baking, monitoring games, selling tickets, and cleaning up. The Christmas Festival is a way to share fellowship between parishioners and school families and that was happening on Sunday.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**



Weather Conditions – As you walk into the building, please alert Mrs. Mitchell or me of icy side walk conditions. We will be happy to salt the sidewalks for you.

Staff Development Day – The teachers and I will be meeting at school on Monday, December 20th to plan curriculum goals for the second semester.

Donation – Last summer, our Superintendent, Mrs. Peggy Schoenfuss, was contacted by a foundation located in Wisconsin that wanted to donate money to all sixteen schools in our diocese. The foundation's purpose was to assist families in each school with tuition assistance. Each school was asked to write a letter stating the amount of money awarded to families in the present school year that wasn't covered by donations and then project what might be needed for the next school year. I'm delighted to let you know that St. Mary was awarded with a \$ 25,000 donation to cover this school year's assistance and part of next year's. The members of the foundation believe in faith based education and are excited to assist others in their journey as they chose Catholic education for their families. The foundation has asked to be anonymous and has received a heartfelt thank you from our business manager on behalf of our students, teachers, parents, and staff. It is a perfect gift for this time of year and one that may lift all of our spirits.

Advent Penance Service – Children in Grades 3-8 have an opportunity this week to participate in this Catholic tradition with Fr. Jim assisting them.

Advent Journey – The school and church staff are sharing an experience during the Advent Season. They are participating in weekly sessions that remind them of the traditional messages of Advent that were brought forth many generations ago by the leaders of the church.

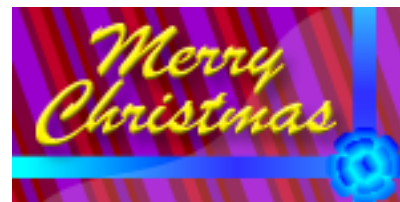
Communication – This is a very busy time of the year so I ask that you directly contact teachers about classroom issues and me about policy concerns.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

School Fundraiser and Parish Social Event

Thank you to all who participated in anyway to the Christmas Festival. It was a huge success and a lot of fun! The cookie platters were great!

Christine, Sue, and Arlene: Christmas Festival Co-Chairs



Scrip

New Retailers:

- *Brady's Brewhouse in \$25 denominations with a 10% profit to the school.*
- *Freedom Gas Station in \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations with a 5% profit to the school.*

This is the busiest time of year for Scrip. To ensure we have what you need to finish your Christmas shopping it is best to fill out an order form which went home in the family folder today. It includes many more retailers that can be ordered, but are not kept on hand.

Orders must be received by Dec. 13th to be available in the school office before Christmas break, and by Dec. 20th to be available in the church office Dec. 23rd.

Thank you for supporting the Scrip program!!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

WHEN: Friday, December 17, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: St. Mary's School Gym

For a special presentation at the Christmas Program the Music Teachers are asking that each family turn in a picture of a Christmas celebration from a past family get together. They are asking that all pictures be in by Wednesday, December 8th. You may send back your pictures in the family folder or email them. Pictures will be returned.

Bits & Pieces Doris Mitchell

We received a check from Good Search, which is the internet search engine we requested you try using as we receive a credit each time it is used by a registered participant. The check was for \$170.28. All school computers use it and we encourage you to do the same. The website is: GoodSearch.com. Shopping on-line can be done at GoodShop.com with stores donating a percentage and posting thousands of money saving coupons and free shipping deals!

We received a check from Nash Finch, parent Company of Family Fresh, for \$1000.00 for our first \$150,000 in cash register receipts. We are well on our way to collecting the next \$150,000 worth. Keep em coming!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Bryan Utecht in 5th Grade for winning the I Pod in the magazine drive drawing. Orders will still be accepted this week and on-line ordering can be done all year.

CONGRATULATIONS to Preschool - 3rd Grade for raising \$273.00 for Grace Place in their Moola for Milk campaign.

ANNOUNCING

Our annual Spring Performance will be held at the Old Gem Theater on April 29th with two performances at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Students are required to attend both performances.

**The Faculty and Staff of St. Mary's School
wish you a most Blessed Christmas and a
Joyous New Year!**

