

CATHEDRAL PARISH SCHOOL
DECEMBER, 2009
HALO

Dear Parents,

On behalf of CPS and our Student Council, I wish to thank everyone for their generous contributions to our Student Council's Thanksgiving Drive for Catholic Charities. Our economic times have increased the demand on Catholic Charities and all food pantries to assist families in need. CPS parents have always been very generous in their giving and, again, you showed this generosity in what was donated this year. In addition, I would like to say thank you to Sarah McElroy and all her volunteers for the preparation of the annual Thanksgiving Dinner for our students, their families and our staff. This dinner is a tremendous undertaking and Sarah has graciously spearheaded this day for several years.

November 29th is the first Sunday of Advent. As part of the school's preparation for the Advent season, our students will attend Advent services in the Parish Hall on November 30th and December 7th at 8:00 am, and on December 18th, at 9:30 am, before the Christmas Program.

Please note there will be a change in the dismissal time for Christmas vacation. School will be dismissed at 11:30 am for Christmas vacation. After School Care will be available on this day, please sign up with ASC staff.

Thank you, everyone, for all you do to make CPS a wonderful school. Without parent volunteers, our teachers would not be able to do all the wonderful activities for their students. You are the greatest!

My staff and I extend to you our wishes and prayers for a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Janet Morton
Principal

GREAT CHRISTMAS IDEAS

Are you looking for good ideas for Christmas gifts? CPS is selling the famous CPS cookbook, "A Taste of St. Augustine" for \$20 and a beautiful, handcrafted, Christmas tree ornament of Cathedral Parish School for \$25. Please contact the school office, 904-824-2861.

SECOND GRADE HAPPENINGS

Second grade enjoyed decorating their Thanksgiving Food Drive boxes and filling them with food for those in need. They, also, made a poster for Advent representing JOY, as part of the school's Advent services.

In Science, second grade has been working on a chapter about staying "Healthy". Mrs. Peake, a second grade parent, helped the students make laundry detergent which is better for the environment and less expensive than what is purchased in the grocery stores. Each student took home their own bottle of detergent and the recipe to make more.

FOURTH GRADE NEWS

Fourth grade has been busy learning about Florida History by visiting some of the local historical sites in St. Augustine. They visited the Old St. Augustine Village and were able to see nine homes representing architectural styles dating from 1790 to 1910.

In addition, the students toured the O'Reilly House built circa 1691. Only the fort, Castillo de San Marcos, built of the same tabby and coquina, is older. It is in the O'Reilly house where Fr. O'Reilly privately taught Fr. Felix Varela whose cause for sainthood is now before the Holy Father in Rome.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RELIGION CLASSES

Mrs. Heiser's religion classes have made over 150 Christmas Cards for our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Respect Life Committee will mail the cards along with packages of candy from Mrs. McElroy to her brother-in-law's unit in Iraq. Please keep our soldiers in your daily prayers. Below are some of the greetings to our troops.

"Thank you, Soldier, for defending the freedom that we take for granted everyday. I hope you come home to a warm welcome". Dominic

"You, people, are the reason we have freedom. You stay across seas and don't see your home, family, and friends for months or even years. You are the most unselfish people I know. I pray for all of you." Chloe

“Dear Soldier, Thank you so much for defending our country. You have the bravery that most others do not. I hope you get to return home soon. I really appreciate what you are doing for our country. I am praying for all of you.” God Bless, Maddie

“Dear Soldier, Thank you for our services. I appreciate your work. We always pray for you and I will continue to pray. We are all very supportive of you and try to help you as best we can. Merry Christmas. May it be filled with joy, happiness, family, gifts, and God’s guidance. Have joy in your heart, love of the holiday, and love for all. Good luck and keep smiling, no matter how hard it gets.” Sincerely yours, Paige

“Merry Christmas from the bottom of my heart. I truly appreciate all the hard work you are doing for this great nation. Don’t give up, God is with you.” Megan

SCHOOL CONFESSIONS

Our parish priests will hear confessions for grades 3-5 on December 2nd and for grades 6-8 on December 11th.

CPS Students Share Time and Talent **With Senior Citizens at Bayview**

There couldn't be better gift for our elderly in nursing homes than smiling faces, music and fun, and spending time together. That is how CPS students in Middle School (and some in elementary grades, too) celebrated Thanksgiving on Saturday, Nov. 21st. The 4th Annual Talent Show at Bayview Nursing Home was a wonderful experience for everyone, and those who participated truly learned it is by giving that we receive. Respect Life Committee members offered to bring the food and drinks, and there were 15 acts! CPS Twirlers and CPS Dance Angels performed, as well. We all are excited that this has become a CPS holiday tradition! Thanks to all who participated.

Corpus Christi Knights of Columbus Italian Dinner

CPS wishes to thank the Knights of Columbus from Corpus Christi Church and Fr. Mooney for sponsoring an Italian Dinner. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the CPS Scholarship Fund.

(See separate attachment for picture)

