



*Where children of God are welcomed, nurtured, and served,
Guiding souls and growing minds.*

10.15.09

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

Of course I'd never dream of saying that this was a boring week in professional sports in Chicago because the Bears were on a bye week and there was no baseball. Everyone knows that the Blackhawks played a game earlier this week where they were losing 5-0 and came back and won. This is a great testimonial to never giving up.

Catholic Festival of Faith: We will not be in school tomorrow Friday, October 16. All the teachers in the Archdiocese will be attending this Festival in Rosemont.

Library: We recently received a generous contribution to purchase books for our library in memory of Jean Christie, Mrs. Christie's mother-in-law. We thank her family for the charitable gift.

Dress Down Day: Next Wednesday, October 21 is a \$1 dress down day. All money raised will go directly to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). The LLS sponsors *Light the Night Walks* periodically which pay tribute and bring hope to people battling cancer.

SchoolReach: Last evening, we tested the school-wide communication program called SchoolReach. If you completed and submitted the pink sheet we sent home two weeks ago, you should have received a test call. If you did not receive the call on all the numbers you listed on that pink form, please call the office so that we can fix it.

Eighth Grade News: The St. Agnes 8th graders are sponsoring the Holiday Pie/Dessert Sale this year. They hope to sell 500 pies. The proceeds from the sale will help pay for their graduation trip in May. An order form went home with each student. Please order your holiday desserts from this form and return it by October 21. Payment must accompany orders. Pies will be available for pick-up on October 28 during regular Market Day pick-up time, 5:30-6:30 P.M. Thank you for your support of the Class of 2010.

Home and School Lunch: Orders were due today for the H & S Subway Lunch next Thursday, October 22. Regular FSP Hot Lunch will not be served on this day. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Christa Long at 670-8173.

Picture Retakes: Picture retakes are Tuesday, October 27. If you were absent, we will send home an order form. If you do not like your photos, please bring the

original pictures to give to the photographer on the 27th. Students having their picture taken may dress up only.

St. Agnes Athletics

Boys Basketball and Girls Volleyball Registration

All boys basketball registrations need to be turned in on by Thursday, October 15. Volleyball registration will continue thru November.

Wildcat Football

The junior varsity football team continues their streak (7-0) with a convincing victory over St. Kieran Irish with a score of 30-6 and guarantees them the title of Division Champions and a playoff appearance.

The varsity team improves their record (2-5) with a win over St. Kieran with a score of 15-7.

Sunday is the final regular season home game with the Wildcats facing St. Gerald Giants.

The game will be played at Marian Catholic H.S. with the jv game at 12:30 p.m. and the varsity game @ 2:00 p.m.

Lady Wildcats

Lady Wildcat Day was a success with wins captured by the 8th gr. and 4th gr. teams. The 6th gr. team fell short but played a great game. Thanks to all the fans who came out and supported the Lady Wildcats!

The Lady Wildcats defended their last Wildcats Day with a trouncing over St. Martry's 39 to 21. The team is currently ranked first in the standings in the SSBBL for the South Division. However, the team will play St. George this Thursday and a very good team OLOW soon!!!

October Calendar:

- 16 No School—Catholic Festival of Faith
- 21 \$1 Dress Down Day
- 22 Home and School Lunch Day
- 23 End of the first quarter
- 30 First quarter report cards go home

In the game of life, nothing is less important than the score at half-time.
—Anonymous

Victory belongs to the most persevering.
—Napoleon Bonaparte



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10.22.09

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

Falcons, Bengals, and Bears, oh my. Okay, not quite.

First Quarter News: The end of the First Quarter is tomorrow. Report cards will be sent home next Friday, October 30. Please keep your eyes open for them. Be sure to mark Tuesday, November 24 on your calendar for Parent Teacher Conferences.

Health News: Please know that this week, we have seen an increase in absenteeism. If your child has flu-like symptoms, especially coughing or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines, they should stay home. Children need to stay home for 24 hours after they no longer have a fever. They should stay home, even if they are using antiviral drugs as well. Technically, we have no confirmed cases of H1N1, but we have parents who have called in children who have had a fever/flu. If your children are sick, please keep them home. If they appear sick at school, they will be sent home. Children are encouraged to wash hands frequently, cover nose/mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Our maintenance staff works diligently to clean areas that students and staff touch often. We will inform you of any new developments if the need arises.

Art News: We are still looking for wire hangers for the upcoming Alexander Calder project. For November, most of you still need a photograph of your child for the Andy Warhol project. The photograph will be returned. Please put your child's name and grade on the back of it. Thank you.

Students In Service is sponsoring a collection drive to benefit local community service agencies in memory of Ryan Brothers, Kevin Beukema, and Michelle Salin. The community service project honors the gifts of service and leadership Ryan, Kevin, and Michelle shared with their parishes, schools, and communities. The collection drive will be held during the regular monthly paper drive at St. Agnes Parish. The following items are in demand at local agencies that provide services to children and families. Please support this project with your donation of the following items: Disposable diapers (6 month to toddler sizes), peanut butter and/or jelly. Students will be available to take your donation on Saturday, November 7 from 8:00 – 11:00 A.M. at the paper drive. Just drive through and drop off! Donations may also be made in the St. Agnes office at any time. Thank you for your support. For more information, please call the St. Agnes Development Office at (708) 709-2092.

Vision and Hearing Screening: We were scheduled for vision and hearing screening next month. However, due to an H1N1 vaccination schedule that the Department of Public Health has implemented, we will be rescheduled at a later date. When we receive more information, we will pass it along to you.

Home and School Fall Fundraiser ends this week. Please be sure to turn your money and orders in by tomorrow, Friday, October 23. This is their major fund raiser for the year. H&S support the school in many ways, so please be sure to submit your order. Thank you.

A Note from Mrs. Iurillo, our Boxtops Coordinator: Thank you for a valiant effort for our first Boxtops Contest this year! The winner of our October contest with the highest average collected is Mrs. Olley's 4th grade class. They collected 333 box tops! They are receiving McDonald's coupons, courtesy of the McDonalds at Halsted and Vollmer Road. Mrs. DeCastro's 1st grade class came in second with 415 box tops, but with a lower per student average. Great job everyone. Take note: the McDonalds coupons expire December 31 so be sure to use them while Christmas shopping.

Picture Retakes: Picture retakes are this Tuesday, October 27. If you were absent, we will send home an order form. If you do not like your photos, please bring the original pictures to give to the photographer on the 27th. Students having their picture taken may dress up only.

St. Agnes Athletics

Boys Basketball and Volleyball Registration

All boys basketball registrations need to be turned in on by **Wednesday, October 28.** Any registrations received after this date may be denied.

Volleyball registration will continue thru November.

Football:

The St. Agnes Varsity football team ended it's season on a high note, winning it's final two games. After defeating the St. Kieran Irish in the previous week, the Wildcats continued their dominance, beating the St. Gerald Giants by a score of 38-0. The Wildcats finished with a record of 3-5. Best of luck to our 8th grade boys in their future endeavors.

The St. Agnes Junior Varsity team completed a perfect regular season by also defeating the Giants by a score of 25-0. The win gives the Wildcats an 8-0 record and the Green Division championship. The Wildcats first round playoff game will take place Saturday, October 24th, at historic Sarff Field in Chicago Heights against St. Al/St. Pat's Celtics. Come out and support your Wildcats in their charge for the championship!

October Calendar:

- 23 End of the first quarter
- 30 First quarter report cards go home

November Calendar:

- 4 October Incentive Dress Down Day
- 5 Parent Advisory Meeting 7:00 P.M. room 21
- 18 \$1 Dress Down Day
- 24 11:30 A.M. dismissal for Parent Teacher Conferences 12:30-4:30 and 5:30-8:30 P.M.
- 25 Staff Development—No School
- 26 Thanksgiving—No School
- 27 Thanksgiving holiday—No School
- 29 Advent Begins

The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. —Luke 18:28



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10.29.09

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

First Quarter News: Report cards will be sent home tomorrow, October 30. Please keep your eyes open for them. Please be sure to sign and return the brown envelope on Monday, November 2. Also, be sure to mark Tuesday, November 24 on your calendar for Parent Teacher Conferences. **Please note:** Tuesday, November 24 is a half-day of school, so please make arrangements for your child to be picked up at 11:30 A.M.

Health News: Even though we've seen the attendance rate improve from the beginning of this week, several parents have reported that their children have either H1N1 or Influenza A. If your child has flu-like symptoms, especially coughing or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines, they should stay home. Children need to stay home for 24 hours after they no longer have any symptoms. They should stay home, even if they are using antiviral drugs as well. If your children are sick, please keep them home. If they appear sick at school, they will be sent home. Children are encouraged to wash hands frequently, cover nose/mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Our maintenance staff works diligently to clean areas that students and staff touch often.

Vaccination News: The Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) will be offering free vaccination shots here at St. Agnes late next week for school children only. *Each parent will need to accompany their child if they wish their child to receive a shot.* There will be an information sheet and consent form about this program going home on Monday to all children.

Students In Service is sponsoring a collection drive to benefit local community service agencies in memory of Ryan Brothers, Kevin Beukema, and Michelle Salin. The community service project honors the gifts of service and leadership Ryan, Kevin, and Michelle shared with their parishes, schools, and communities. The collection drive will be held during the regular monthly paper drive at St. Agnes Parish. The following items are in demand at local agencies that provide services to children and families. Please support this project with your donation of the following items: Disposable diapers (6 month to toddler sizes), peanut butter and/or jelly. Students will be available to take your donation on Saturday, November 7 from 8:00 – 11:00 A.M. at the paper drive. Just drive through and drop off! Donations may also be made in the St. Agnes office at any time. Thank you for your support. For more information, please call the St. Agnes Development Office at (708) 709-2092.

SchoolReach: This past Monday evening, I made another phone call about Halloween treats and keeping children home when sick. If you did not receive a call, please call the office and we'll investigate. It's important to receive these calls now so if an emergency arises, you can be contacted directly and quickly. It is an automated message so calling the office afterwards will most likely not yield you any information.

Tuition: Tuition statements are going home today. Please understand that it is very important for you to remain current. If you are going to be falling behind, please call the principal or send a letter explaining why you are late and when you plan on being current. This communication helps us make appropriate planning arrangements.

EDP: The next billing will go out this Monday. If you receive a yellow EDP statement, please pay the amount listed at the bottom on the right hand side. The Extended Day Program is an added benefit to parents who need to drop their children off early or who are unable to pick them up at dismissal time. If you have a question about your bill, I ask for you to email me at elem.stagnes@archchicago.org so I can take time to look into it thoroughly. Thank you.

Van Gogh Funpack: All children will be receiving a FunPack from Van Gogh today. If you are interested in keeping this FunPack, please send \$10 or feel free to return it. There is no obligation.

October Incentive Dress Down Day: Every month, we will have an incentive dress down day for those students who have turned in all of their assignments, who have been in dress code, who have shown good citizenship, and who have been on time. Those students who have received four or fewer tardies, missing assignments, dress code violations, and/or demerits combined will dress down next 11.4.09. If a child receives a detention, he/she is automatically excluded from participating. It is a jeans and gym shirt day and/or St. Agnes Spiritwear or any other St. Agnes Catholic School apparel.

St. Agnes Athletics

Congratulations to the JV football team on their first playoff win. On Saturday, the St. Agnes Wildcats beat St. Al's/St. Pat's of Lemont with a score of 25-0. The Wildcats will play their semi-final playoff game on Sunday, November 1, against All Saints Academy at Marian High School at 12:00. Come out and support the undefeated Wildcats as they continue their charge to the championship!

Good luck to all the girls basketball teams as they begin their playoff season.

6th Gr. vs. St. Joes – October 27 – 7:10 p.m.

4th Gr. vs. Our Lady of the Woods – October 31 – 9:50 a.m.

8th Gr. vs. Incarnation or Catheren – October 31 – 10:40 a.m.

GO WILDCATS!

November Calendar:

- 4 October Incentive Dress Down Day
- 5 Parent Advisory Meeting 7:00 P.M. room 21
- 18 \$1 Dress Down Day
- 24 11:30 A.M. dismissal for Parent Teacher Conferences 12:30-4:30 and 5:30-8:30 P.M.
- 25 Staff Development—No School
- 26 Thanksgiving—No School
- 27 Thanksgiving holiday—No School
- 29 Advent Begins

All will be well. —Julian of Norwich



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11.5.09

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

Aren't we having a thrilling time? World Series, Bears winning, Packers losing to the future Hall of Famer and former-Packer Brett Favre. Bulls and Blackhawks round it out. (Please forgive my fragments, Mrs. Simich. At least I didn't say "apprehensiveness.")

Health News: If your child has flu-like symptoms, especially coughing or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines, they should stay home. Children need to stay home for 24 hours after they no longer have any symptoms. They should stay home, even if they are using antiviral drugs as well. If your children are sick, please keep them home. If they appear sick at school, they will be sent home. Children are encouraged to wash hands frequently, cover nose/mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Our maintenance staff works diligently to clean areas that students and staff touch often.

Vaccination News: The Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) will be offering free vaccination shots here at St. Agnes tomorrow for current St. Agnes Catholic School children only. *Each parent or legal guardian will need to accompany their child if they wish their child(ren) to receive a shot.* An information sheet went home yesterday with these details about tomorrow's vaccinations.

Procedure for Vaccinations Tomorrow: The students **who are not being vaccinated** will line up outside beginning at 7:35 A.M. At 7:55 A.M., those students will be lead by their teachers to their classrooms. At this point, if you are intending on vaccinating your children, please walk with your children down to Isaiah Hall where you will be given a corresponding number. When the CCDPH is ready to begin, Mrs. Christie will begin

calling numbers, beginning with the number 1. Please understand that the children will not be marked tardy or absent (unless your child is not present for the entire day.) Please understand that personnel from the CCDPH cannot guarantee being here the entire day. When it appears that everyone has been vaccinated, they possibly will leave. This means that if you intend on vaccinating your children at school, it is best that you arrive at 8:00 A.M. and wait in the hall. After the child/ren are vaccinated, they will walk back to their classrooms.

SchoolReach: A SchoolReach announcement went out last night with vaccination information. If you did not receive a call, please call the office so we can add you into the system so you receive calls. If we close school due to inclement weather, you will receive a call. Other important calls go out on this system. Please call us if your numbers change.

Parent Teacher Conferences are set for Tuesday, November 24. **Please note**: This is a half-day of school, so please make arrangements for pick-up at 11:30 A.M.

Students In Service is sponsoring a collection drive to benefit local community service agencies in memory of Ryan Brothers, Kevin Beukema, and Michelle Salin. The community service project honors the gifts of service and leadership Ryan, Kevin, and Michelle shared with their parishes, schools, and communities. The collection drive will be held during the regular monthly paper drive at St. Agnes Parish. The following items are in demand at local agencies that provide services to children and families. Please support this project with your donation of the following items: Disposable diapers (6 month to toddler sizes), peanut butter and/or jelly. Students will be available to take your donation on Saturday, November 7 from 8:00 – 11:00 A.M. at the paper drive. Just drive through and drop off! Donations may also be made in the St. Agnes office at any time. Thank you for your support. For more information, please call the St. Agnes Development Office at (708) 709-2092.

Market Day: Please note that pick-up this month is a Monday. It is set for November 23 from 5:30-6:30 P.M.

St. Agnes Athletics

Congratulations to the JV football team on their semifinal playoff win. On Sunday, the St. Agnes Wildcats defeated All Saints Academy of Naperville by a score of 42-14. The Wildcats will play their championship game on Sunday, November 8, against St. Gabriel at St. Rita High School at 12:00.

Girls Basketball Update

The 4th grade girls' basketball team opened the playoffs with a first round win over Our Lady of the Woods by a score of 7-2. This win advanced the Lady Wildcats to the quarterfinal game against St. Al's, where they were defeated 6-1.

The 6th grade girls' basketball team was defeated by St. Joe's in the opening round of the playoffs by a score of 17-15.

The 8th grade girls' basketball team defeated Incarnation by a score of 22-21. This victory advances the Wildcats to the semifinals against St. Gerald. The semifinal game will take place on November 7th at Marist High School.

GO WILDCATS!

November Calendar:

- 18 \$1 Dress Down Day
- 24 **11:30 A.M. dismissal** for Parent Teacher Conferences 12:30-4:30 and 5:30-8:30 P.M.
- 25 Staff Development—No School
- 26 Thanksgiving—No School
- 27 Thanksgiving holiday—No School
- 29 Advent Begins

*The best laid schemes o' mice an' men
Gang aft agley,
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,
For promis'd joy!*

—Robert Burns



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11.12.09

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

With yesterday being Veterans Day, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the veterans who have given loyal service to our great country. I also want to pray for our current men and women in the military service who protect us every day. May God protect them always.

Health News: If your child has flu-like symptoms, especially coughing or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines, they should stay home. Children need to stay home for 24 hours after they no longer have any symptoms. They should stay home, even if they are using antiviral drugs as well. If your children are sick, please keep them home. If they appear sick at school, they will be sent home. Children are encouraged to wash hands frequently, cover nose/mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Our maintenance staff works diligently to clean areas that students and staff touch often.

Vaccination News: The vaccinations last Friday went very smoothly. A copy of the completed form is being sent home today to those who received a vaccination shot. The administrator date and brand is noted on the bottom. Please keep this form for your records.

Parent Teacher Conferences are set for Tuesday, November 24. **Please note:** This is a half-day of school, so please make arrangements for pick-up at 11:30 A.M.

Positive Opportunity Program: We are continuing the Positive Opportunity Program this year. The theme is kindness. The October P.O.P. Students of the Month were chosen last week. These children were randomly selected because they received a P.O.P. certificate during the month of October. They received a "Student of the Month" lapel pin, a certificate, and dessert with the principal. The following students were selected: Olivia Vondrak (primary), Alex Bazile (intermediate), and Thomas Fagan (junior high). Congratulations to these students on such wonderful accomplishments. These students' pictures will be displayed in the P.O.P. Hall of Fame outside of the Extended Day Program rooms.

Market Day: Please note that pick-up this month is a Monday. It is set for November 23 from 5:30-6:30 P.M. Also, please note that this is the last one before the holidays. The next Market Day isn't until January 6, 2010.

St. Agnes Athletics

Congratulations to the St. Agnes Junior Varsity Wildcats on their perfect season and championship victory. The Wildcats defeated the St. Gabriel Shamrocks on Sunday, November 8th at St. Rita High School by a score of 6-0.

Special thanks goes out to the St. Agnes Cheerleaders for cheering on the Wildcats during championship victory!

Congratulations to Louis Longo, Shane Ratkovich and Dylan Kelly for being selected to represent St. Agnes on the 2009 CGSC All-Star Team.

Registration forms and fees for boys basketball are now due.
Send forms and fees to the school office to the attention of "St. Agnes Athletics".

GO WILDCATS!

November Calendar:

- 18 \$1 Dress Down Day
- 24 **11:30 A.M. dismissal** for Parent Teacher Conferences 12:30-4:30 and 5:30-8:30 P.M.
- 25 Staff Development—No School
- 26 Thanksgiving—No School
- 27 Thanksgiving holiday—No School
- 29 Advent Begins

*I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives.
I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.*

~Abraham Lincoln

Our great modern Republic. May those who seek the blessings of its institutions and the protection of its flag remember the obligations they impose.

—Ulysses S. Grant



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11.19.09

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

This is the final blue note before Thanksgiving. Fr. John, Fr. Juan Pablo, I, and the entire faculty and staff of St. Agnes Parish and School, wish everyone a peaceful and happy Thanksgiving. A Happy Bird-Day to all.

Parent Teacher Conferences are set for this Tuesday, November 24. Grades 2-8 will be in Isaiah Hall, while the other grades will be in their classrooms. Please note: This is a half-day of school, so please make arrangements for pick-up at 11:30 A.M. There is no after school Extended Day Program available. Conferences will begin at 12:30 P.M. and run until 4:30 P.M. when the teachers will have dinner. I ask that you please respect this dinner hour and not ask for a conference during that time. Conferences will resume at 5:30 and run until 8:30 P.M. Second quarter progress reports will be distributed at the conferences.

Thanksgiving Week Notes: We have no school on Wednesday, November 25; Thursday, November 26; and Friday, November 27. School resumes on Monday, November 30.

Tuition News: If you have not paid the November tuition, please be sure to pay it soon. It was due this past Monday.

Tuition Note: Our tuition policy was discussed in detail at the mandatory Parent Meeting in August. In accordance with that policy, Fr. John and I will be mailing letters home to address accounts with outstanding tuition balances.

Winter Parking Lot News: With inclement weather rapidly approaching, I am reminding parents of several items which will keep everyone safe. 1.) Please avoid talking on your cell phone when entering the parking lot. You could get distracted and cause an accident. 2.) Please pull all the way up in the morning. Stopping short can cause a jam that leaks out onto McEldowney and even Chicago Road. It also delays the process. 3.) Please drive slowly through the lot. The lot gets icy and we do not want speeding vehicles sliding into students, parents, parishioners, other cars, or our brave parking lot volunteers. 4.) Please have the children cross in front of your own car so you see when they are clearly safe before moving. 5.) If you need to help your child out of the car, please park your car in the lot and escort your child to the door. If everyone follows these simple procedures, we'll have a much safer parking lot. Thank you for your cooperation.

Extended Day Program: If you have a gently used game or toy and would like to donate it to our EDP, the children would appreciate it.

Market Day: Please note that pick-up this month is this Monday, November 23 from 5:30-6:30 P.M. Also, please note that this is the last one before the holidays. The next Market Day isn't until January 6, 2010.

Hot Lunch: Order forms are going home tomorrow. They are due back on Wednesday, December 2. Believe it or not, that date will be upon us sooner than you think, so please be certain to submit your orders on time. Also, Home and School will be sponsoring a special lunch day on Thursday, January 21, so please do not order on that day.

SchoolBelles: The Winter Sale is here. Deep discounts are available until January 3. You can call SchoolBelles at (888) 637-3037, check the website at www.schoolbelles.com, or come to the office for a flyer if you're interested in more information.

A Note from Mrs. Jurillo, our Boxtops Coordinator: We are now starting another Boxtops Contest. The winning class with the highest average of box tops will receive a \$1 gift card (per student) courtesy of Wendy's. So ask relatives to clip and save for you so we can reach our goal again this year! Don't forget to include your name and classroom on your box tops sheet. This contest will end on Friday, December 11. Thank you for all of your efforts so far.

www.stagnes-parish.org is our website. Please know that we are posting the weekly blue notes online. If your child loses it, you should find the most current bulletin by the weekend. The newly revised Handbook will also be online over the weekend.

November Calendar:

- 24 **11:30 A.M. dismissal** for Parent Teacher Conferences 12:30-4:30 and 5:30-8:30 P.M.
- 25 Staff Development—No School
- 26 Thanksgiving—No School
- 27 Thanksgiving holiday—No School
- 29 Advent Begins

December Calendar:

- 1 Reconciliation Service for grades 3-8 at 1:00 P.M.
- 2 November Incentive Dress Down Day; Home & School Secret Santa Shop
- 3 Parent Advisory Committee meeting 7:00 P.M. room 21; Home & School Secret Santa Shop
- 8 Immaculate Conception School Liturgy 9:00 A.M.
- 11 Band Concert at 7:00 P.M. at St. Lawrence O'Toole gym
- 16 \$1 Dress Down Day
- 17 All School Advent Lessons and Carols 7:00 P.M.
- 18 Christmas vacation begins at 11:30 P.M.; No after school Extended Day

*Thank God for dirty dishes; they have a tale to tell.
While other folks go hungry, we're eating pretty well
With home, and health, and happiness, we shouldn't want to fuss; For by
this stack of evidence, God's been very good to us.*

—Anonymous



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12.3.09

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

It's been a busy week with Santa Secret Workshop, visits by Santa and St. Nick, and a monthly incentive dress down day. The children are doing a great job staying focused amidst the bustle.

Tuition: All payments must indicate for whom a money order or credit union check is meant. Also, if you use a personal check without your imprinted name on it, please be sure to indicate for whom that payment is meant.

The November Dress Down Day proceeds of \$265 were donated to LaRabida Children's Hospital on the south side of Chicago. LaRabida specializes in chronic childhood illnesses and is one of the leading research and treatment centers in the country for Type I diabetes, sickle cell anemia and asthma. Staff members have attended free seminars LaRabida offers and the information we've received has been an excellent resource for us. The funds that the students donated will be used to purchase ID bracelets that are provided for the children when they are diagnosed with Type I, sickle cell, or asthma. Thanks for supporting the St. Agnes Dress Down Day.

8th Grade Service Project: The 8th graders are collecting decks of playing cards for the Christmas gift bags distributed to residents of a local nursing home. Please send donations to school no later than Thursday, December 10.

We are collecting used cell phones for recycling. Please be sure to remove any accessories. There are boxes by the office. You can also drop them off at the Paper Drive this Saturday, December 5.

8th Grade Graduation Date: Please note that the date on the monthly calendar for the 8th grade graduation ceremony has been changed. It will take place on Wednesday, May 26 in the evening. The date originally posted was May 27 so please note the change.

Cold Weather: Please be sure that the children dress for the cold weather. We will be going outside for recess as long as we can before the temperature prohibits us from doing so. The general rule is that we go outside unless it's raining/snowing or it's below 32 degrees. Different weather websites post different temperatures for this area, so I look at several before deciding. Also, if your child needs to stay inside for recess, please send us the doctor's note with that information so we can make appropriate arrangements and keep it on file.

www.stagnes-parish.org: The weekly blue notes and the newly revised Handbook are now online.

December Calendar:

- 8 Immaculate Conception School Liturgy 9:00 A.M.
- 11 Band Concert at 7:00 P.M. at St. Lawrence O'Toole gym
- 16 \$1 Dress Down Day
- 17 All School Advent Lessons and Carols 7:00 P.M.
- 18 Christmas vacation begins at 11:30 P.M.; No after school Extended Day

We do not remember days, we remember moments. —Cesare Pavese



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12.17.09

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

On behalf of all the teachers and staff here at Saint Agnes Catholic School, I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May God continue to bless you during this Christmas season.

The Advent Lessons and Carols will take place this evening at 7:00 P.M. in the church. The students should be in their classrooms at 6:45 P.M.

Last day of school before Christmas vacation is tomorrow, December 18. Dismissal is at 11:30 A.M. with **NO EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM** services available afterwards.

Positive Opportunity Program: We are continuing the Positive Opportunity Program this year. The November P.O.P. Students of the Month were chosen recently. These children were randomly selected because they received a P.O.P. certificate during the month of November. They received a "Student of the Month" lapel pin, a certificate, and dessert with the principal. The following students were selected: Janice Melillo (primary), Ryan Dee (intermediate), and Matthew Gunby (junior high). Congratulations to these students on such wonderful accomplishments. These students' pictures will be displayed in the P.O.P. Hall of Fame outside of the Extended Day Program rooms.

December \$1 Dress Down Day: Yesterday's dress down day netted \$270, all of which will go directly to Jones Memorial Community Center in Chicago Heights. The funds from the Dress Down Day will be used to purchase food and other items for the Project Share Baskets that are distributed to families in need.

Transportation Reimbursement Reminder: This item was published in the 10.1.09 blue note: "We recently received a memo from the Illinois State Board of Education that the money for the Transportation Reimbursement Program was cut. **There will be no reimbursement from last school years' claims.** Checks for this program are usually mailed out in December, so please do not expect one this year. This memo came from ISBE's Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256 should you want to express your dissatisfaction."

Cell Phones: We are collecting used cell phones for recycling. Please be sure to remove any accessories. There are boxes by the office.

January Calendar:

- 4 Classes resume
- 6 December Incentive Dress Down Day
- 7 Parent Advisory Committee Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- 8 End of the Second Quarter
- 15 Second quarter report cards go home
- 18 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School
- 20 \$1 Dress Down Day
- 31 Catholic Schools Week Begins

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel."

—Matthew 1:23