



# St. Gabriel School Newsletter December 2009



## IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS IN DECEMBER

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| December 1  | 7:00 p.m. Pre-Registration for new families and current families enrolling a new student for the 2010-2011 school year.   |
| December 3  | Friday Schedule<br>7:30p Winter Vocal Concert – Grades 2, 4, 6, 8 and Honor Choir   |
| December 4  | Thursday Schedule<br>8:00a All School Mass – St. Nick’s Mass (students are to bring a toy for Immaculate Conception/St. Henry and our Giving Tree Program)<br>8:45a Grade 6 Reconciliation<br>Grade 2 – Jesus Day |
| December 5  | 10:30a 1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation for our 2 <sup>nd</sup> Graders   |
| December 6  | 7:00p Honor Choir to sing at Our Lady of the Snows  |
| December 8  | <b>No School – Feast of Immaculate Conception</b>   |
| December 10 | 8:45a Grade 3 Reconciliation<br>7:30p Winter Band Concert   |
| December 11 | 8:00a Band to perform for school<br>4:00p Lion’s Choice Fundraiser to help our 8 <sup>th</sup> graders  |
| December 15 | 3:15p Faculty Meeting   |
| December 17 | 8:00a Baptismal Celebration (December and June)<br>8:45a Grade 8 Reconciliation   |
| December 18 | End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter<br>9:30a Holiday Treats for KA & KM<br>2:05p Holiday Treats for KP & Grades 1-8<br>3:00p Dismissal (Christmas Holiday begins)  |

### **E-Blast**

I have heard from a few families that they are unable to view the cover of the e-mails that are sent by SchoolReach, yet are able to view attachments. If this problem is occurring, please click “View as HTML”. This will convert the cover of the e-mail.

### **Advent at St. Gabriel School**

As we begin Advent, a season of being prepared, we are keeping our advent activities at school simple. Each classroom will have an Advent wreath as a visual reminder of our preparation. Classes will also focus on the “O Antiphons”.

We will have our annual St. Nick's Toy Collection on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at the All School Mass. It is important to keep in mind the needs of others.

Students have had the opportunity for Reconciliation prior to Advent. The following classes are scheduled for December:

Grade 6 – Friday, December 6

Grade 3 – Thursday, December 10

Grade 8 – Thursday, December 17

Our hope is that the students will grow closer to Jesus through this Advent season by their increased attention to being full and active participants at Mass.

### **Kindergarteners Attending Mass**

Beginning with Advent, the AM Kindergarteners will attend Mass on Tuesdays with Grades 1-3. The afternoon Kindergarteners are welcome to attend the 8:00 a.m. Mass and sit with the AM Kindergarteners.

### **Holiday Happenings**

As we look at the December calendar, there are a variety of activities happening within the school community. We know that December is a busy month for everyone, but we do hope that you can join us for the various events.

The students in Grades 2, 4, 6, and 8 and the Honor Choir will get us in the holiday spirit at the Winter Vocal Concert on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the gym.

On Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at the 8:00 a.m. Mass, all students will have the opportunity to bring a toy to be given to a needy organization. St. Nick will visit during the Mass. If Kindergarten students would like to bring toys, they can bring them on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> or Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and we will get them to our donation center. These toys can be new or fairly new. We ask that you do not donate toys that require batteries or electricity. Many of the families that receive the toys are in such financial need that they cannot afford batteries and/or have difficulty paying their electric bill. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Members of our Honor Choir will sing at Our Lady of the Snows on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Visitor Center. Please join us and then visit the light display afterwards.

The members of the Beginning, Intermediate, Concert and Jazz Band will share their gift of music at the Winter Concert on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the gym.

### **First Reconciliation**

On Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m., our Second Graders will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We ask you to pray for our Second Graders as they continue to prepare for the reception of this sacrament. All of us extend our congratulations to them.

Students in Grades 3-8 have had the opportunity for reconciliation after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at various times during November and December.

### **Important Dates for December**

There will be no school on Tuesday, December 8 for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> is a full day of school. Our Christmas holiday begins at 3:00 p.m. on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Classes resume on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Reporting Absences**

It is very important that you inform the school office if your child(ren) will not be in school for vacations, funerals, doctor appointments, high school shadowing, etc. Families are very good about reporting for illness, but not the other reasons. It helps our office staff if they know in advance. If we do not receive a phone call from a family reporting an absence, the office staff will call the home. Sometimes this can take about ½ to 1 hour out of the day.

Also, if you are e-mailing to let us know that your child needs to leave for an appointment, please send that to the attention of the office as well. As we have stated many times, the teachers sometimes can only get to their e-mail at lunch, a planning period or in most cases the end of the day. Informing only the teachers does not help since they get to their e-mail after the fact. Thanks for your help in this matter. The office e-mail is [office@stgabschool.org](mailto:office@stgabschool.org). In most cases, you can call the office directly and speak to one of the secretaries to get the message to your child and his/her teacher.

### **Pre-Registration for 2010-2011**

There will be a pre-registration meeting on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for those who have a child entering new to St. Gabriel School for Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade or any other grade. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact the office for a Pre-Registration packet after December 1<sup>st</sup>. It is important for us to have an anticipated count for the Kindergarten class and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade so we can better plan the school budget. If you know of a family that does not currently have children in St. Gabriel School and has a child ready for Kindergarten, please let them know that we are having our Pre-Registration at this time.

### **Registration Notice for Re-registration**

Please mark your calendar for the Mandatory Re-registration/Re-Enrollment Meeting for the 2010-2011 school year. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> in the cafeteria. You can attend either evening. All tuition fees, band fees, etc. must be paid up-to-date for your registration forms to be processed. For your budget purposes we want to remind you that ½ of the book bill is due with the registration form, the remainder is due by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Lunch Ordering**

Since December is a short month, we will e-mail the January menu on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and ask that you return it no later than Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. If you do not return the January menu before the Christmas holiday, your child(ren) will not be able to order lunch for January. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### **Tuition Payment**

This is a reminder that the semi-annual tuition payment is due by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please send the payment to the rectory office. You will receive an invoice indicating the balance due by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The second quarter ends on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Reports cards will be sent home on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. If a family is delinquent with their tuition, SCRIPS, band fees and/or EDK fees, report cards will be held. Access to grades on-line will be disabled for families whose report cards are held.

### **PFA Auction**

The auction is scheduled for Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a student raffle in January 12 –16. The money collected from this raffle will be used to purchase an item for the auction in the name of St. Gabriel Students. More information will be sent home in January.

### **Book Fair**

Thank you for supporting the School Book Fair. This year we made a profit of \$2200.00 in cash. All profits will be used to purchase a computer for the library, books for the library and novel sets for the classrooms.

A special thank you to Mrs. Migneco, Mrs. Eldridge, and Mrs. Heffernan for coordinating the Book Fair. A great big thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to help the students select books.

### **A Special Thank You**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade thanks all those who helped with the Trivia Night. They are especially grateful to all the school families, parishioners and friends that participated in the Trivia Night. The profit from this event is \$2700.00. This will help defray the cost of various 8<sup>th</sup> grade activities.

The next 8<sup>th</sup> grade activity is Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars for the “8<sup>th</sup> Grade Follies.”

### **SCRIPS**

Thank you to those who have purchased their SCRIPS or have chosen to buy-out of the program. We want to remind those that have not made their purchases of \$170.00 per month or have not paid \$100.00 for the buy-out program; you need to bring your account up-to-date. Your registration forms will be held in February if your account is in the arrears.

### **Congratulations to...**

... the following Bellarmine Speech League members who participated at the meet on November 7<sup>th</sup>:

DUETS: M. Stinehart (Gr. 7) and J. Pottinger (Gr. 7) – Blue Ribbon

HUMOROUS: O. Rohatgi (Gr. 8) – Blue Ribbon  
E. Rohatgi (Gr. 6) – Red Ribbon

...E. Rohatgi won the rising star competition at Bishop DuBourg High School. The last newsletter had M. Rohatgi.

...the following students performed in the Metro District 8 Honor Choir at Lindenwood University on November 14<sup>th</sup>:

J. Pottinger                      H. Randolph                      L. Swaney

... the following students who were members of the St. Louis Metro District Honor Band and/or Jazz Band:

A. Landolt – Saxophone (Jazz Band)                      C. Elliott - Trumpet (Jazz Band)  
H. Madden – Flute (Concert Band)

These students performed at Lindenwood University on November 22<sup>nd</sup> with other students from parochial, private and public schools from the St. Louis area.

...the following students who audition, but were not selected for the St. Louis Metro District Honor Bands:

T. Smith (Concert Band)                      D. Smith (Jazz and Concert Band)  
M. McGraugh (Concert Band)                      B. Waelterman (Jazz and Concert Band)  
E. Thibodeau (Concert Band)

...the forty-nine students in Grades 2, 3 and 4 who participated in the Noetic Learning Math Contest on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Over 4000 students in 21 states participated.

2<sup>nd</sup> Graders T. Sucher and N. Case placed in the top 10%.

The following students scored in the top 50% of the nation:

**Grade 2**

G. Killian  
P. Mullen  
A. Meyer  
S. Kinealy

**Grade 3**

M. Young                      E. Christanell  
W. McCann                      J. Farace  
C. Polansky                      K. Lauer  
C. Banker

**Grade 4**

C. Heinze                      T. Curdt                      S. Uxa  
C. Berns                      J. Linderer                      C. Abkemeier  
K. Murati                      C. Mally                      B. Renfrow  
L. Heffernan

**A Special Thank You to...**

- ... the teachers who helped to coach and judge the students for the Bellarmine Speech League.
- ... the families who purchased books from the Book Fair and donated the books to the school library and/or classroom libraries.
- ... the volunteers who helped with our Book Fair.

...the Edwards Family for donating books to EDK.  
...the Weinhoff Family for donating paper.  
...the Paul Smith Family for donating books to the library.  
...the Evola Family for donating books to the library.  
...the Reda Family for donating good scrap paper.  
...the Hunter Family for donating health supplies.  
...the Swaney Family for donating 2 cases of paper.  
...the Zanaboni Family for donating good scrap paper  
...the Zimokaitis Family for donating 2 cases of paper.  
...Kristi Schwanter for donating binders.  
...the Farace Family for donating books to the library.  
...the Frisella Family for donating books to the library.

**Remember to...**

...purchase your SCRIPS Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. in the school meeting room or after masses on Sundays.  
...purchases at Lions Choice on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. to benefit our 8<sup>th</sup> graders for their Mystery Day activities and Farewell Dinner.

On behalf of the school community of St. Gabriel, I want to wish you and your family a very blessed and joy-filled Advent.

Sincerely,

Ann M. Davis  
Principal

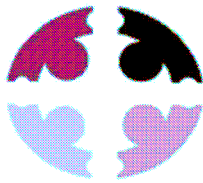
Attachment: School Tools from Catholic Family Services

**Go to the website to check the  
school calendar**

**[http://plus.calendars.net/stgabschool\\_2](http://plus.calendars.net/stgabschool_2)**

**and the cafeteria duty calendar**

**[http://plus.calendars.net/stgabschool\\_1](http://plus.calendars.net/stgabschool_1)**



Catholic Family Services

# School Tools

November, 2009  
Volume 7, Issue 3

## Minding Your Manners

*Dear Teachers and Parents,*

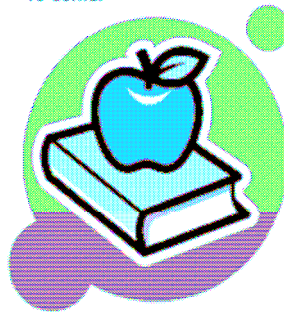
Manners may change from one generation to the next, but there is no doubt that they are still necessary. It's always helpful to be reminded about the basics, lest we become too sloppy in our interactions with others.

For a bit of manners trivia—a handshake was originally meant to show that a man was not carrying a dagger or sword in his hand. A man tipping his hat originated from knights in armor lifting the visor of their helmet to show their face.

Though we no longer carry swords or wear ar-

mor, there is good reason to continue to use manners—namely to show respect and kindness toward others.

In our casual society it is easy to let manners fall by the wayside. However, as models for our children, we can set a powerful example which may pay off in years to come.



### Attitudes of Gratitude

The holidays are fast approaching and it's easy to get caught up in the busyness of the season and forget why we celebrate. How we all need to be reminded about the importance of being thankful—for the tangible and the intangible things in our lives.

Take some time at Thanksgiving with your family to think of at least one thing for which you are thankful and share that with each other.

Remember that as you continue into the Christmas season—focus on being thankful for God's gift to us with His Son, Jesus Christ.

### Helpful Books on Manners

- *Elbows Off The Table, Napkins In the Lap, No Video Games During Dinner: The Modern Guide to Teaching Children Good Manners* (parents to read)
- *Goops And How To Be Them* (fun book for parents and children to read together)
- *Elmo's Good Manners Game* (pre-schoolers)
- *The Culprit Was a Fly* (school-age children)
- *Finishing Touches For Teens: Beauty, Etiquette and Self-Esteem For Your Changing World* (teens)

## The Basics of Manners

### Manners At Home

Everyone at home is entitled to some privacy:

1. Knock and wait for permission to enter a closed door.
2. Don't go into anyone's drawer, papers or mail without first asking permission.
3. Don't discuss the affairs of your family with outsiders or tell about a family problem.

### Table Manners

1. Ask for the food to be passed if it's not in front of you and don't take it if it's being passed to someone

along the way.

2. Chew with your mouth closed.
3. Don't talk with your mouth full.
4. Bring your food up to your mouth rather than bending over to reach it.

### Restaurant Manners

1. Don't pick up silverware if dropped on the floor. Ask the waiter to replace it.
2. Don't put packages or purses on the table.
3. Don't comb your hair at the table.
4. Don't use a toothpick in public.

### Being A Guest

1. Don't overstay your invitation.
2. Don't expect to be waited on. Offer to help.
3. Don't plan to stay overnight without consulting the host and your parents.
4. Don't upset the family's routine. Pitch in and do your part.
5. Don't be too noisy.
6. Don't make extra work. Make your bed and clean up after yourself.
7. Be sure to say thank you for a meal or an overnight visit to a friend's house.

Please copy and distribute to Teachers and Parents

If you would like to receive School Tools via e-mail rather than mail, contact: [mwilper@ccstl.org](mailto:mwilper@ccstl.org)

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