



Bulletin – December 9, 2009

Golden Grace for December

Carpe Diem (Seize the day-Make your day the best it can be).

Thank You

Thank you to our Home School Association Baking Committee for providing delicious treats in honor of the faculty and staff members with December birthdays. You certainly made us smile!

A Token of Our Appreciation

To thank you for the many ways you give of yourself to assist the children, faculty, and staff of St. Louis School, please take a little gift of appreciation with our gratitude the next time you stop by the office. The sweet treats are in the basket on the volunteer sign-in desk.

H1N1 Immunizations

Thank you to Mrs. Gough and Mrs. Miranda, our nurses, who coordinated the administration of H1N1 immunizations today. We are also grateful to the parent volunteers who escorted our students. We appreciate all the time and effort involved in keeping the members of our school community healthy.

First Reconciliation

Congratulations to our second grade students who celebrated their First Reconciliation last Friday evening. We join together in praying that the Lord touches their hearts in very special ways as they receive this wonderful sacrament of forgiveness and renewal. Thank you to Mrs. Yozwiak, Mrs. McGowan, and Mrs. Goudreau who partnered with parents to prepare the children.

Weather Delays and School Closings

In the event of inclement weather, please watch WBAL TV or listen to WBAL 1090 AM. We follow the Howard County Public School system. Our closings are also posted on www.schoolsout.com (select Howard County, then select Private Schools and finally select St. Louis). Parents may also subscribe with Schoolsout to receive email and text message notification.

From the Health Room

Hearing screening had been scheduled tomorrow for students who were absent during the initial screening earlier this year; however, we received word from Loyola University that they need to re-schedule. We will inform you of the new date as soon as we receive the information.

Collection for Western Maryland

Thank you for your exceptional response to our collection of items for the needy in Western Maryland! You touched many hearts and brought joy to people who truly need our assistance. Please know that you have, indeed, shared the joy of Christmas. Sincere thank you to Dr. Sniezek and Mr. and Mrs.

Thomas, members of the Knights of Columbus, who so kindly make the trip in the wintry weather to deliver the items.

Student Council News

Student Council is sponsoring a Donut and Out-of-Uniform Day on Thursday, December 17th. Student Council representatives will be in homerooms at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday to sell the donuts (50 cents) and to collect the money for out-of-uniform (50 cents). We ask that the students follow the guidelines for appropriate and acceptable attire for non-uniform days. Students will be asked to call home for a change of clothes if the administration or faculty deems that the clothing is suggestive or inappropriate. Shorts are not permitted.

Book Collection

To celebrate the special way that children can reach out to children in need, we are collecting new books to be shared with the young guests of Sarah's House, a Catholic Charities center providing emergency and transitional support to homeless families near Ft. Meade. We are collecting books for toddlers through teenagers. Please note that Sarah's House is not able to accept used books at this time. Books should be brought to school by December 16th. Thank you for your support.

St. Louis Church Concert Series

Don't miss the Parish Christmas concert this weekend at 4:00 p.m. in the Church. Along with the St. Louis Choir and Orchestra (including the beautiful voices of Mrs. Donna Douglas, Ms. Kate Douglas, Mrs. Julie Hudson and Mrs. Holly Lash), our very own Middle School Chorus will perform some beautiful songs of the season. There is a post-concert dessert reception in the Pastoral Center, and admission is free. Please join us for an afternoon of beautiful, uplifting music – you'll be glad you did!

St. Nick Night

We were so sorry to have to cancel St. Nick Night due to the inclement weather. So many volunteer hours went into preparing for the evening and it was a BIG disappointment to all involved. While we will not be rescheduling the event due to the many scheduling conflicts this time of year, we wanted to let you know how we are handling certain items:

- **Vendors** – Attached is a flyer listing all of our fantastic vendors for the night. Some of them have offered **to donate a percentage of their proceeds from your purchases back to St. Louis School and/or** discounts for holiday shopping to St. Louis School families. Please, please support these vendors – visit their websites, place an order. They were all very understanding of Mother Nature, but had put extra work in to make sure they were ready for the night – so they would really appreciate your business!
- Most of the **poinsetta** orders have been picked up. Thank you to **Ms. Petrusic, Mrs. Dickins and Mrs. Smith** for all of their help and for staying during the snowfall until 5:30 p.m. so that people could pick up their plants after Mass.
- We have decided to **donate our St. Nicholas goody bags** to the Hezekiah House. They are holding a holiday party for men, women and families in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse. Ms. Peterson's sister, Ms. Ritz, who plans the party has put a call out for help, and we are glad we can assist.
- The arts and crafts that we had planned for the evening are being put away for next year. **Thank you to Mrs. Musselman for purchasing and storing the crafts.**

- **Thank you to Mrs. Breiner for purchasing and graciously returning the unused tattoos and face painting supplies.**
- Our bingo prizes will be used for **Buddy Bingo** next Thursday. Thank you to **Mr. & Mrs. Ashby and Mrs. Habiger** for coordinating Bingo and prizes.
- **Tiny Tim's Treasures** will be set up for the children to shop during school time next Wednesday and Thursday. A reminder will be sent home on Tuesday. There are presents for everyone, ranging in price from 50 cents to \$10.00. Thank you to **Mrs. Craig** for coordinating this opportunity for the children.
- **Gingerbread Land** – Thank you so much to **Ms. Widitz** and the **Brill family** for their donation of ingredients and supplies for making 200 gingerbread houses. Those ingredients and supplies are being purchased by another school and the money donated to St. Louis School. Kudos to **Mrs. Conley, Mrs. Ruppert** and **Mrs. Markert**, for lovingly preparing treats for our café. They have packed their freezers and been generous to family and friends. We will all have to wait until next year for their yummy goodies. (Of course, they have tons of Coffeemate and Hot Chocolate...hum, maybe we should Christmas Carol at their homes....) We cannot thank them enough for the continued generosity of their time and talent.
Thank you to our set up crew who showed up and decorated, only to un-set-up and un-decorate! **Adam and Nickolas Fairbanks, Colin Tiffey, Mr. Springmann, the Okafor family, Mrs. Tepe, Mrs. Schittino, Mr. & Mrs. Kolasny and Nicholas, Mrs. Rosewag, Mrs. Kim, Mr. McMurrer and Michael, Maggie Craig, Mrs. Herlihy, Mrs. Boos, and Mrs. Rutkowski.** You are awesome!
Thank you *so much* to our two dedicated chairpersons, **Mrs. Defibaugh** and **Mrs. Fairbanks**, for their unwavering dedication to our school and this event. Thank you also to **Mrs. Craig** whose behind the scenes support was unceasing. The three of you are most decidedly on Santa's "Good" list!

Great News from Lord & Taylor

It comes as no surprise to us that we were the number ONE organization in ticket sales and attendance for the **Lord & Taylor Benefit Bash** – entitling us to \$2000 in "prize money"!! We just received word yesterday! Not only that, but because we sold the most tickets, we were also entitled to a portion of the door ticket sales for that day, and we will be receiving an additional check in the amount of \$375! What a fantastic turn out and effort by our families! Thank you so much to **Mrs. Reed** for bringing this event to our attention and for spearheading our efforts! Congratulations, Mrs. Reed, for a job well done!

St. Louis Annual Fund

Our mailers are out and our database is up and running! Thank you to all who have contributed through the fall months in anticipation of this effort and the great initial response. **We are already over \$6,500 and counting! You are the best!**

Informational Parent Session on Talking About Touching Program

Mrs. Maureen Osborne, our school counselor, will be holding parent information sessions to discuss the "Talking About Touching" program that will be implemented beginning in January for grades K-3. The program focuses on teaching children basic skills that will help them keep safe from dangerous and/or abusive situations. If you have not previously attended an informational session on this program or if you are a parent new to St. Louis School, this session will give you an overview of the program and you will see a very informative video entitled "What Do I Say Now? – How to Help Protect Your Child from Sexual Abuse." We strongly encourage any parent who has not had the opportunity to view this video

to attend. The first session will be held Monday afternoon, January 11th from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the Howard Bishop Room, and it will be repeated on Tuesday evening, January 12th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Library. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Osborne at 410-531-8479 or at mosborne@stlouisparish.org.

Note - Many of you who have students in grades 1, 2 & 3 have attended this informational session in the past. You are welcome to join us but may find the information repetitive!

Greccio Live Nativity

Mark your calendars to attend the Greccio Living Nativity at the Franciscan Friary/Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City. Members of the St. Louis Youth Ministry are participants. The nativity is presented on Saturday, December 12th at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 13th at 7:30 p.m. You may also want to visit Brother Gerry's Train Garden which is scheduled for 2:00-5:00 p.m. from December 12th -January 3rd at the Friary.

School Lunch Order Forms

The School Lunch Order Forms for **January through March** were due on December 4th. If you have not sent in your order form, *it must be received by Monday, December 14th*.

Hot Lunch

If the opening of school is delayed two hours on a hot lunch day, hot lunch will be served. If school is closed on a hot lunch day, a make-up day will be announced in the bulletin.

Banking Winner

Our Banking winner for the month of December is Luke Musselman (3A). Congratulations, Luke!

Christmas Program

All students in grades K, 2, 4, 6 and 8, and those involved in Primary Chorus and Middle School Chorus will perform in the Christmas program this year. Dress Rehearsal will be Monday, December 14th at 1:30 p.m. for the student body. The performance will be Wednesday, December 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

All girls and boys in grades 1 through 8 are invited to participate in the Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. The purpose of this contest is to teach our children that Christmas is not just a day of giving and receiving gifts, but a special day of love and peace because of God's gift to the world—the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. Posters will be collected in the Narthex of Church after Mass on December 12th & 13th and December 19th & 20th. For the full set of poster contest rules, please pick up a brochure in the Narthex of Church or visit the web-site <http://www.kc11898.com> and click on the Keep Christ in Christmas link. You may also contact Dr. John Sniezek 410-312-7453 with any questions.

Archdiocese of Baltimore Catholic High Schools Placement Test

The Catholic High Schools Placement Test (HSPT) is being offered again to 8th grade students on Saturday, **December 12th**. Registration is 8:30 a.m. (pre-registration is not required). The test begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. (no late admittance). Cost: \$30.00 cash or check (no credit cards). For more information, visit www.archbalt.org. Please note that the high schools will only consider the scores from the first time an 8th grader takes the test.

Amazon Rewards

Don't forget to sign onto our webpage when doing your online shopping. Amazon.com is running a special this month on MP3 music downloads at Amazon MP3's, giving us a 10% rebate for all purchases. They have expanded their holiday music from 50 at \$5.00 to 100 albums for \$5.00 each. December's list includes some of the biggest and best new releases of 2009, so stay tuned. They are also revealing one new free holiday song between now and December 25th in 25 Days of Free. And don't forget that you can buy Scrip cards to Amazon through our Scrip program, too!! A Double-Benefit!

Basketball News

SAVE THE DATE--BASKETBALL MASS AND PEP RALLY

The basketball mass and pep rally is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th. The pep rally begins at 3:15 p.m. and is followed by Mass at 4:00 p.m. This year the St. Louis School basketball program will be awarding a \$100 gift certificate to Pasta Blitz to the team that demonstrates the best spirit! Each team should wear their uniforms (this year's or previous years.) The teams are encouraged to dress up, sing a song, make signs, and do a skit---- anything to display their school spirit. The pep rally and basketball mass have become an important part of kicking off the basketball season. Please "rally the troops" to make this a great event.

Dates for the first grade clinic and the practice schedule for the upper grade teams are forthcoming. Team shirts for the first graders will be available during the pep rally.

Carson Scholars Fund Scholarship -

The Carson Scholars Fund is a non-profit organization founded in 1994 by world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, Dr. Benjamin S. Carson and his wife, Candy. The Carson Scholars Fund aims to recognize and reward students in grades 4 – 11 who earn the highest level of academic achievement, and also display strong humanitarian qualities. Scholarship winners are designated as "Carson Scholars" and receive a \$1,000 scholarship award to be held in trust until they are accepted in a four year college or university. Each school in the area is allowed to **nominate** one student for the Carson Scholars Fund. Any student interested in applying to be our **nominee** for the scholarship must have a 3.75 grade point average which encompasses the following subjects: English, Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language. If your child meets these criteria and would be interested in applying for this scholarship, he/she must begin by writing and submitting an essay to St. Louis School no later than Tuesday, January 5th by noon. These essays will be judged by a group of administrators and teachers to determine which student with his/her essay will be presented to the Carson group as the **nominee** from St. Louis School. Please be advised that only **one** student may be nominated from St. Louis School, and a nomination does not guarantee that the student will be a Carson Scholar Fund recipient. The student who is ultimately selected as the **nominee** from St. Louis will be asked to provide a list of community service/ volunteer activities in which they participate. All applicants must submit an essay not to exceed 500 words answering one of the following questions for their grade level. Only **one** essay is to be submitted on **one** of the questions.

Grades 4-5

1. Dr. Carson's autobiography, *Gifted Hands*, was made into a television movie last year to share his inspirational story with the world. What book would you like to see made into a movie? Why do you think others would like this story as a movie?

2. If you had the chance to make a new rule in school what would it be? Why would you create the rule? How would you ensure students follow the rule?

Grades 6-8

1. President Obama recently addressed students to encourage them to work hard in school. What goals do you have for your own education? What steps will you take to achieve those goals?
2. Dr. Carson believes you should always stand up for your opinions and values even if they are unpopular, as exemplified in the recent movie *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*. Describe a situation where you should have stood up for your true beliefs but were uncomfortable expressing your opinion. If you had the chance to go back to that situation, what would you do differently?

The essays submitted will be evaluated with the following guidelines in mind:

Development: A clear purpose by expressing personal ideas.

Organization: A well developed beginning, middle, and end.

Vocabulary: Interesting, varied and imaginative, age appropriate vocabulary.

Detail: Appropriate information to make the reader clearly understand the ideas being presented.

Grammar & Usage: Correct punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and paragraph distinction.

Please have all essays submitted no later than *noon on Tuesday, January 5, 2010* to Mrs. Maureen Osborne. If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs. Osborne at 410-531-6664 or mosborne@stlouisparish.org. Good luck!!!

Private School Visitation

Wilde Lake High School will host a visitation for 8th grade students who attend private schools. This visitation will be held on December 15th at the Wilde Lake High School Counseling Center at 8:30 a.m. Parents and students are invited. Please RSVP to Fran Dummett or Joyce Luy at 410-313-6968 or fdummett@hcpss.org.

Centennial High School Orientation

Centennial High School, (4300 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City 21042) will be hosting an **8th Grade Parent Orientation Night** on Tuesday, January 12th, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the school auditorium. The meeting is open to parents of 8th grade students. Discussion will include high school course offerings, general ninth grade information, rules and expectations, and extracurricular activities. Appointments for private school students who wish to attend Centennial High School in the fall should be made with the Registrar, Cathy Aballo, at 410-313-2857. Appointments will be set for the last week of January and into February 2010.

Orientation Information

Reservoir High School is hosting an **Orientation Night for Parents of Incoming 9th graders for the 2010-2011 School Year** on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the school auditorium.

The Nutcracker

The Columbia Figure Skating Club will hold its annual performances of The Nutcracker on Saturday, December 12th at 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, December 13th at 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Their web site is www.columbiafsc.com. Tickets are \$10. One of our own St. Louis students will be performing in the show!

Are you Creative and Appreciate a Sense of History?

We want to create a gallery type space in the Howard Bishop foyer that will highlight the history of the school and also better utilize our trophy cases. We will also be painting over the balloons in the middle-school hallway and the stairwell and replacing them with the school logo and Knight – but that project may have to wait until the summer months! If you are interested in these projects and would like to be on a committee to make these changes a reality, please contact – Colleen Craig at ccraig@stlouisparish.org

N.U.T. or Peanut Cards

We would like to congratulate the following students for receiving a N.U.T. or PEANUT (No Uniform Today) card over the past few weeks. They have been recognized for various types of behavior including: helping the Kindergarten students; cleaning in the classroom; picking up without being asked; being encouraging to another classmate; picking up items that had fallen to the floor; always showing good behavior; winning a reading contest; being kind; and filling out multiple homework sheets for absent students.

Trisden Bovello

Matthew Hostutler

Caroline Stallings

Peter Congedo

Kylie Kennedy

Taylor Stone

Anthony Del Buono

Meghan Layug

Ryan Tiffey

Justin Dickens

Shriya Menon

Chris Vielandi

Kayla Hamilton

Sienna Ferraro Shiblee

Domenico Zuniga

We are very proud of all of you! Keep up the good work.

Alumni News

Congratulations to **Peter Kelly** and **Alex Palting**, both alumni Class of 2008, for their starring roles in last weekend's performance of *Romeo & Juliet*, presented by the Mount Saint Joseph High School Drama Club. The show was fantastic due to their exceptional talent!! We are very proud of them!

Baby News

Congratulations to Benjamin Kopec (1B) and his family on the birth of his sister Abigail Elizabeth. Abigail weighed 9 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21 inches long. Mom and Abigail are doing fine.

Areas That Need Improvement

None at this Time

Sent Home today

None at this time

Sent Home Electronically

St. Nick Night Vendor link

St. Louis Parish Christmas Concert flyer

Upcoming School Lunches

Thursday, December 10th – Pizza, pretzels and a brownie

Tuesday, December 15th – Chick-fil-A nuggets, chips and a fruit cup

Wednesday, December 16th – Baked Ziti, cheesy bread and an ice cream sandwich

Thursday, December 17th – Pizza, apple dippers and a cookie

Reminders

Thursday, December 10 th	Social Studies Assessment Grade 8 Symphonic & Beginner Band lessons during school Symphonic Band 3:45-4:45 p.m. Puppet Theater 3:45-4:45 p.m. Grade 6
Friday, December 11 th	Kindergarten “Dads in December”
Saturday, December 12 th	8:00-10:00 a.m. Saturday Detention 8:20 a.m. AOB High School Placement Test 3:15 p.m. Basketball Pep Rally & Mass
Sunday, December 13 th	Parish Christmas Concert with Middle School Chorus at 4:00 p.m. in the Church
Monday, December 14 th	Math Fun Groups for Grades 6-8 during recess Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal at 1:30 P.M. Primary Chorus 3:45-4:45 p.m. for grades 1-4 It’s Academic 4:00-4:45 p.m. for grades 6-8 NO ART CLUB
Tuesday, December 15 th	9:30 a.m. Mass Concert Band lessons during school NO After School Concert Band NO Drama Club 7:30 p.m. Parish Reconciliation Service in the Church
Wednesday, December 16 th	Book Collection for Sarah’s House Concludes-Deadline for bringing items to school NO Homework Club NO Yearbook 6:30 p.m. Christmas Program (K,2,4,6,8 and choruses perform)
Thursday, December 17 th	Out of Uniform (50 cents) & Donut Day (50 cents) Buddy Bingo- morning Pre-K Christmas Party Beginner & Symphonic Band lessons during school NO After School Band NO Puppet Theater
Friday, December 18 th	Noon Dismissal NO p.m. Buses NO Aftercare 9:30-11:30 a.m. Christmas Parties for grades K-8 11:30 a.m. Prayer Service in the Church School Re-opens on January 4 th , 2010
Friday, December 25 th	The Faculty and Staff wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!!
Monday, January 4 th	School re-opens “Welcome Back !”

Please pray for those who are sick

Tom Driscoll, cousin of Patrick Smith (1B), Jack Sutton (2B), Aidan Smith (3B), and Jay Smith (8B)

Diane Miller, friend of Lynn Devroye and Kathleen Duckhorn
Noah Thyberg, neighbor of the Del Buono Family
Joyce Bartolomeo, sister of Sister Lois Blessing
The mother and new baby brother of Mirela Oliveira (5A)
Brother James M. Kelly, C.F.X., President of Mount St. Joseph High School
Arlene Wilczynski , grandmother of Philip (7A) and Olivia (2B) Magaletta
Grace Hartley, friend of Olivia (2B) Magaletta
Nicholas Green, friend of Tommy (2B) and Emi (KB) Moran
Joseph Firetti, grandfather of Ryan Kerr (4A) and Nick Varner (5A), and father of Mrs. Kerr (Pre-K teacher)
Kitty Schisler, grandmother of Christopher (3A) Vielandi
A friend of the Chaundy family
Barbara Evans, mother of Kyle Evans, a St. Louis School graduate
Robert (4B) and Mary Grace (1A) Goyena
Eric Uttenreither, father of Victoria Uttenreither (1B)
Carol Sauter, friend of Mrs. Riser (8th grade teacher)
For all those who have lost their homes and loved ones in the recent flooding in the Philippines
Rita Johnson, great aunt of Meghan Layug (3A)
Alma Rosso, great aunt of Sophia (3B), Sarah (5A) and Nick (7B) Rosso
Special Intention
Mrs. Kelliann Penn and her family
The Scott Family, In-Laws of Mrs. Coble (Middle School Aide)

Please pray for those who have died

Col. Ashley Day Jameson, great-grandfather of Annaliese (3B) and Austin (2A) Jameson
Daniel Donoghue, grandfather of John, Colleen, Brendan, and Rose O'Rourke, St. Louis graduates
Timothy Flanigan, grandfather of Benjamin (1B) Kopec
Marie Wiedefeld, mother of Mrs. Patricia Marlatt, former teacher at St. Louis School
Melissa Moody, friend of the Moran family
John Evans, a 2005 graduate of St. Louis School
Patty Lanter, aunt of Victoria (KB), McKenna (3B), and Madison (5B) Griffin
Jim Philmon, uncle of Rachel (8A), Tess (5A), and Kayla (4A) Kostelec
Joseph Licata, grandfather of Ryan (7A), Amanda (6A), and Elizabeth (4B) Gallagher
Jean Anne Kain, grandmother of Christopher and Cameron Stang
Lola Marsiglia, grandmother of Nicholas (4A) Marsiglia
Anna Litwin, great grandmother of Nick (7B), Sarah (5A) and Sophia (3B) Rosso
Cheri Carroll, Aunt of Morgan (6B) and Phillip (4B) Carroll

Please also pray for all members of our military, especially those who are serving away from home.

David Kerr, husband of Mrs. Kerr (Pre-K teacher) and father of Ryan (4A), who is serving in Saudi Arabia.
Brennan Reid, uncle of Liam Herlihy (2B).
Mr. Joseph Madden, father of Nicole (8A), Madden
Patrick Flanagan, the son of Barbara Flanagan, Coordinator of Operation Welcome Home

If you wish to add someone to our prayer list, please email Mrs. Brenda Hossick at bhossick@stlouisparish.org.