



**St. MARY'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

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Website: www.smsberea.org

December 2007
School News

Mrs. Mary Whelan
Principal

A Holiday Message from the Principal

What an exciting time of year it is! December is always so busy as we prepare for the holidays. My hope and wish for all of you is that you share the season of Advent with your family and prepare for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ together. Purchase an Advent wreath and spend time each night lighting the candles as a family. Dinnertime is a wonderful time to discuss and share stories of our preparation for Christ's birth. Discuss ways of preparing for Christmas: giving hope, peace, love and joy to those around us.

This Advent . . .

- give **hope** by showing you care for those who are in need.
- give **peace** by turning the other cheek when you are provoked.
- give **love** by hugging someone who is feeling sad or tired.
- give **joy** by being encouraging and helping others in need; let them know you truly care and that therefore God cares as well.

When you find ways of bringing hope, peace, love and joy into the lives of others you will receive them in return. Keep Christ in Christmas this season. May your holidays be blessed and full of love.

God bless you and your family,
Mary Whelan

"The Reason for the Season"

The students will attend Mass (St. Nicholas Feast Day) on Thursday, December 6th, at 10:00 AM here at the school. All parents and friends of SMS are welcome to join us.

Father Vrabel has arranged for several priests to come to the school during the afternoon of December 10th and 11th for the students in Grades 3 through 8 to receive Reconciliation.

Our last day of school prior to Christmas break will be Wednesday, December 19th. The students will participate in our annual Advent Prayer Service at 2:00 PM with Father George and Father Tim. All are welcome to attend.

Extended Care

Extended Care and Preschool Day Care will be open on several days over Christmas break. If your child/children will be using the program please complete and return the enclosed form.

Weather School Closing

Remember, when BEREA CITY SCHOOLS are closed so is St. Mary's School. Please be aware that if SMS is closed due to a snow day the Extended Care Program and the Preschool Day Care will be OPEN.



Dress for Recess

Winter weather is here! Children are expected to participate in outdoor recess. When the temperature and wind chill are 20 degrees or above, students will go outside for recess. Students should be dressed appropriately, including boots, gloves, hats and snow pants. When the temperature and wind chill are between 10-20 degrees the students will only go outside for a shortened period of time.

Holiday Concerts

Vocal Concert – Mrs. Tilbert

Students in Grades 3 and 4 presented a fabulous vocal Holiday Concert for parents and guests **on Wednesday, November 28th**, in the school gym. What a wonderful way to usher in the Holiday Season!!!

Instrumental & Band Concerts – Mr. Fortini & Mrs. Lukas

Our Band will hold a Christmas Concert on **Wednesday, December 5th, at 7:00 PM** in the school gym. The Band will also perform for SMS students on Wednesday, December 12th during a student assembly at 1:30 PM.

Our youngest musicians will hold a Christmas “Twinkle, Twinkle” Concert on **Wednesday, December 12th at 7:00 PM** in the school gym.

We salute all of our student vocalists and musicians for helping us celebrate the birth of our Savior with song and music!

Bruening Foundation Grant

Congratulations to Mrs. Kathy Hrabik for being awarded the Bruening Foundation “*Improving Student Learning Through Technology*” Grant. Her winning project is to create Literacy Centers in the Kindergarten classrooms. SMS is grateful for Mrs. Hrabik’s dedication to education and technology integration throughout the school.

2nd Quarter Progress and Interim Reports

The second quarter Progress/Interim Reports will be sent home to parents of students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 on December 7th. Parents of students in Grades 4 – 8 do not receive a written report for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters – you are encouraged to visit EdLine, which enables daily review of student’s grades. (NOTE: In some instances, when a Grade 4-8 student is having difficulty in a subject area, an Interim Report may be issued for parents to review, sign, and return).

Service Project for SMS Families

The Student Council would like to thank everyone for donating canned and boxed food to our collection during the month of November. The St. Augustine Hunger Center was very grateful.

The third grade classes will be creating a scrapbook with letters, poems and drawings as part of their service project, “Connecting With the Troops”.

Also, to share the joy of the season we are asking every SMS student to send a Christmas card to a recovering American soldier. This can be a store bought card or your child’s very own creation is even better. **Just mail the card to:**

**A Recovering American Soldier
C/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001**

Eighth Grade Students and Parents

Throughout the first semester, the eighth grade students have been given a variety of opportunities to assist them in making an informed choice for high school. Mr. Jones and Mrs. Patena have worked with each child to secure high school visitation days at area schools, SMS hosted High School Night, and each student received the High School Magazine listing all Open Houses and testing dates.

High School Selection Week will be January 7-11, 2008. **All applications are due in the SMS school office on MONDAY, JANUARY 14TH**. Why not spend some time over the holiday making your final decision and writing your application essay. Remember your essay is your first and only chance to impress the administrators of the high school you are hoping to attend.

SMS Roller Skating Party

**Mark your calendars now for the
PRIDE Holiday Roller Skating Party!!!**

WHO: SMS FAMILY AND FRIENDS

WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30TH, 7:00-9:00 PM

WHERE: BRUNSWICK SKATE STATION 1261 Industrial Pkwy, Brunswick

COST: \$4.00 ADMISSION (at the door) \$1.50 Skate or \$3.00 Roller Blade Rental



**January Newsletter - 2008-2009 Re-Registration - Catholic School Week
Information**

The January Newsletter will be sent home with your child in the Friday Folder on January 4, 2008. *(Please note that your December Calendar and Menu include information for the first few days we return after our break.)* Re-Registration Information will be included with this Newsletter. All forms and fees will be due in the school office by February 29, 2008. Also, SMS will celebrate Catholic School Week beginning on Sunday, January 27th, with our annual Open House and many special events will be held throughout the week so mark your calendars!