

December 20, 2019

Dear Parents,

Important Dates:

Monday, January 6th - return to school from Christmas vacation.

Monday, January 13th - PTO meeting at 7:00 PM

Friday, January 17th - Midterms are released

Monday, January 20th - Martin Luther King Holiday

Thursday, January 23rd - Parent/Teacher conferences

Sunday, January 26th - St. Christopher Open House- 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

News:

Chance for family service project:

- Message from Elise Sas: Join the St. Vincent Lunch Team Family Project! By providing 10 sack lunches a month, you can be a part of a bigger team that will provide 3000 meals to individuals and families who are without basic essentials through the St. Vincent DePaul Shelter. We need 50 donor families from the parish to make a 6 month commitment. Donors make 10 lunches a month in their home using their own resources and then drop them off on their assigned dates at St. Chris on a Sunday morning. Clipper Courier then donates their truck and driver to deliver the meals to St. Vincent. We are filling the dates for January- June 2020. For more information and to sign up please visit the St. Chris Parish website:
http://church.stchristopheronline.com/?page_id=10153 (Scroll to the bottom of the page to see the informational PDF)

Peace,

Elise

- The Art Service volunteer club made nearly \$600 with their auction project. Money will be donated to the House of Bread and Drs. Without Borders. Thank you for your leadership, Mr. Rasor.
- The student "Buy back Day" resulted in 76 passes being turned in and a donation of nearly \$600 made to Brigid's Path.
- A new and detailed Student Code of Conduct has been developed and is attached. This is an addendum to the Parent/Student handbook. St. Chris was in dire need to have an organized and very clear list of student offenses and the subsequent consequences.

Highlights of the Week:

- One of the scenes we wanted to do for the school video was catch the excitement of our kindergartners heading to recess. With our poor weather, we had to stage this event. So, we sent the kids out the main doors and around to the side door to catch their enthusiasm for recess. They were so energized, that they yelled, "Can we do this again!" Of course they could.
- Seeing a kindergartner at lunch, I asked her if she knew her Grandpa's nickname in high school. (Her Grandpa was on the track team I coached at Vandalia- Butler HS back in the middle 80's). She responded, "No"; when I told her his nickname her smile, giggles and laughter brought great joy to my face.
- Fr. John leading the students in song at the end of Wednesday's Mass- "Jesus has a little red wagon, it's going to lead me all the way to heaven", etcThe students knew all 3 verses and really opened up their singing voices.

Testimonial from Julia Diloreto, St. Chris class of 2016

"St. Chris helped cultivate my love of learning and has provided me with a steady foundation that I have built my knowledge on. I was able to test out of Algebra 1 and cruised through geometry because of the education I received in grade school."

-Reprint from an article I wrote for a school publication, dated Winter of 2009. (I see so many likenesses in my former school and St. Christopher's)

What Gift Will I Give Him this Year?

Being an elementary principal during the Christmas season provides an excellent chance to sample all kinds of treats the students thoughtfully give. Chocolate covered raisins, pretzels in white chocolate, Bailey's Irish Cream fudge, cashews and many favorite family cookie and candy recipes are all delicious calorie embedded delights. Regrettably, I over indulge during the Christmas season, but please know my inability to say "no" to these treats during Christmas provides motivation to sacrifice during Lent!

While treating myself to these goodies, I was also fortunate to treat myself to a book received as a gift, The Purpose of Christmas by Rick Warren. It was most appropriate time for me to read this book. Earlier in the week, I was struck by the many times I heard "Happy Holidays" over "Merry Christmas" and became more troubled reading an article by a local newspaper columnist, "Why Christmas Should be More Commercial." The sub-title was "The Holiday Should Celebrate Reason, Selfishness and Capitalism." While not decided if the columnist was writing with sarcasm and a satirical slant, I was glad to be reading Mr. Warren's book.

Warren states clearly: "The purpose of Christmas is a celebration of Christ's birthday. It is a birthday party! 'Do not be afraid. I bring to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you.' Luke: Chapter 2." Sadly, I fear our world is losing the connection with the birth of our Savior, the need for salvation and our need for reconciliation. How central to our lives is the presence of Christ? An interesting Warren family tradition is answering two fundamental questions during their celebration: "For what in the past year are you thankful to God? and For Jesus's birthday, what gift will you give Him this next year?"

As principal of Bishop Leibold School, it is very easy for me to answer these questions. I thank God for leading me to BLS. I get to experience firsthand the dedication of our teachers, and the care and involvement of our parents. I deeply appreciate the desire of our students, not only to strive to be successful, but to use their God-given gifts to become the best students they can, preparing to become a generation of decision makers who make significant contributions. In answering the second question, our gift to Jesus will be our continued contributions to Our Lady of Nazareth School in Nairobi, Kenya and other charities and to celebrate our Wednesday and Friday School Masses with a zeal and passion in gaining a stronger understanding of our Catholic faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

As we begin 2009, please join our school in celebrating the news of Christ's birth. Reflect on and give thanks for God's blessings. Consider what gift you can bring to Jesus this year, and make it a reality!

Yours in Christ,

Paul Beyerle