

St. Mary's



BLUE NOTES

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

St. Mary's School
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Dates to Remember:



Today, 11/11 (1:00 p.m. dismissal):
Parent/Teacher Conferences from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; **Scholastic Book Fair ends**

This Friday, 11/13: All-school Veterans' Day Mass at 8:00 a.m., followed by light reception in the cafeteria

Wednesday, 11/25 (noon dismissal):
Thanksgiving Holiday begins; school resumes on Monday, 11/30

Tuesday, 12/8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (holy day of obligation) all-school Mass at 8:00 a.m.

Friday, 12/11 change: the 8:00 a.m. will be a regular daily Mass; the vigil of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 12/17: Family Advent Mass, celebrated by Bishop Richard Stika—heavy hors d'oeuvres beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the gym; prelude begins at 6:00 p.m. in church, followed by Mass at 6:30 p.m. and a light reception after Mass

Tuesday, 12/22 (noon dismissal):
Christmas holidays begin; school resumes Thursday, 1/7/10

Principal's Corner

Dear Families & Friends,



Today the Church remembers a saint from a time when Christianity was still very new to the citizens of Europe: St. Martin of Tours, born in 316 of pagan parents, a convert to the Christian faith in his teens, Roman imperial bodyguard, hermit, and—finally—bishop of Tours, France. Unusual for that time and place, St. Martin was recognized for his great holiness while alive and venerated as a saint after his death even though he did *not* die as a martyr.

St. Martin is, of course, a great saint for this particular day, because he is the patron saint of soldiers. As we take time on Veterans' Day to honor all those who have served in this nation's armed forces, let us ask the intercession of St. Martin for all of our men and women serving at home and abroad. Our all-school Mass this Friday will be recognizing our parish veterans in a special way; please join us if you can.



In Christ,

Sister Andrea Marie, O.P.
Principal



Sewing Classes

Need a Christmas gift for Mom or Grandmom? Sewing classes will be offered for 6th - 12th graders on 11/18 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 12/2 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Youth Building. Cost: \$2.00 for the project; no other supplies needed. Register by calling Kathleen Cooksey at 919-7047.

Endowment Dinner & Dance 2010



St. Mary's School looks forward to hosting a Dinner & Dance to benefit the Endowment Fund in the Fall of 2010 in celebration of 60 years of educating

children both academically and spiritually. If you are interested in brainstorming and/or volunteering for this event, please call or e-mail any of your Home & School board members or Dawn Garibay in Development at the school office. Dates and times of upcoming meetings will be announced in the coming months to begin the planning for this historic time in St. Mary's history!

Playground Clean-Up



Many thanks to parents Laura & Mike McKenna, Gary Van Berkel, alum Ben Kass, and Fr. Jorge Cano for helping spread the new mulch on the lower playground in October!

Advent Wreath Workshop



St. Lucy's Guild is sponsoring an Advent Wreath Workshop on Thursday, 11/19, from 12:30 to 2:45 p.m. in Columbus Hall. All parents are invited to attend. The workshop is intended for you to learn the history and the meaning behind the Advent. Workshop attendees will receive a wreath, candles, and all the trimmings. **There is no cost to attend!** Donations are greatly appreciated but not expected. Spots are filling up fast with only 10 left. To register, or for more information, please call Carolyn Krings at 865-966-3187, or e-mail kringsk@aol.com. If you are interested in attending an evening Advent Wreath Workshop on Wednesday, 11/18, during R.E. classes, please call or e-mail Carolyn as well. If there is interest, a workshop will be held and information will follow in next week's *Blue Notes* concerning the time and place.

Summary of Parents' Feedback on RenWeb

A meeting with parent and school representatives was held in late October to assess general parent feedback regarding RenWeb. The following general issues were identified:

- **Issue:** Easy access to a compilation of important school-wide announcements for the week
 - **Solution:** the return of *Blue Notes*, which will now be posted by noon every Wednesday on RenWeb (online only)
- **Issue:** Desirability of system-generated e-mail communication regarding calendar changes, weather events, etc.
 - **Solution:** to be revisited at next RenWeb feedback meeting (may be solved by weekly *Blue Notes*)
- **Issue:** Lack of consistency in teacher communication, whether in RenWeb or hard copy form (announcements, class events, class calendar, etc.)
 - **Solution:** Principal will forward concern to faculty and encourage clear and regular communication with parents about homework and general class information
- **Issue:** Request for clear communication about after-school activities, both faculty- and non-faculty sponsored
 - **Solution:** non-faculty activities will be posted in *Blue Notes*; "class rosters" for faculty-sponsored clubs will be created in the near future so that scheduled events will show on students' RenWeb pages

Parent feedback meetings regarding RenWeb will be held on a quarterly basis. Look for the next round of feedback to be solicited sometime in December/January.

Posting Announcements in RenWeb & Blue Notes

All general/school-wide announcements must be submitted to Bettie Johnson at bjohnson@smcor.org **by 3 p.m. on Tuesday** to be posted by Wednesday in RenWeb and/or *Blue Notes*. RenWeb and Blue Notes will only be posted/updated by noon on Wednesdays. Be sure you have Adobe Reader 9 to read/download the *Blue Notes* (available as a free download at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>)