

January 6, 2017

Happy New Year to all our families! My warmest, best wishes, for a blessed and healthy 2017 to everyone. The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on Sunday. The Gospel reminds us that great things happen in the most humble of places. The name Bethlehem means "House of Bread". The humble stable becomes the throne that day. The Magi reverence the newborn child in a humble feed trough. He, who will become our very Bread of Life! We pray that all Catholics remember the reverence, Christ our Living Bread deserves. We bow before we receive the Eucharist as a sign of adoration and reverence to the Christ who feeds our spiritual life. Let us take time in this New Year to go to Mass and receive Him often. Each day He comes to us to give us strength to carry us through the events of the day. Can we not give Him back an hour of our time on the weekend to give Him thanks?



The month of January will be a busy one as we get back to continue the academic preparation. The preparation for our Open House on January 29<sup>th</sup> is in its final stages. It is my sincere hope that you will consider sharing your experience of St Mary School with other families who have children. Invite them to come and see the school. If you have anyone you would like us to send a flyer inviting them to the open house, please contact me and let me know. We are proud of the quality of education we provide.

Anyone needing some extra hours to fulfill their Home School volunteer hours? Mr. Scussel, our Athletic director is looking for help at our games for the Saturdays and Sundays the next three weekends in Jan. Please contact him directly, if you are interested. Your child does not have to be on the team to help with our sports program. All games take place in our gym. Please consider giving some time to help out. He is in need for this Saturday (tomorrow)! Even an hour or two would be great! His e-mail is: [mksCUS@snet.net](mailto:mksCUS@snet.net) or 860 694 8959. Please consider helping in some capacity.



Speaking of Mr. Scussel, he will be retiring as the school Athletic Director at the end of the season. His son, Mark Jr. has taken over as coach. We are now currently looking for someone who will run our sports program. If this is something you would be interested in doing, please call me or e-mail me and I would discuss what the position entails. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Scussel for giving over 12 years to the Archdiocese as the New Haven Vicariate League coordinator and our own coach for 16 years. He has been with our athletic program in some capacity for over 26 years. That is some record of commitment! He and his family still run the snack bar too. That means we have a few positions to fill! It is my hope we can find a team that can work together and support the sports program to carry on the legacy. Please contact me if you can help or know of anyone with interest in this area who can help the school with this responsibility. Thanks to the entire Scussel family!



Statements for the HSA fundraising obligation will be in next week's packet. If you have not logged in your hours from any event this school year up to the Christmas tree sales, please be sure to call the coordinator of the event you worked at, and have your hours posted correctly. Thank you for your cooperation.



The Silent Auction is quickly approaching. Please consider attending and bring a table of friends too! We want to make this our best Auction yet. Each year simply gets better and better. Before the Christmas break, we sent home the entire packet for ways you can help. Participation in this event is crucial. We need to fill the tables!



## OUR HONOREES:

**Mr. and Mrs. Bassi:** They have given so much time to the school and continue to do so. Whether in the parish or school, they are always so ready to lend a hand to any and all projects. I especially thank Mrs. Bassi for her patience with the children in the afterschool program. That is quite a challenge!



**Mrs. Valette:** Is a volunteer here and was an aide in Pre-K in past years. Presently she works as a volunteer in the Religious Ed. program. Her five children graduated from SMS and now her great grandchild, Ella is presently attending our school in grade one. Her support of the school has been endless.

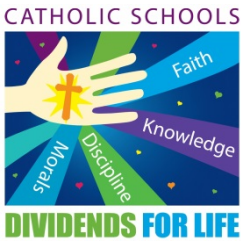


**Mr. Pino:** Is a past parent who helps us out whenever called upon. Whenever he is needed to help out, he is there for us. His son, class of 2012, graduated SMS and went on to Notre Dame High School, and is now at Salve Regina in Newport, RI studying criminal justice.



**Pat Caprolione:** is our volunteer office help on Tuesday and Thursday and also runs the food pantry for the families. As a dedicated Parishioner, Pat offers her time so faithfully and she does not have any children who attended the school. It is so good of her to offer her services for anything we need.

We are starting our preparations for Catholic Schools Week. I will be passing out yellow "Schools Choice" scarves for all new students in the school. Hopefully, all students who have received them in the past will be able to dig them out of their winter clothes bin. They should wear them the day of Open House. We will use them after Mass for the opening dance everyone is learning. Those who attend the 11:00am. Mass on Jan. 29th, will then come down to the gym at 12:30. We will have our opening ceremony in the gym, followed by classroom visits. This is the Sunday we pull out all the stops! The Fife and Drum Corps will perform and we will have the whole school do the dance that they are working on for Catholic Schools Week. Our classes will be decorated and the children's work displayed. We will give tours to interested new families, and all visitors are invited to come in and see the amazing work the classes produce. Your children are proud of their work and love it when their parents show an interest. This is a great day to also bring grandparents and other relatives to see their work. Please plan on attending both the Mass at 11:00 and the open house.



I am reminding all parents of the special Saturday Art project being offered in school to Grades 5-8, from the grant we have received from the Shoreline Arts Council. Details were in the previous packet. The returns were due Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>. The money was not due. The money is due Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>. If this is too difficult for payment, other arrangements can be made. 20 private lessons for 2 hours each is a bargain for \$200.00! Think about it and please send in the bottom portion of the notice indicating the interest. If you have any questions, refer to the last notice sent home before Christmas break. Can't find it? e-mail Mrs. AlvarezdeLugo. If it is the day that might be the problem, please let her know that as well. We are willing to be flexible to make this grant work. It would be a shame not to be able to take advantage of this opportunity.



**A reminder to parents:** Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, is the next trip to Albertus Magnus for Grade 7 and 8. For this visit, students are asked to provide their own lunch.

In closing, I want to thank all of the families for their many kindnesses and generosity expressed to all of the faculty and staff during the Christmas season. May God bless all of you.

Peaceful New Year blessings to all,

Sister Annette

