



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY-ST. CASIMIR SCHOOL

One God, One Faith, One School

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December 13-19, 2009

INTRODUCTION: 3rd Sunday of Advent: "The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty Savior; He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in His love, He will sing joyfully because of you." Zephaniah 3:17-18

THIS WEEK IN MORNING PRAYER

This week in Morning Prayer we have continued to talk about the many symbols that remind us of Jesus. As we are preparing for Jesus' birth, this is a great time for us to look at the symbols and think about how Jesus is so much a part of our lives. This week we talked about our hands. During Advent, let's use our hands and be creative for the gifts we give and cards we send. We talked about a heart. If we could only use one symbol to exemplify God's plan, a heart would be a good one; love is what it is all about. The angel is a beautiful symbol during Advent. God promises that his angels protect us and that they give us courage to be God's people in every situation. As you continue to decorate for Christmas, think about how the symbols should remind us of Jesus and better prepare ourselves for his birthday.

On Friday, last week, the snow was just exciting and fun. The temperature is much cooler and I am asking the students to come prepared to be outside for recess. If the students want to play in any area where there is snow, they will need to have boots, snowpants, coats, gloves, hat or a hood. If they do not have these items to play in the snow, then I am asking the children to stay in the parking lot area. Our Middle School students will need to have something for snow as well. I am asking the Middle School students to bring snowpants or sweatpants to put over their clothes so that when we come back in from sledding they will have dry clothes. I am also asking that they have a coat, boots, hat and gloves.

We really enjoy taking the students sledding during the winter. We are asking if anyone has any old sleds sitting around that they do not need or want, we will gladly take them here at school. If you are out and about and see sleds on sale and would like to purchase one for the school we will welcome them and have fun. Please be aware that we cannot have any runner sleds or snowboards for the safety of the students. We also welcome gloves and snow pants that children have outgrown. If you have these items and you are looking for a good home, we will gladly accept them.

St. Nick came, St. Nick came! The students were very excited to see their shoes filled last Friday. I wish you could have all heard the screams of excitement and seen the smiling faces. St. Nick, you are wonderful. Thanks for stopping by.

Everyone should have received their child's progress reports this last Friday. We hope you are finding this to be helpful. It feels like we just received report cards and I cannot believe that it is already time to send out progress reports for second marking period. This year is going to be here and gone before we know it and our children are going to be one year older.

I hope everyone has a nice weekend. Enjoy your children, they are a gift from God.

God bless all of you, Angela

CHECK THE WEB SITE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

LITURGIES: Wednesday: **All School Mass**, IHM: 9:00 with presentation of Christmas gifts. Please join us!
Advent Prayer Services: Tuesday, Elementary, 2:00; Thursday, M.S., 11:20. **M. S. Reconciliation**, Tuesday, 12:30.

SCHEDULE: Tuesday, Dec. 15: Gr. 5-8 Band Concert, St. Casimir Gym, 7:00. Dec. 16: **All School Mass, 9:00, IHM, all students dropped off at the elementary site for 7:45 arrival.** After mass we will present our Christmas gifts and the caseworkers of our recipients will tell us a little of their story. M.S. students will return to St.

Casimir following the presentation. Elementary Birthday Assembly, PFC, 1:30. Dec. 17: Tie One On Against Drugs: Wear a crazy tie. Dec. 18: ODC.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS: Dec. 12: Market Day Pick Up, IHM, East West Room, 10-11:00.

CONGRATS TO GEOGRAPHY BEE WINNERS: Geography Bees were held in the classrooms of grades 4-8 last week. Congratulations to the students who won in their classrooms: Gr. 4: Brian Stump & Cindy Wrzesinski. Gr. 5: Alana Toner and Alex Moss. 6 & 7: Miranda Maher, Jon Foy, Tino Laurich & Amanda Dershem. Gr. 8: Daniel Nguyen-Tran & Courtney Houghtaling. These students will compete against each other at the middle school in January to determine a school winner.

BOXTOPS NEWS: The results of the November competition are in. Top elementary class is: **Grade 2**. Top middle school class is: **Grade 7/8**. The winning classes will have pizza parties. Thank you to everybody for so many boxtops turned in. The school profit is \$519.70! Special thank you to Andie Creamer for all the clipping and counting!

FLOOR HOCKEY TOURNAMENT THANKS: Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the tournament held at St. Casimir Dec. 4-6. It was very profitable and will be a big help to the 7th and 8th grade classes as they continue to work to fund their trip to Washington, D.C. Great participation from the 7th and 8th grade families made it happen, but special thanks go to the above-and-beyond efforts of the Taylor, Houghtaling and Santos families and Scott Jager. Participants were asked to donate food and those generous gifts were offered at mass Wednesday to the St. Casimir St. Vincent De Paul workers.

JR. COUGAR VOLLEYBALL: Girls in grades 5-8 are eligible to participate in a wonderful volleyball program for area girls in Catholic schools or religious education. This is an educational league that gives girls the chance to learn and improve their skills at the same time they are having fun and playing volleyball. An informational flyer with all the details will be attached to the bulletin email this week. Questions can be directed to Marti Samsel, 525-1088.

CHRISTMAS SHOP WITHOUT GOING TO THE STORE: Need a unique gift idea? Purchase a high-quality, 1993 (YES, 1993!) Norman Rockwell hanging, appointment calendar! These calendars are perfectly functional in 2010 (leftover from a school fundraiser in 1993). The cost is just **\$2.00!** Give one to your friends, relatives or coworkers. Imagine the fun of hanging a 1993 calendar on January 1, 2010! Calendars are available in either school office. Buy one (or several) today! All proceeds to IHM-St. Casimir School.

MENTORS WANTED: Our mentors have begun to work with the students. Thank you to those who are sharing their time and talent for the students. If you would like to contribute some of your time to this program, please call the school, 882-6631. We would be happy to take your name to begin after the first of the year. What a wonderful New Year's resolution that would be: to encourage a child!

CANS AND BOTTLES: Grades 7 & 8 will happily return those pesky bottles and cans for you, as they work on funding their spring trip to Washington, D.C. There are convenient collection boxes at each site. If you have a large quantity to donate, call 719-7041 and we'll pick them up! Thank you for your support.

T.R.I.P: **Order dates before Christmas: Dec. 15.** Many bonuses as merchants vie for your Christmas shopping! Twenty five families ordered last week and earned credit toward their tuition! Join in on the savings!

SPIRITWEAR: Ordered items will be in before the Christmas break. After the break, watch for news about new items available for purchase: zip hoodies and long-sleeve tee's, among others.

GIRL SCOUT SERVICE: Cadette Girl Scout Troop 229 will be holding a pet food drive from December 7-18. All food collected will go to the Humane Society. The food drive is to help people keep their pets rather than take them to a shelter because they cannot afford to feed them. Help our troop to help the pets! Drop off donations outside the school offices in the designated boxes.

BOYS' BASKETBALL: 12/12: at St. Joseph (Pewamo), Gr. 8: 10:30. 12/13: at St. Joseph (St. Johns) Gr. 5: 1:00. 12/16: at home Gr. 6: 6:00, Gr. 8: 7:15. 12/19: at St. Martha's: Gr. 5: 9:30; Gr. 6: 10:45; at Resurrection Gr. 8: 12:00.

VIRTUS SESSION: There is a Virtus session scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 13 at St. Thomas Parish in East Lansing. Register online at the Diocese of Lansing web site.

H1N1 CLINICS: The Ingham County Health Department has several immunization clinics scheduled. For a complete schedule and consent forms check: hd.ingham.org.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS:

KINDERGARTEN: The Kindergarten Kids are having fun on our Advent journey. We were introduced to the letter Jj.

GRADE 1: We are looking for the signs and symbols of Advent!

GRADE 3: In Science we are now beginning to study the major types of joints in the skeletal system. We have just completed learning the names of some of the major bones and the function of our skeleton.

GRADE 8 MATH: Students are starting an intensive unit on linear functions.

GRADE 2: The second graders are writing another letter to their second grade penpals at Resurrection School. We hope that they will visit us in the spring.

GRADE 5: The 5th graders are working on a play, "Is It Really Christmas?" which they will perform at the assembly next week.

GRADE 4: We are learning to read and interpret all kinds of graphs including bar graphs, double bar graphs, circle graphs and line graphs.

GRADE 5 MATH: Students are learning to convert decimals to fractions and fractions to decimals, write equivalent fractions, and are learning about mixed numbers and improper fractions.

GRADE 7 RELIGION: Students have finished their unit on the study of the Gospels and are reviewing the life of St. Paul and reading portions of his letters.

GRADE 6 & 7 SOCIAL STUDIES: Students have begun a study on the continent of Africa - its political and physical geography now, and in the near future, its history and cultures.