



Principal's Corner

A CHRISTMAS CREED

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my everlasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of Himself.

I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.

(Taken from: www.prayer-and-prayers.info/christmas-prayers.)

REMINDERS

Tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 17:
8:15 a.m. All school liturgy.

Grades 6-8 bowling party and grades K-5 Christmas parties.

Saturday, Dec. 18-Jan. 3: Christmas vacation.

Classes resume on Monday, January 4.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our second graders from St. Patrick Parish upon receiving their first Reconciliation last Saturday. Thank you to Mrs. Lerch and to you the parents for preparing them so well.



The St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick Pastors, Teachers, Staff and Students would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. We are grateful to know that you are a part of our lives and your prayers and support help to make us a wonderful school.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



SHOP Corner



Thank you to everyone who used our SHOP program during this holiday season.

Although there are no SHOP orders during Christmas break the Manna eScript option is still available to everyone 24 hours a day 7 days a week for eCards.

Orders for SHOP will begin in the new year on Tuesday, January 5.



Gumdrop Geometry



The Kindergarten class recently explored the world of geometric shapes in a very engaging way. Using gumdrops, toothpicks and teamwork, the students created several two dimensional shapes. They concluded that gumdrops are a great way to learn geometry!



Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Winners 2015

St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick School students in Mrs. Bruno's sixth, seventh and eighth-grade English classes recently took part in the Patriot's Pen essay writing contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). This year's theme was, "**What Freedom Means to Me.**" From out of over 300 entries, 16 local winners were chosen - six of whom were our students! These talented writers were honored at the Lemont VFW Honor 22 Post 5819 on Sunday, December 6.

These students' essays will be submitted to represent our area in the district competition, and hopefully be chosen from there to represent us in the regional and state competitions. The essays were judged on knowledge of theme, theme development, and clarity of ideas.

Our award-winning writers this year include sixth graders Ryan S. and Matthew Z., seventh graders Jack M. and Abigail G., and eighth graders William B. and Kyle K. We are very proud of these students and their eloquent ability to express their admiration for country and its liberties. We congratulate them and wish them luck as their entries progress in the competition. We thank Lemont's VFW for its continued work in our community to support our youth.



WAY TO GO CELTICS



December 17, 2015

Welcome to the **CELTICS CORNER**- Here you will find information regarding our athletics program. Such as.....

SAVE THE DATE:

Jan. 20 Basketball Pack the Place-details to follow

Jan. 2016 Car decals available for sale- details to follow

NEWS TO KNOW:

NEW PRICING – OUR STUDENTS ARE FREE!! COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR FRIENDS!!!

Scorekeeper Training- Are you an 8th grader or know a high school alumni who is interested in score keeping? Come out to a game and learn from our veterans who are graduating seniors this year. Please contact Mr. Kogut @skogut_71@yahoo.com for basketball season and Mrs. Gorski @kogorski@comcast.net for volleyball/co-ed volleyball season to schedule a game. Once you are trained, your name will be added to our list for next year. This is a paying position once you are an alumni.

Concessions- Athletics would like to invite our 7th & 8th graders to earn service hours by volunteering for concessions. They would be involved in serving drinks, food, and snacks. Below are dates that are currently available. At each 3-hour session, students will be paired with an experienced adult. Please note your game times if you are currently playing on a basketball team.

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 6pm - 9pm

Wednesday, January 20, 2016 6pm - 9pm

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS 5 DAYS PRIOR TO EACH GAME.

These dates are available on a first come basis. Please email Mrs. Karen King, king.karenann@sbcglobal.net, if you are interested.

MAY YOU ALL HAVE A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR!!!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2015



December 17, 2015

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

THANK YOU!!!

...To all of our room moms for helping our classes and teachers to have a beautiful Advent and Christmas!

...To everyone who joined us for dinner at Gelsosomo's Pizza last Monday! It was lovely to dine with our surprise visitors, the Three Wise Men!

...HUGE thanks to Mrs. Deanna Targosz, Mrs. Katie Mulcahy, and their many elves for a delicious and festive Pancake Breakfast with Santa last Sunday! St. Patrick Parish was a gracious host for our event, and our elves cooked and served a most yummy breakfast to all. Even Santa was impressed :)

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours!!

From your Family School Association



Snowman Sweatshirts



Third grade students created some spectacular snowman sweatshirts during Mrs. Salomone's annual sweatshirt project. They are clearly prepared to meet winter's snowy weather in style!



Let It
SNOW

BAND CONCERT 2015



From Jane Doyle, President of the BSJ

Hello Parents,

It's been suggested that a summary report of BSJ meetings be put in our school Link. To better understand the role of the BSJ, I would like to give a little history of the Board of Specified Jurisdiction.

The BSJ has been in existence since 2011 when the Archdiocese decided to change the "traditional school board" to a Board of Specified Jurisdiction. The purpose of the BSJ was stated by the Archdiocese as a way of increasing "school vitality and increasing the participation of laity in the decision-making and ownership for Catholic Schools". The Archdiocese mandated that the BSJ was specified to act in these areas:

- Ministry Effectiveness (Mission/Vision/Faith-Based Core Values)
Member Development
- Policy Development and Planning
- Fiscal Management (Financial Resources; Physical Resources)
- Institutional Advancement (Communication; Development; Marketing; Enrollment/Recruitment and Retention)

The Archdiocese specified that it reserved to itself (and the pastor(s) and school administrators) the following: academic program, personnel/human resources and legal/ownership issues.

Below is a summary of the BSJ meeting on Wednesday, December 9:

- 1) The BSJ welcomed a new board member, Jane Lager, who is the Director of Annual Gifts and Major Gifts for Providence Catholic High School.
- 2) Ms. Payne gave a "Principal's Update" and discussed the success of the school's musical, the Veteran's Day program and that our sixth, seventh and eighth grade students participated in the Patriot's Pen competition sponsored by the VFW. From out of over 300 entries, 16 local winners were chosen—six of whom were our students! She also reported that Parent/Teacher Conferences had gone well and gave the date and time for 2nd Grade Reconciliation.
- 3) Jane Doyle gave an update on the Wizard of Oz-themed gala which will be held on February 27. The gala committee had previously reported that planning was well underway and that the acquisition of auction items was still ongoing.
- 4) Paul Christin, who is the chair of the Finance Committee, gave a report on current financials and a 5-year projection for the school.
- 5) Ms. Shari Wenzel, who has been hired by the BSJ to be the part-time marketing person for the school, updated status of marketing, including the new things being done to reach out into neighboring communities and attract new students to the school. Andrea Fiore and Sarah O'Brien, mothers to students at the school, are on the Marketing Committee and reported on what they are working on, including the school now being on the Lemont Chamber of Commerce and Chamber 360 (a group of chambers in the Western Suburbs). The marketing of the new full-day PreK (with a half-day option) was also discussed in terms of attracting new families to the school.

Continued...

BSJ SUMMARY CONTINUED

- 6) Shari Wenzel also reported on the new initiative being handled with Shannon Wright, another new BSJ member and alumni of the school, on alumni outreach and database cataloging that is commencing.
- 7) The next meeting date is January 6. Typically the full BSJ board meets every other month, with the off month used as time for committee work. Father Kurt from St. Patrick Parish requested that the BSJ meet monthly for the foreseeable future. As well, he requested that the first 15 minutes (meetings typically begin at 6:30pm) of the BSJ meeting be left open for parents to address the board regarding a topic as it relates to purview of the board. To do this, a parent must:
- Let the BSJ know at least a week in advance that he/she would like to attend. An email to this effect should be sent to bsj@stals-stpats.org.
 - Provide the BSJ the topic he/she wishes to address.
 - Understand that any topic will be taken under advisement, and he/she will be notified sometime after the BSJ meeting what the resolution is, if any, to the parent's question/concern.
- 8) The February meeting has been set for February 10.

HOUR OF CODE



Mrs. Yakes' students from PK through 8th grade had the opportunity to try computer coding last week during a nationwide campaign to expose students to this important skill.

