



The Bemidji Catholic Community

St. Philip's School

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January 4, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Merry Christmas! Although December 25th has passed, we continue to celebrate the Christmas season through the Baptism of our Lord on January 9th. Our wishes for peace, joy, love, and hope don't have to end then. Let's strive to make them realities in this New Year. Happy 2012!

WHAT WONDERFUL GIFTS: On behalf of the entire school staff, I wish to again thank all of you who filled our holiday cravings with delicious snacks and presented us with wonderful gifts. Your baking talents and generosity are greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Our Christmas program was a tremendous way to emphasize the meaning of this holy season. Congratulations to our music teacher Mrs. Susan Baird, our staff, cast, and students for excellent performances.

MASS: Because of this short week, our school Mass will be on Friday, January 6, at 8:40 A.M. It's the first Friday of the month and of the year. Why not join us? Next week's Mass is back to Wednesday.

GEOGRAPHY BEE: Thirteen contestants remain in the Geography Bee. They are: 8th graders-Taylor Fankhanel, Sam Boyer, Nate Gubbels, Christopher Smith, and Ethan Youso; 7th graders-Michael Trudeau, and Christopher Wright; and 6th graders-Tim Youso, Abby Gorski, Katie Feil, John Chadwick, Haley Leisenheimer, and Josh Kern. They will all vie for the championship on Friday, January 6, at 1:30 P.M. in the church. Good luck, everyone!

SKI DAY: The sixth, seventh, and eighth graders get to experience and enjoy some of the winter activities of the Northland on Friday, January 13th when they will travel to Buena Vista to ski or snowboard. Permission slips were sent home with students today and need to be returned next week. This is a tremendous chance for those who have never skied before to try it, and for those who are experienced, to improve their style.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK is rapidly approaching. Our week will begin on Sunday, January 22 with students and families doing ministries at the 11:00 Mass. A pot luck will follow along with the announcement of the first winner of the 52 Club Raffle drawing for 2012. Individuals are needed to assist with the ministries. If you are able to volunteer members of your family to be readers, gift bearers, greeters, or Eucharistic Ministers, please contact the office and let us know. If you are in need of service hours, help with the pot luck.

THE NEXT DAY OFF is Monday, January 16th, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

CHILDREN'S ADORATION: With the new year comes another opportunity to bring your children to Christ. At 6:30 P.M. on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, Fr. Craig will offer a special program for children ages 5 – 10 to learn more about the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The first session is Monday, January 9th and the next one is on January 23rd. Please consider the opportunity.

52 CLUB RAFFLE: Have you sold all of your tickets? If so, please turn in all the stubs. If not, turn in the stubs and the remaining unsold tickets by the end of this week. We do have individuals who are looking to purchase tickets. Remember, all tickets must be accounted for, sold or unsold. Turn them in.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING: Students in grades 4 – 8 have the opportunity this month to train to become altar servers. Training sessions will be held at 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, January 22 and Wednesday, January 25. Students need only attend one session. Look for more information coming home in the near future.

SPELLING BEE: The first round of the annual Spelling Bee will be on Thursday, January 19th in the classroom. We will conduct an oral round during Catholic Schools Week and the finals in February.

THE END OF THE SECOND QUARTER: January 20th is the end of the second quarter and the end of the first semester. Report cards will be sent home with students on Wednesday, February 1st.

PARENT ASSOCIATION: If you are interested in getting involved with school activities, get involved with the Parent Association. The next meeting is Thursday, January 12th, at 3:30 P.M. in the Kateri Room. Child care is provided by Noah's Ark.

2012 IS A YEAR OF POLITICS, both for the state and the nation. The Minnesota Catholic Conference (MCC) is asking each Catholic school to identify one or two parents to serve as advocates for Catholic Schools with members of the state legislature and United States Congress. The MCC will provide the advocates with information and methods for influencing public officials. A Nonpublic Schools' Day at the Capitol is scheduled for February 29th. If you are interested in being an advocate for St. Philip's School, please let me know. Service Hours.....

85 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE: In April 1955, Lucille Rolland, a certified teacher and the priests' housekeeper, became the first lay teacher at St. Philip's School (and the first in the entire diocese) when she filled in for an ailing nun for six weeks. She was paid \$300.

"Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 2:1

With great expectations for the year to come,

Carol Rettinger
Principal