



**Newsletter
December 2009**

It hardly seems possible that Advent is upon us and Christmas is just three weeks away. Time goes by so quickly these days; we have to make a conscious effort to think about Advent before it gets away from us. The following is an excerpt from an Advent reflection by Deacon David Shea:

Advent is a gift, a precious gift of time to straighten out what is not yet right; to overcome that one struggle, that one area of darkness—to heal what we’ve broken, to forgive, to be less addicted, to be more chaste, to be more generous, to bring Christ back into our lives as if this Advent were our very last Advent. It’s a time to interrupt our Christmas marathon and look into our lives no matter how shattered or wonderful they may be, to find Christ with us. Christ who once came. Christ who comes to us in the broken places where we know we can’t make it on our own. Christ who comes to us in those moments when we look beyond our own needs, to see the needs of others.

Time passes for all of us, no matter how quickly or how slowly that may be happening, and we wait knowing that the world can end for each of us at any time when we will come face-to-face with Christ. We wait for him who keeps his promises and we dare not be caught by surprise. So, how will we wait? How will we use the time we’ve been given this Advent?

Creighton University offers daily reflections for Advent. You might find these helpful as you make your journey to Christmas.

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html>

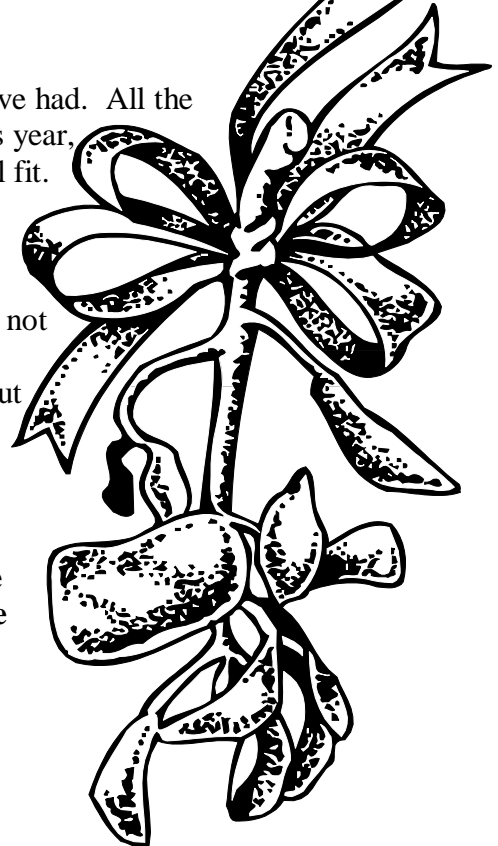
Home & School/Technology

I would like to thank those who supported the H&S fundraisers we have had. All the funds raised will eventually be returned in benefits to your child. This year, we will explore expanding the computer lab so that an entire class will fit.

This will require new electrical wiring, lines for computers, air-conditioning, and 16 more computers. H&S funds will help to off-set this cost. The rising cost of technology is staggering and if we are to keep current in our school, we need to supplement that which is not covered by tuition.

Just since Sept., we have had to replace 8 classroom computers at about \$900 ea., buy updated antivirus for all the computers for over \$1700, and upgrade the memory for 21 computers at over \$600.

The graduating class of 2009 left a gift of money to be used for the school. Their gift paid to upgrade the 21 computers and we are most grateful to them and to their parents.



Chance and Auction

On December 7th, the Home & School Board will host a wine and cheese kick-off for our biggest fundraiser. This fundraiser is crucial to keeping tuition costs from skyrocketing. At the October Home and School meeting, I talked about the cost of running the school. Last year, the education cost **per child** was \$3,700. Since no parishioner is paying that cost, we have to supplement our income by having bingo and other fundraisers. I would hope that a large number of parents would support this effort by volunteering your time and talent at this important event since you are the direct beneficiaries of the proceeds. If we want this school to survive and flourish, we all need to take an active part. Hope to see you there!

Tag Day

We have been asked by the Bensalem Police Department and the Lions Club of Bensalem to participate in a food drive of canned and boxed foods for the needy in Bensalem Township. We will therefore have a Tag Day (Dress Down Day) on Friday, Dec. 11th to support this effort. Those who wish to dress down must bring in **two (2)** items (canned or boxed) for the food drive to participate. If anyone wishes to donate more than the two required items, feel free to do so.

H1N1 Vaccine

There is a letter from the Bucks County Health Department posted in the communication section concerning the 2nd round of vaccines for those who are under 10 years old and anyone who missed the distribution at Bensalem High School. If you still need to have your child vaccinated, please read the letter ASAP as the information is time sensitive.

Congratulations

To Kyle Leon who participated in the WKA World Championships in Spain. As a member of Team USA, he competed in six events and won a silver and three bronze medals. We are proud of Kyle and his athletic achievements.

To the Arithmaletes teams for October

The 6th grade teams have taken the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 14th places out of 24. The 7th/8th grade teams have taken the 1st, 3rd, 8th, 11th, 16th, 19th, 20th, 24th, 26th, and 29th places out of 33.

To the 6th grade News Bowl team, *Burnt Toast*, who placed among the top 100 schools out of 395 in the first round.

To the **Christian Peacemakers** for November:

Jessica Silva (K)	Connor Russell (KA)	Olivia Medica (1)	Giana Brabazon (1A)
Tara Czekner (2)	Nicholas Livolsi (2A)	Megan Connelly (3)	Madison Mower (3A)
Lauren Powell (4)	Jolie Nerosa (4A)	James Gottshall (4B)	
Emily Crane (5)	Ashley Diamond (5A)	Emily Wiercinski (6)	Alyssa Marlin (6A)
Paige Wendling (7)	Kelly Pierce (7A)	Sabrina Silva (8)	Sarah Henry(8A)

To those who won **Copybook Awards** for November:

Abigail Roth (1)	Emily Harris (1A)	Dylan Cendrowski (2)	Rachel Bolton (2A)
Kaylee Brady (3)	Christopher Hrouda (3A)	Alison Conway (4)	Emily Arleth (4A)
Jill Bojakowski (4B)	Katie Hancin (5)	Sydney Souders (5A)	
Monica Stackhouse (6)	Raymond Gallagher (6A)	Jessica Hyska (7)	Robert Ramsey (7A)
Matthew Hrouda (8)	Julianna Bartolett (8A)		

To the **Good Writers Club** for October:

Grade 3: Riley Gorman, Sean Stokes, Rachel Marlin, Donavan Shermerhorn Poll, Connor Warwick

Grade 5: Brian Nowosielski, Amber Theurer

Grade 6: Raymond Gallagher, David Lindberg, Sarah John

Grade 8: Timmy French, Renee Eastburn

To the **Good Writers Club** for November:

Grade 6: Kyle Hillis, Shane Kirby

Christmas Show

Our school Christmas show will be presented on Wednesday, Dec. 23rd at 10 AM and 1 PM. Families with their last names beginning with M-Z are asked to attend the 10 AM show and families with their last names beginning with A- L are asked to attend the 1 PM show. (Parents and grandparents are not permitted to the rehearsal on Tuesday). The parish center will open at 9:40 AM and 12:40 PM. Seats are first come, first served. I ask that you **do not save seats** for people arriving later in fairness to all those arriving early. Since there will be enough seats for everyone and the stage is raised, no one will be permitted to stand during the performance.

I also ask that if you attend the show, you stay for the entire show where possible. I realize that some may be limited by work obligations, but those who have children at the end of the show have listened to every other grade perform, the same should hold for those who have children at the beginning of the show.

***Due to the huge disruption to the classroom, students will not be dismissed to leave with their parents after their part in the show. The students are in class while the show is taking place and it is difficult and disruptive for teachers to dismiss students one at a time as parents leave the show.

Since this day is always a popular early dismissal day:

Every child needs to perform in both shows. Anyone who needs early dismissal for appointments must leave before the first show begins at 10 AM.

Heads Up

As you know, we are seriously trying to address any kind of bullying in the school. We will be incorporating the *Olweus Bully Prevention Program* in the school in the near future. The program requires a full day of training for the teachers. The teachers in grades 5-8 will attend the training program. I am waiting for the director to contact me with some possible dates for training. I just wanted you to be aware that there will be a school day when the students in grades 5-8 will not report to school because of the teacher in-service. I will make sure that you have plenty of time to make arrangements for your child(ren) and will send you the date as soon as I know. I thank and appreciate all those who are supporting us in this effort. We can't do it without you!

Cut and Post on the Frig!!!!

School Closing

As we progress into the winter months and face the likelihood of inclement weather and that dreaded four lettered word, dare I type it?!, **snow**, please remember that our KYW closing number is the one for the Bensalem school district: **758**. KYW is 1060 AM radio, www.kyw1060.com, or their school closing line at 215-224-1060. *Bensalem School District* and *St. Ephrem School* will also be posted on the bottom of the TV screen on KYW News 3, NBC 10 and ABC 6. Snow closings will also be listed on our school website at www.saintephremschool.com, e-mailed, and texted to those who provided us with their text information.

I ask that you **not call school** for information on early dismissals, parents calling school tie up the lines and the transportation company has difficulty reaching us with the information. This is extremely frustrating for them who have a large number of schools to contact and for us who are waiting for instructions. We will disseminate the information as soon as it reaches us. Please follow the directions above and be patient.



I join with the faculty and staff in wishing you a
Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!!

Sister Barbara