



Holy Cross Catholic School Newsletter December 19 to January 6

Dear Parents,

Since this note will bring us into the new year, know that we intend to begin 2012 the same way we will end 2011 – with a deep sense of gratitude for you and your wonderful children. Thank you for the generous support that you so consistently and wholeheartedly extend to us. Know that you are upheld in special prayer at this blessed and joy-filled time. Please keep us in your prayers as well.

Our gratitude is extended to all those who so generously and graciously volunteered time and talent in making the children's Christmas program such a success. We are grateful to those of you who set up and took down the stage, set up and took down chairs, baked cookies, and helped with costumes. Special thanks to Cindy Voigt and the Home and School Executive Board members who planned, organized and worked the socials following both performances. Your generous help made this a wonderful event for our entire community. Thank you all!

In your Friday Folders today (12/16/11) you will find 3 calendars that you are asked to sell or purchase for our Calendar Raffle fundraiser. Attached to each calendar is a numbered ticket – half of which stays attached to the calendar and half which gets returned to the school to be included in the cash raffle. For the cost of \$25, not only do you get a great calendar, but you get a chance to win a cash prize EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR! You are able to win more than once, so with 365 days in a year you could pocket a tidy sum! This raffle is included under our gambling license from the State of Minnesota, therefore all calendars must be accounted for (sold or returned) at the time of the drawing. Please buy or sell your calendars on or before January 3rd. If you must return your calendars unsold, please do so before the 3rd so that we have the opportunity to make the maximum amount of money on this fundraiser. Only 250 calendars were printed and available for purchase. Please do your part to assist with this fundraiser. ALSO, IF YOU ARE ABLE TO SELL MORE THAN YOUR 3 ASSIGNED CALENDARS, PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL CALENDARS. Thank you!!

Once again, parents, know that you have our prayers and wishes for a blessed and joy-filled Christmas. May Jesus Christ, the light of the world, come to birth in each of us as we strive to live our lives in accordance of God's plan for us.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Ms. Scipioni

Saturday, Dec. 17 –

12:00 – 2:00 - Santa comes to Pearl Lake Lodge! Stop by the Lodge to see Santa and enjoy some holiday fun. There will be hay rides and other fun opportunities for the kids as well. Stop in and support Rudy/the Lodge in gratitude for all he does to support our school.

Monday, Dec. 19 –

- Advent Angel – We celebrate the final week of Advent and the conclusion of our Advent Angel giving program today. See note section for more information.
- DVD order forms for “The Mystery of Simon Shepherd” are due today if you want to order a copy of our excellent program of your own. (\$10.)

Wednesday, Dec. 21 –

6th grade students have DARE today.

Thursday, Dec. 22 –

Today is the last day of school of the 2011 year! Christmas vacation begins at dismissal. Have a blessed and Merry Christmas!

Friday, Dec. 23 –

No school today and throughout the Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

As we remember the true meaning of Christmas we prioritize our schedules to celebrate the reason for the season: the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ: The mass schedule for the celebration of Christmas is as follows:

Saturday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

4:00 (Holy Cross)

5:00 (Lux)

9:00 (MIC) “Midnight” Mass

Sunday, December 25th – Christmas Day

8:00 (Holy Cross)

9:00 (Lux)

10:00 (MIC)

The merriest of Christmases is one in which we experience the “Good News” of our Lord Jesus Christ in our lives and hearts. May we know the joy and peace of Jesus during this holiday season. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Saturday and Sunday, December 31st and January 1st – Happy New Year! We ring in the new year by giving God the first and rightful place in our lives. We celebrate Mary, the Mother of God at our weekend masses, held at the usual times.

Tuesday, January 3rd – Welcome Back! School resumes at usual hours today.

ALL CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKETS AND UNSOLD CALENDARS MUST BE RETURNED ON THIS DATE.

Wednesday, January 4th –

D.A.R.E. for grades 5/6

Thursday, January 5th –

Registration for grs. 6/7/8 Diocesan Youth Rally due today. See note section.

Friday, January 6th –

8:30 – Join us as we celebrate Eucharist as a school and parish family. The students of grades 5/6 assist at this mass.

*****NOTES*****

ADVENT ANGEL THANK YOU!

Humble thanks and a debt of gratitude to all families who made the Christmas season brighter for the recipients of our Advent Angel gifting program. Many, many new and gently used coats will be happily received right here in our local community. Also your gifts of personal hygiene products and baby items are greatly appreciated as well. Once again, parents, I continue to be amazed and impressed by your generosity and goodness to others. You set an example of giving for your children that they won't forget. Thank you.

OUTSIDE RECESS

It's important to know that our goal is to have the children go outside for recess every day, unless the weather is considered too frigid. Children need to dress appropriately with warm winter outerwear. The Holy Cross policy states that "when the temperature is 0 degrees or colder (including wind chill factor) no Holy Cross School children will be allowed outside for noon recess.

POLAR BEAR CLUB

Ms. Scipioni is willing to take the kids out for recess on any day when the temperatures are reasonable, but too cold as defined by the school's policy guideline. The "Polar Bear Club" gives kids a chance to get outside for a little activity and fresh air, even when the temperature isn't quite ideal. Once again, as a reasonable adult, I won't endanger your child by going outside in the frigid temperatures, but will take them outside for a short play time when the weather permits. Parents who allow their child to be in the "Polar Bear Club" must send a note to Ms. Scipioni indicating your permission.

WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL CLOSING

This is a little tricky. Although our school has a Kimball address and our church is located within the Kimball Public School boundaries, Holy Cross School is actually part of the ROCORI Public School District. If the weather is ever too inclement for school to be held (this decision is made by the public school superintendents...not Ms. Scipioni) Holy Cross School is closed whenever EITHER Kimball or ROCORI schools are closed. Most of the time Kimball and Rocori will make their decision together as well, but if not, Holy Cross is closed whenever EITHER Kimball or Rocori public schools are closed.

WEATHER RELATED LATE START TO THE SCHOOL DAY

Once again, this is a little tricky. Since both Kimball and Rocori schools have many miles of rural roads in their school districts, sometimes it is prudent for them to have school start a bit later to allow for the safe bus transportation of all students. A late start means that the bus will come two hours later than its usual pick up time, and that school will begin two hours later than usual (school starts at 10:05, with drop offs beginning at 9:30 a.m.). Here's the tricky part ... continue to monitor your television/radio/computer on late start days, as often times a delayed start turns into a school cancellation. The extra time allows the superintendent and bus drivers the opportunity to make a more informed decision regarding weather and road conditions. Remember that we are delayed or closed whenever Kimball or Rocori school districts are delayed or closed.

INTERNATIONAL AVIATION ART CONTEST

The Minnesota Department of Transportation sponsors an Aviation Art Contest for Minnesota students ages 6 – 17. If you are interested in more details about this contest or would like your child to participate, call the office and we'll send you the contest rules.

DIOCESAN YOUTH RALLY GRS. 6-7-8

All Holy Cross sixth graders are invited to attend the St. Cloud Diocesan Youth Rally set for Sunday, January 15, 2012. Registration information is available in the school office. Cost to participate is \$16 which includes a t-shirt. Call for info.

SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR IS HERE!

If you placed an order earlier in the year for a school T-shirt or sweatshirt, the orders have arrived! We'll send them home with your kids if you want, or keep them at school if you would like to give them as a Christmas gift to your child. We'll hold on to them until we hear from you. Thanks for ordering!

SMART BOARD UPDATE

A debt of gratitude to all of you who work so diligently to fundraise for Holy Cross School! We finally have the SMART board up and running, and have the students and teachers getting instruction from Mrs. Donna Huckenpoehler from Albany Catholic School. We were also given a great deal on computers from St. John's/St. Ben's as they update their systems, so we are updating the computer lab as well. Our gratitude is extended to an anonymous donor for the purchase of the "new" computers for the lab. We will be recycling some of the computers from the lab back into the classroom, so we could use a little help from some of you "techies." If you would like to assist with getting the computers set up and ready to go in the lab and classrooms, just call the office.

FAMILY EDUCATION CLASSES

Resource Training and Solutions is offering a number of classes in 2012 that offer skills and resources in Family education. "Helping Children when Families Experience Change," "Becoming a Love and Logic Parent," "A Look at Anxiety Issues in Children," and "Setting Limits and Boundaries" are some of the topics taught from January through March. Call the school for more information if you are interested.

