

December 2008



Sacred Heart of Mary School

Volume 3, Issue 4

Upcoming Events: December 2007

December 9:

Market Day Pick-up
7-8pm

1st Reconciliation
7pm

December 10-17:

Candy Gram Sale

December 12:

Bake Sale (gr4 bakes)

December 16:

3rd Grade Field Trip
Reconciliation
Service

Band Concert 7pm

December 19:

Christmas Bazaar
and activities

Dismissal 11:45

December 22-Jan

2:

School Closed

December 24:

Christmas Eve Parish
mass (children's
choir and readers)
4pm

December 25:

A very Merry Christmas to
you!!

January 5:

School reopens!

O Come Emmanuel!

ADVENT 2007

Advent,
while
comes
from the
Latin word
for



“arrival” or “coming.” is a period
of preparation for the birth of our
Lord. Advent begins four Sundays
(November 30, 2008) before
Christmas. The first Sunday of
Advent also marks the beginning
of the liturgical year.

Advent is a time of joyous
anticipation, but also of penance
and preparation for the great
Christmas feast.

During Advent, we set time aside
to prepare our minds, hearts and
homes to anticipate his coming.
We look for specific ways to get
ready to welcome the gift of the
Christ Child's love into our homes
and world. Prayer, activities,
family, discussion, reaching out to
others – there are numerous ways
to open ourselves to Christ's love
and to share his love with others.
A few suggested ways to
celebrate Advent:

· Advent Wreath – mark the
passage of time

· Family Discussion and
Tradition – focus on the true
meaning of Christmas

· Christmas Cards – share
cards with family and say a prayer
for the person who has
remembered your family.

· Service to Others – do
something good for others
~Adapted from Our Sunday Visitor

As a school we participate in
this great feast of waiting by taking
turns lighting our school Advent
wreath and participating in special
seasonal prayers. This year we
have also begun a new tradition of
singing Emmanuel each morning
over the PA. We welcomed Advent
with the blessing of our “new”
Advent wreath. We are blessed to
have such a nice wreath for our
school lobby.

This season is also a time of
great fun and joy! Later this month
we will be visited by Santa himself
who will help spread the great
news of Jesus' birth to our
youngest students.

For many of us this is also
season where all too often we get
too caught up in shopping and
preparing our homes for the
holiday! It is our challenge to
remember the reason for this
important season while running
about our holiday errands! Try to
build in a family activity that brings
everyone out of their holiday
craziness!

Have a great month,

Ms. Walters

Winter Weather:

Mother Nature has begun her attack of wonderful winter snow! Please remember that Sacred Heart of Mary School follows both

Baltimore City and Baltimore County School systems.



Our policy is to follow the "worst case scenario." Please keep an eye on weather announcements during winter weather. We will make phone calls and email contacts whenever possible, but the best place to receive news about closings or delays is directly from wbal TV. You may even wish to sign up for email alerts from wbal tv's website, www.wbaltv.com. Thank you for your help with this important matter.

STAND/Volunteer Training:

All adults who have contact with children while serving in any capacity (including volunteering) must complete volunteer training. This training consists of several small parts that must be completed before a person may volunteer in any way, including field trips, and serving as a lunch helper. We will be hosting a STAND meeting to see the video, learn more about child protection practices, and an opportunity to complete

paperwork at SHM as needed. If you are in need of a training date, please contact Ms. Teresa Semonick at the rectory (410-633-2828) and we will try to accommodate this request. This process has to be completed only once and is good for 5 years and is transferable to any other Archdiocesan school or parish. Additional dates are available at other locations. Check www.archbalt.org and click on Child and Youth Protection for additional sessions.

Arrival/ Dismissal:

In a continued attempt to keep our students safe, please remember to follow our policies. Please remember to abide the traffic flow patterns in the morning AND afternoon and to pass these policies along to anyone who you charge with to pick up your child/ren. Students should NEVER be dropped off in the middle of Duluth or Youngstown, not only is it extremely dangerous, but it also causes a traffic backup!



Additionally, please remember that it is cold outside in the afternoon for our faculty members on duty and help us move the parking lot as quickly as possible by being ready in your cars as soon as the students are dismissed. This

helps everyone get where they are going even sooner!

Tardy Students:

Students are expected to arrive by 7:50am each day. When students are late not only do they miss morning prayers, announcements, and opening drills, but being late means they come in after students have settled and unpacked.



Please make every effort to have all students here on time and ready to learn!

We understand that from time to time traffic, sick kids, or even a broken alarm clock make you come late to school, please know that we understand and these types of mishaps happen to everyone, but we are worried about the students that are regularly late.

Service Projects:

We are blessed to have so many giving members of our school family! Please keep our pajama drive and mitten tree giving projects in mind as you shop this Christmas season! We will continue to collect both until Christmas

break and look to fill our tree with hats,

gloves, scarves, and of course mittens. All donations will be kept within the greater Dundalk



area and will go to families in need. Please help us give hope and a little warmth this Christmas season!

Do you have an idea for an upcoming service project? Or know an organization that could benefit from our generosity? If so please email Ms. Walters with the information.

Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year:

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Linda Remsky, our 4th grade teacher was awarded Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year for the Dundalk Wal-Mart store. This award is given annually to one teacher in the entire Dundalk area, including all public, private, and secondary schools! The award itself is wonderful but the



prize that comes with it is even better! Mrs. Remsky was awarded

a \$100 gift card and the school was awarded at \$1000 grant check to be spent on a special school item. The faculty will work together to determine the best use of this grant! Congratulations Mrs. Remsky!!

Advent Wreath Lighting:

We are looking for families to help us light the Advent wreath at the weekend masses. Please see the sign-up sheet in the back of church to sign up for this special task.

Middle School Exams:

Middle School Mid-term exams will be on Thursday 1/15 and Friday 1/16. The schedule will consist of two exams each morning and students will dismiss at 11:45. Study sheets will be sent home a week prior to the exams. Students will be given information about these exams prior to Christmas break.

Reconciliation:

On Tuesday, December 9th, many of our 2nd graders will be receiving their 1st Reconciliation. Please congratulate these young students in receiving one of the greatest gifts of our faith.

On Tuesday, December 16th, we will have a Reconciliation prayer service followed by an opportunity for all students to receive the sacrament. We will welcome back Fr. Breslin to our school to help us by assisting Fr. George.



SHM Parish Youth News:

From Ms. Noel Fell, Youth Coordinator

Outdoor soccer was a great success. A special thank you goes all of coaches and parents who made the season so successful! A special congratulations goes to the girls U-10 who earned a 1st place trophy! Look out for announcements about the progress of our indoor season!

We will be having a Children's Christmas Eve Mass at 4pm. Choir practices have been very exciting and we are looking forward to a great event. The choir members are working hard at practice each week. Please remember to come dressed to impress (no jeans) at 3:15pm. On Christmas Eve.



On Sunday, December 21st families are encouraged to join the SHM parish Christmas caroling at 7pm. The group travels around the neighborhood. Please meet in the Msgr. Parks Hall. If students are in need of service hours they can help Ms. Maureen set up and clean-up beginning at 6:30pm. Please remember that you must be STAND trained to participate!

The fun-bowlers Christmas party will be December 12th during regular bowling!

If you have any additional ideas for future youth events, please let me know! I am looking forward to working with all of you!

Have a GREAT day!

~Ms. Noel Fell

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nfell@shmparish.org

Student Council News:

The Student Council will be selling Candy-Grams for \$.50 starting Wednesday, December 10th. A candy-gram is a candy cane with a message attached. (Sort of like a telegram) The students can send them to other classmates or friends in other classes. (Or even teachers and staff members if they'd like!) They order the "gram" in the morning and we deliver them in the afternoon.



The annual Puppet Show for grades pre-k to grade 2 will be during the week of December 15th. The Student Council members write the play, put on the show, and provide cookies for each grade.

From the Health Suite:

Please remember that SHM School has a policy that students must be free from vomiting or diarrhea, or fever for twenty- four hours (without the help of medication) before returning to school. Thank



you for your help in keeping our school healthy!

Home & School News:

Thank you to everyone who spent some time and completed the survey sent home this past month. This information will be used to help plan upcoming meetings. It is our hope to have speakers at future meetings that can help inform parents about various issues. Many parents asked for information about internet safety, homework tips, drug and alcohol use, and discipline. If you have a suggestion, please email Ms. Walters.

Minutes from our November meeting were sent home, please email Ms. Holly if you need an additional copy.

We are actively recruiting volunteers to run for HSA officers for the 2009-2010 school year, please let Ms. Walters know if you are interested or if you know of someone who would be "perfect" for the job!

Our next meeting is Monday, January 12th at 7pm. Please plan on joining us!

Pizza Hut Night:

A special thank you to everyone who participated in our Pizza Hut Fundraiser night. With our great sales, we were able to get into the 20% tier and received a check for \$254.81. A very special thank you goes to Ms.



Jeanette Hussain for her efforts in planning this event!

Lottery Tickets:

Tickets are still available and will be sold until December 17th. Please send in your request for tickets to the school office as well as money and ticket stubs. Lottery ticket stubs not returned before Christmas break will be invalid and not count towards the HSA assessment.