



# The Bemidji Catholic Community

## St. Philip's School

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December 20, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Christ is the reason for the season! Let us continue to keep Him in our hearts as we anxiously muddle through the hustle and bustle of the week before Christmas. And let us vow to know Him better in the year to come. Merry Christmas!

**JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM:** Our Advent prayer services this year have focused on Mary and her role in the story of Christmas. Empathy, Patience, Tolerance, and Reconciliation are the qualities we accentuated. Our last Advent prayer service will be this Thursday at 8:35 A.M.

**ADVENT PROJECTS:** Service to others and generosity of spirit were combined as classes filled Tubs of Love or collected toothbrushes and toothpaste. How heartwarming it is to see the students make the project their own – with the help of their families. Parents, thanks for your supportive example of giving to those less fortunate.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS:** Please celebrate the season by attending one of the performances of our annual Christmas Program this Wednesday (tomorrow), December 21, at either 1:30 or 6:30 P.M. The concert will feature our fifth through eighth grade bands and choirs. Following the concert will be the play "The Drowsy Shepherd" which includes numbers by all the grades, kindergarten through sixth. Before each performance, a few young musicians will perform.

For the evening performance, band and choir students need to be here by six o'clock, with band students reporting to the gym and choir students to the music room. Prelude musicians need to be in the church by 6:10. Other students should be in their classrooms by 6:15. Following the program, parents of kindergarten through second grade students must go to the classroom to pick up their children.

**CHRISTMAS VACATION:** Our last day of school for 2011 will be Thursday, December 22. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 4, 2012. May you enjoy the break.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:** Celebrate with us. Christmas Eve Masses are at 5:00 and 10:00 P.M. The one Christmas Day Mass is at 10:00 A.M. Christmas carols will precede each Mass.

**GEOGRAPHY BEE:** We've had the first two rounds of the National Geographic Geography Bee. Sixty-seven fourth through eighth graders qualified for the second round through a classroom test. Last Friday, the competitors were reduced to thirteen. These thirteen will compete in the final round on Friday, January 6, at 1:30 P.M. The winner will take a written test in the hopes of becoming one of the top one hundred contestants in the state of Minnesota. Good luck, Everyone!

**SKI DAY:** Believe it or not, we have scheduled our sixth through eighth grade ski day for Friday, January 13, 2012. One way or another there should be snow. Permission slips will be sent home in early January.

**52 CLUB RAFFLE TICKETS:** Have any on hand? There's not much time left to sell them. Remember, all ticket stubs and unsold tickets must be returned by January 9<sup>th</sup>. The first prize is awarded on Sunday, January 22, the beginning of our Catholic Schools Week.

**SOUND SYSTEM CREW:** I wish to acknowledge the four eighth graders who operate our portable sound system for us this school year. They are Sadie Defatte, Madison DeLaHunt, Brody Wilander, and Ethan Youso. I truly appreciate their efficiency for our Advent Prayer services. Thanks so much.

**MEAL ACCOUNTS:** Please keep your family's meal account up-to-date. This helps our program operate efficiently. Look for the January menu - it was sent home this week.

**PARENT ASSOCIATION:** I just can't say enough about the fabulous support our school receives through the efforts of our Parent Association. From covering expenses for various competitions, to handling the vendor program, showing appreciation to staff, and being a source of feedback for me, this organization is top notch. If you are interested in becoming involved with Parent Association, just attend our next meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2012, at 3:30 in the Kateri Room. Child care is provided. This year's officers are: Stacy Ness, chair; Rene Stai, co-chair; Becky Maki, treasurer; and Susan Gorski, secretary. Thanks, Ladies.

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT CERTIFICATION:** Please remember to keep your certification valid by annually completing the Acknowledgement and Consent form AND the component training. The diocese prefers that individuals use its secure online program to attain certification. Go to [www.crookston.org/safe\\_environment](http://www.crookston.org/safe_environment) and follow the prompts. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

**SERVANTS OF SHELTER:** St. Philip's will be hosting the community program SOS (Servants of Shelter) for homeless individuals over the Christmas break, December 26 – January 1. Volunteers are still needed to help. Call the parish office for specific times.

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:** hospitality for the Christmas programs; fund raising with the 52 Club or Spring Gala; Information Desk workers; Catholic Schools Week volunteers; help with PK lunches; ski day chaperones.

**YUM. YUM!** How we have enjoyed the delicious treats that have wandered into the school office. Thank you to all who have tantalized our taste buds and ruined our will power. It was well worth it! 'Tis the season!

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS.....**Kim Hoff; the Marcotte, Tryon, and McCormack families; those who are ill; returning servicemen and women; families separated during the holidays; those in need; world peace.

**85 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE:** St. Philip's School offered 9<sup>th</sup> grade for one school year, 1927-1928.

"The God of peace be with you all. Amen." Romans 15:33

Blessings on your Christmas and Peace in the New Year!

Carol Rettinger  
Principal

