

Principal's Corner

How do we go from a day of Thanksgiving to a day of Black Friday deals? My family gathered together and had a delightful Thanksgiving day. I'm sure we are not alone in people asking each other for their Christmas lists in order to make it easier for moms, dads, and grandparents to shop. As we were sitting around discussing the latest and greatest item for this year, I noticed my great niece looking through the newspaper ads. (She had to make sure she gave her grandma her list.) I was once again struck that my niece really didn't have a Christmas list. She simply went through the ads and wrote down things she liked. It seemed to be more of a "What can I want list." I found this sad.

So many of our children (my nieces and nephews included) have so many "things" When did Christmas lists become a matter of "What can I want?". Not what do I want—but what can I want—meaning I have so many toys/electronics that there really isn't anything I want. Year after year I watch my nieces and nephews opening present after present. It seems when children are given so much they don't truly appreciate what they are given. I wonder what children would think if they received only one present for Christmas. Would they be appreciative, angry, disappointed...

How do we teach children to be appreciative? Perhaps if we limited the amount they are given, an appreciation for what they have would begin to develop. This won't happen overnight for we have created a culture of more is better. Can we make this Christmas a time when we help our children learn to appreciate what they have been given to help them work through their disappointment for not getting everything on their lists. As difficult as this may be, can we make this Christmas a stepping stone into helping our children learn the importance of appreciating what they have and looking at not "What can I want" but rather, "What can I give? Ultimately we hope our children see that the real "gift" of Christmas is Jesus.

REMINDERS

Tomorrow, Friday: 8:15 a.m. Grade six chapel mass.

Saturday, Dec. 5: Our school choir sings at Lemont Hometown Holidays at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 8: 8:15 a.m. all school liturgy-Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Wednesday, Dec. 9: BSJ meeting at 6:30 p.m.

As many of you are aware, at Christmas time we ask families to give to those in need. Each class was given a family for which they would purchase gifts/items that the family needs. This tradition began as one in which we tried to provide an experience that allowed the children to be part of gift giving for families. However, over the past few years in many ways it has become a matter in which collections are taken and parents go out to purchase items for the family. The children wrapped the items in class. The tradition seems to have lost some of its meaning.

This year the FSA and staff decided they would ask parents to participate in their parish giving trees—the parishes and school working together to provide for those far less fortunate.

With all that being said, we would like to brighten the Christmas of a few of our school families. If you would like to help us provide for these families, please send donations in an envelope to the school office. Please label the envelope *Christmas Spirit*.

Thank you for reaching out to our Celtic families.





SHOP Corner

Just two more orders until Christmas break! Please take advantage of this convenient way to Christmas shop and work towards reaching your fundraising goal! Remember you can use the Manna eScript option anytime, even on weekends and during break, as long as you have completed the MannaPay verification process, if necessary. **The last SHOP order for December will be placed on December 15.** Please keep in mind that **all orders and payments MUST be in on Mondays rather than Tuesdays until Christmas break.** This change is a result of the Manna Group's holiday ordering schedule which requires the SHOP team to have the order processed and submitted earlier than the regular schedule. **Please see separate Manna Flyers for their Multi Merchant gift cards and Wish List Merchants.** Orders can be placed online at www.mannaorders.net.



Thank you,
Your SHOP Team

CONGRATULATIONS

We are happy to announce the birth of Vera Elizabeth Salomone. Mrs. Salomone (third grade teacher) gave birth to Vera on Monday, Nov. 23. Vera weighed 7 lbs, 14 oz and was 21 inches long. Please keep the Salomone family in your prayers as they begin another chapter in their lives.



Thank you to Mrs. Wall and the many parents who helped to make our first musical a huge success. We are so fortunate to have such giving staff and parents and very talented children. Watch next week's Link for pictures from the musical.

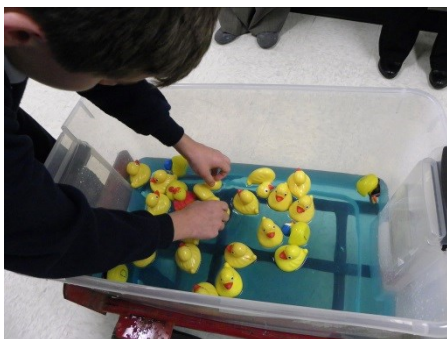
ROCK AROUND THE BLOCK

THANK YOU Thank you to all the students, parents, and faculty who helped make the Class of 2016's Turkey Theater a great success. Thanks to your donations, purchases, Turkey-Duck Pond play, and participation in our second Turkey Raffle, you helped us reduce the cost of our eighth-grade fieldtrip. We are very grateful and look forward to servicing the school the rest of the year in any way we can.



May your generosity return to you in special, surprising ways this Advent season and beyond.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Bruno and the Class of 2016



THANKSGIVING 2015



During the days leading up to Thanksgiving, there are constant reminders at St. Al/St. Pat's of gifts we have been given and the gratitude we ought to show. The Preschool and Kindergarten students inspired all with a medley of Thanksgiving and thankful songs and poems. They delighted both the school community and their

families and friends at two different performances.



The Student Council sponsored a very successful food drive. More than 500 food items were collected for the local food pantry as a way of honoring how blessed we are by sharing with others not so fortunate. NJHS sponsored Treats for the Troops as a way of thanking those who serve in the military. They collected over 300 pounds of candy treats and also gathered greeting cards from our students to send to the soldiers.



The kindergarten and first grade students shared a bountiful breakfast feast with their buddies. They learned about the fellowship and the importance of gratitude that the Thanksgiving holiday celebrates. Fun and fellowship continued later on the same day as our eighth graders sponsored a fun-filled Turkey Theater event complete with videos, treats,



and exciting games of chance.

Finally, our second grade students orchestrated our Thanksgiving liturgical celebration and reminded us all that we can thank God in prayer, and that we are so thankful for our families, our homes and our bountiful food and resources.



December 3, 2015

FSA News! The corner of eThursday where you can keep up with everything going on in our Family-School Association.

What's up? Our room moms are in full preparation mode for the Christmas parties which are coming up soon! PreK to grade 5: Have you checked your VolunteerSpot for your classroom yet? Also, Pancakes and Santa are on the horizon :) So please...

Save the Dates!

December 3: December FSA meeting at school, 7:00 pm

December 13: Pancakes and Santa in St. Patrick's Parish Hall, 8:00am-1:30pm

December 14: Monthly FSA Dinner Out at **Gelsosomo's Pizza**: 50% of all dine-in purchases go back to our school. Double down on helping our school by ORDERING SHOP CARDS for Gelsosomo's this week!



Please contact any FSA Board Member with questions or concerns.

Have a blessed week!!

Dear math,
grow up and
solve your
own problems.



Does your child know his math facts?

Dear Math, I liked you so much more before you and the alphabets started hooking up.
Sincerely, Students.

9LoLs.com

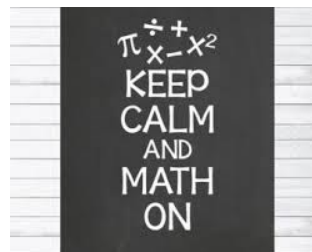


**MATH
ROCKS**

Math is everywhere. Can you find it at home, at school, at the park?



$\sqrt{-1}$ ♥
Math



**PARALLEL LINES
HAVE GOT
SO MUCH IN
COMMON.
IT'S A SHAME
THEY'LL
NEVER MEET**

FLYINGKIMCHISOUP.CO.NR