



ST. GREGORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

The mission of St. Gregory Catholic School is to promote Christian values and pursue excellence in education within the school community.

December 9, 2009
 Volume VII, Issue 10

Mrs. Maureen Fyan/Principal
 Mr. Greg Cipriano/Assistant Principal



The Principal's Desktop:

Dear Parents, Students,
 Friends, and Families,

This is our last newsletter of 2009. Why do we always have a hard time believing that the year has already come to an end? I hope that you find time for quiet, and time to think about the blessings we have all received during this past year. May your Advent be filled with the anticipation of the coming of Christ and may your Christmas be blessed with peace and love.

An Irish Blessing Just for You

The light of the Christmas star to you...
 The warmth of home and hearth to you...
 The cheer and good will of Friends to you...
 The hope of a childlike heart to you ...
 The joy of a thousand angels to you ...
 The love of the Son and God's peace to you.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed
 and Happy New Year to each of
 you,

Maureen Fyan



From the Assistant Principal

Dear Parents, STG is participating in the NFL's Play 60 program. This program encourages children to eat healthy and engage in



physical activity for at least 60 minutes everyday. If you would like more information on how you can support your children and help them stay healthy go to:
www.nflrush.com/play60/parents/



Osborn Rd. Closed! Don't get caught up in all the traffic. Remember that the Whitton Ave. gate is now open for drop off .

God Bless,
 Mr. Cipriano, M.Ed.

Thank You to Everyone in Our Community:
 With the loss of our friend and co-worker, Estela Navarro, the staff at St. Gregory's wishes to express their sincere gratitude for the condolences, expressions of support, and love that you have bestowed on all of us. We feel a great void, now that she is with Jesus, but your friendship and love reminds us of the uplifting community of which we all belong. Once again, St. Gregory Catholic Parish and School has displayed the characteristics and values of the teachings of Jesus Christ.
 Thank you!

Mrs. Fyan and Mr. Cipriano

Bucka Bucka Plus for the Navarro Family

On Friday, December 18th, St. Gregory Student Council will sponsor a Bucka Bucka Plus Jeans day to benefit the Navarro family. For \$1 or more, students will be allowed to



wear jeans. For an additional \$1 or more, they may wear a Christmas themed shirt. More information about appropriate attire will be sent home. As this is an outreach event, we title it "Bucka Bucka Plus" to encourage students and families to go above and beyond to help assist the Navarro family in their time of trial. What's the limit? There isn't one! Support the cause and get to wear Jeans, especially those ones with the deep pockets (Hint, hint).

Advent Pageant: Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 6:30pm in the church. Students are to be in their classrooms at 6:00pm. Students should wear their dressy Sunday clothes or school uniform. Please—no one is allowed to wear jeans!

Calling All Runners that Rock:

Those interested in participating in P.F. Chang's marathon or half marathon, are asked to come to an informational meeting on Thursday, December 10th at 3:30pm. The meeting will be in Mrs. Stephenson's classroom, Room 20.



It will only last a few minutes. If you are not able to attend the meeting please contact Mrs. Stephenson or Ms. Leesman.

GO TEAM St. Gregory!!

Educational Outfitters December Sale:

Our 10% off sale runs through the month of December and we invite you to shop in our store, via fax, phone or internet! Junior High Moms, is your daughter's skirt too short? This is a perfect time to purchase a skirt to last through the remainder of the year. This poor little girl has to wear one that's too long. Order one that's just the right size and have Santa Claus deliver it!



SG MOMs Club News:

Festive Advent & Christmas Pageant – Thursday, December 10, 2009, 6:30 pm in the church. Dessert, Beverages, Letters to Santa and Giving Tree will follow after the pageant in the cafeteria. We need volunteers for this great event. If you are interested in helping please



contact Rosanna Benites at 602-410-1392 (email at darodael@yahoo.com) or Christina Rivera at 623-628-4935 (email at mcrnuna@yahoo.com).

The money we have raised from our events will go to remodeling the girl's restrooms. We will begin getting estimates soon.

All MOMs are invited to the next general meeting on January 6, 2010 in Gordon Hall at 6:00 pm.

Osborn Road Construction

City of Phoenix Osborn Rd: Between 15th Ave to 18th Ave Storm Drain Project Newsletter. The project will begin on November 30th, 2009 and is estimated to be completed at the end of April 2010.

Please be advised beginning November 30th, 2009 to February 19th, 2010 Osborn Rd will be closed between 15th Ave to 19th Ave. Eastbound traffic on Osborn Rd. will be detoured onto 19th Ave.

One lane only will be provided for westbound traffic on Osborn Rd. between 15th Ave to 19th Ave.

Access will be maintained for residents and business on Osborn Rd. between 15th Ave. to 19th Ave.

*PLEASE NOTE:

Residents who live on Osborn Rd. between 15th Ave. to 19th Ave. will only be allowed to travel westbound when leaving their residence and will only be allowed to enter their residence from 15th Ave.

Businesses who work on Osborn Rd. between 15th Ave. to 19th Ave. will only be allowed to enter Osborn Rd from 15th Ave. and when leaving will only be allowed to travel westbound.

SCRIP

Remember to buy SCRIP for your holiday purchases! It's an easy way for you to help the school earn money and for you to receive a discount on your tuition. You can pick up an order form in the school office and see what is available. SCRIP is sold in the school office Monday- Friday during school hours and after 8am, 10am, and Noon Mass on



Sundays. SCRIP orders must be received and paid for by Monday at 8:00 am in order to be ready for pick-up on Friday of that week.

We are collecting Fresh & Easy receipts totaling \$20.00 or more in one purchase. Please deposit them in the box located by the front office.



MY COKE REWARDS:



We are now starting to collect Coke rewards for free school items. Please turn them into the front office (Attention: Ms. Coughlin)

BOX TOPS:

Please continue to collect Box Tops on any participating products. You may turn them in to the front office. (Attention Ms. Coughlin)

Capri sun:

Please save Capri sun pouches during lunch and also bring them from home. There is a box located on the stage in the cafeteria where you may put the pouches.

Nestle Water Bottle Labels

Please send Nestle Water Bottle labels to Rm. 5.



'Tis the Season....To Recycle

All those catalogs you get in the mail...(plus phone books, newspapers, school and office papers, magazines, paper back books, junk mail, cardboard *broken-down/ flattened*) Just bring them to the recycle bin at Saint Gregory Catholic School. Did you know that we are working hard to be environmentally friendly and that our recycle bin is there for the whole community to use at no cost? We actually earn money for the paper we collect. This is a way you can support us without having to reach your hand in your pocket! Thanks so much for recycling with us. We hope you will make it your New Year's Resolution to be diligent about recycling throughout the year.

News from the Classrooms



Pre-K B

Students in Mrs. Amerika and Ms. Sanchez' class are continuing to work hard on recognizing the letter Dd. We will also be introducing the letter Jj to our class next week. Students have done exceptionally well on name and birthday recognition and are ready to move on to address recognition.

Please save the date of December 10th, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. as we will have our annual Advent Pageant in the cafeteria. Students in Mrs. Amerika and Ms. Sanchez' class should wear white and boys should wear a white shirt and black slacks. Please have your child to their classroom by 6:00 p.m.

December 11th, we will be making gingerbread



houses with our 7th. grade buddies. We are in need of items such as: gum drops, graham crackers, frosting, chocolate chips, etc.

We hope you have started your Advent off well and wish you continued blessings throughout the Advent season.

Kindergarten 1 and 2

The Kindergarten classes have been busy with learning, Advent practice, and having fun too. We have only one more "Superkid" left to meet, in our reading program. When we return to school after Christmas break, we will become a part of their Superkids club adventures. In math, we are focusing on number sense, estimation, and counting by tens.

In religion, we are preparing our hearts for Jesus and learning the wonderful story of His birth. We will be having our own Las Posadas next Friday, December 18th, right after assembly. You are welcome to come by and join us for this special event.



We would like to wish all of our St. Gregory Catholic School family a blessed Advent season and a Merry Christmas!

News from 1A and 1B

First grade has begun to get ready for Christmas by studying about Advent and its meaning. We know that it is important to get our hearts ready for Jesus by sharing, helping, caring, and praying for each other.

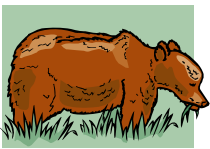
In math, we are still studying subtraction facts and trying to earn our sundaes in addition before Christmas break. Continue to practice subtraction and review addition facts.

We have finished our plant unit in science. We made applesauce and counted and graphed apple seeds before Thanksgiving. Our plants all sprouted and some plants have been taken home. We will begin our study of long vowels with long Aa next week.

We have added three extra spelling words to our weekly list. We now test on fifteen words. Good job first grade!!

News 2nd Grade

Congratulations second grade for celebrating their First Reconciliation last Thursday. We are working hard with our writing this week.



Students are practicing new skills to organize and strengthen their writing ability with activities centered around writing a bear report. In math,

we are exploring different types of graphs and how to collect and interpret information on a graph. In religion, students are deepening their understanding of the Advent Season and making it a daily routine to spread joy by praying, being kind, and doing small good deeds.

Don't forget, the Advent Pageant is this Thursday, 12/10/2009. The students have been working hard...you won't want to miss it! Please drop students off in our classroom at 6:00 pm. We will take them to church and you may also pick them up afterwards in our classroom.

Thank you everyone for all of your kindness and support

News from 3A

3rd Grade is beginning cursive writing this week and multiplication. The students are all very excited and are eager to get started. We are also celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass this Tuesday. Also, we are preparing all third graders who want to participate in the choir on Christmas Eve Mass, for this special celebration. Lastly, we will have our first event with the Free Spirits next week. We will sing Christmas Carols and enjoy some tasty treats with the Free Spirit members from our St. Gregory community.



News from 4A

Our days are filled with activity as we prepare for the Advent Pageant. We pray special prayers each Monday as we "light" a candle on our individual Advent wreaths.



We try to work to lower the mountains and fill the valleys in our hearts so that we will be ready for the coming of Jesus. "O come, O come Emmanuel."

News from 5th Grade

5th grade- We are very busy singing our carols and practicing lines for our community service project. This Saturday after the five o'clock Mass and Sunday after the ten and twelve o'clock Masses the fifth grade students will present a small, but powerful presentation of the birth of Jesus. Please join us for some coffee, apple juice, cookies and songs. I guarantee it will help you remember the true meaning of Christmas!



6th grade- We have been studying the ancient world of the Arabian peninsula. This, of course, was the birthplace of Muhammad. The students now are able to not only compare the history, lifestyles and geography of the Middle East countries but also the 3 major religions that were born in this area. Both classes are deep in the middle of a reading counts contest. This is just a contest between Mrs. Hunthausen's two literature classes. The class that finishes with the most points on Wednesday of next week earns a pizza party! Right now the sixth grade is leading by 24 points.

News from 6th Grade

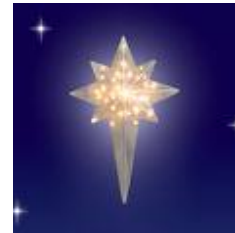
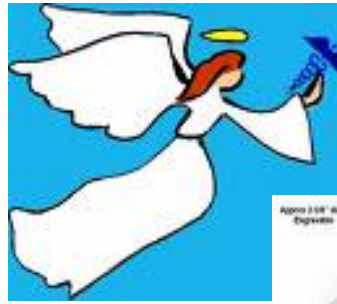
With the Holidays upon us, and Advent Pageant practice going on, we are busier than ever. In the midst of our joyful wait for the coming of Christ, we have also found time to explore number theory in 6th grade, and the students are learning valuable skills that will prepare them for the coming of fractions. 5th graders are discovering the Periodic Table of the elements. We are privileged here at St Gregory to learn about these things while giving proper credit to their designer, the Lord our God. From all of us upstairs, we wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a fabulous 2010.



Extended Care News

On December 4th, a dance recital was held at Phoenix College. Our very own Marisa Navarro performed two ballet dances. We are very proud of you Ms. Marisa.

Love,
Your Extended Care Family



Calendar of Events

12/9/09 H1N1 Student vaccination clinic
9:00 am to 2:00pm

School Board Meeting 6:00 pm

Parish Communal Penance 7:00pm

Picture Retakes

12/10/2009	Church @ 1:00PM	Matinee - Advent Pageant
12/10/2009	Church @ 6:30PM	Advent Pageant
12/10/2009	Cafeteria	Desserts after the Advent Pageant
12/15/2009		2nd QTR Reading Counts End
12/18/2009	3:00PM	End of 2nd QTR
12/18/2009		1pm Dismissal
12/18/2009		No Extended Day
12/19/2009		Christmas Break
1/4/2010		Start Reading Counts 3rd QTR
1/4/2010	7:50am	School Starts
1/6/2010	Church @ 8:00am	Feast day of Andre Bessette
1/9/2010	Bourgade, St. Mary's, Brophy, Xavier	High School Placement Tests
1/15/2010	Dismissal @ 1:00pm	No Extended Day
1/18/2010		No School - MLK Day



True Meaning of Christmas

Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor. This is how it happened. I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out next to the fireplace.

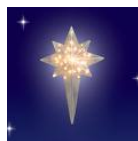
"What are you doing?" I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement "TEACH THE CHILDREN!"

I was puzzled. What did he mean? He anticipated my question and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, "Teach the children!"

Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten; "Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it before the mantle. "Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind, all the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven."



He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR. "Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise."



He then reached into his bag and pulled out a CANDLE. "Teach the children that the candle symbolizes, that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness."

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree. "Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection."



He then pulled from his bag an ORNAMENT of himself.

"Teach the children that I, Santa Claus, symbolize the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December."



He then brought out a HOLLY LEAF. "Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly berries represent the blood shed by Him."



Next he pulled from his bag a GIFT and said, "Teach the children that God so loved the world that he gave his begotten son." Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a CANDY CANE and hung it on the wall. "Teach the children that the candy cane represents the staff helps to lead the flock. The crook on the candy cane is the rother's keeper."



He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. "Teach the children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men."



Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a BELL. "Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring mankind to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return."

Santa looked back and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship him, our LORD, our GOD."



Merry Christmas from the staff at St. Gregory's