

The PULSE

Sacred Heart Parish School

Volume 7, Issue 2

Dec. 9, 2011

Mission Statement

Sacred Heart Parish School, a Catholic Elementary School within San Benito County serves students preschool through eighth grade.

We are committed to teaching the gospel message of Christ, building community based on Jesus' command to love one another, and serving through prayer, worship, and social action. We provide an environment within which students receive training in our Catholic tradition.

We strive to develop competent and compassionate graduates through spiritual, academic and extracurricular programs. Students are empowered with leadership skills, values, and character traits to enrich personal living and develop as responsible, mature, faith-filled citizens.

Adopt-a-Family

The request from the Homeless Coalition of San Benito County is for 43 children ages 6 months to 17 years old. In addition to each class adopting a child, faculty and staff have adopted a child or children. There are still a few children without a Christmas Angel. If anyone would like to be a Christmas Angel, please contact the office. Each grade will make a card and buy gifts for the family. We are hoping to be able to purchase a toy and an articles of clothing for each child. We are asking that each student **bring in one dollar, preferably one they have earned themselves by helping out around the house or yard.** This will underscore the importance of sharing one's talent and time as well as one's treasure. This project is one which lends itself to family discussion, both about how blessed we are and how important it is to reach out to those in need.



We are heading toward the five-day countdown. **The program for 1-8 will take place on Wednesday 12/14 at 6:00pm with a rehearsal scheduled for 10:30am on Wednesday 12/14.** Students need only bring their accessories to school in the morning. We invite anyone, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. to join us for the dress rehearsal on **Wednesday morning.** Our Preschool, PreK and Kindergarten program will be held on Tuesday, December 13th at 10:30am with a light reception following. **It will be a minimum day for our Kindergarten classes.** We will make arrangements for early extended care based on need. **Please contact the office or your child's teacher if your child will not be leaving after the program.** We will be collecting food for the Fishes and Loaves pantry at all three programs. **Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation.**

I share with your family the following prayer as we celebrate week three of Advent:

Jesus, you shine a light into the darkness of our lives.

We are like plants in limited sun, and we find ourselves turning toward you longing to be closer, wanting only to draw near.

Help us to be faithful, in the big decisions of our lives and in the smallest of ways we live out each day.

Our goal is salvation, Lord, and we are painfully aware we cannot do that by ourselves.

Teach us to be patient, to be faithful.

We know there is so much more grace we need and so much more you want to give us.

Help us to be open to it and to recognize the many gifts you give us each day. Peace and Blessings during this season of Advent,

eWaste Recycling Fundraiser Event Sat., Jan 21, 2012 9am-2pm, SHPS Parking Lot

Please recycle your old TV, CPU, monitor and other electrical devices to help raise funds for Technology initiatives.

Candy Cane Grams



Send your favorite Spartan some holiday cheer! Candy cane grams on sale Dec. 7-15 in the courtyard, afterschool. Only \$.50 each, full-size candy canes. Classroom delivery Dec. 16. Sponsored by PASS.

Did you know?

The fifth grade is an amazing year of growth. Fifth graders enter the school year as elementary students and leave as junior high students. This growth is shown throughout the school year as students encounter more challenging concepts as the year progresses. Fifth-graders are asked to be more accountable than ever before as they take more responsibility for their behavior as well as their quality of work. Students take on the challenges of U.S history and several different areas of science. Fifth-graders are asked to show that they can effectively communicate their ideas through public speaking and in their writing.

In order to further build on the concepts found in our textbooks fifth graders bring in outside news and personal experiences. They are asked to find interesting current events articles to share with the class. They provide a summary of actions as well as their personal take on the event. This allows us to connect our classroom with what is happening each and everyday in the outside world.

The fifth grade is a great landmark for students as they gain their education. It is a place where children build upon past concepts and begin to find their voice. The fifth grade is a challenging yet exciting time for our students.

We also celebrate our blessed Mother under three very significant titles:

The Immaculate Conception

Our Lady of Juquila, Oaxaca

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mary, our Mother plays a concrete role in salvation history as she speaks her yes, her fiat, to God and God's plans for her and us. On December 8th, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Patroness of our country, and on that day so many of our recently arrived sisters and brothers from Oaxaca, Mexico celebrate their very special day to honor their Patroness Madonna, Our Lady of Juquila. Next, on December 12th, we celebrate our Blessed Mother under the titles of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of all of the Americas. We thank God for our Blessed Mother who teaches us how to receive Jesus and how to love Him each day.



Eighth Grade Memories



Some of my favorite memories are when Travis discovered Jessica's "accent". Another one was getting my buddy in 6th grade. Third is when everyone kept slipping on the grass in P.E. Fourth was when Mrs. Olivas "covered" the answers on the board.—Spencer Armlin

Elks Hoop Shoot Contest

Congratulations to the following students who now advance to the next round which is Sat. Dec. 10 @ 9:45AM.

12-13 Yr. olds

Maggie Campo
Marcos Galvan

10-11 Yr. olds

Sean Slavich
Ashley Raich

8-9 yr. olds

David Nino
Katie Taylor





Important Dates to Remember

Dec.	11	Sun	Children's Liturgy (4th grade)
	12	Mon	Advent Wreath Lighting 8:00am 6th Gr. Girls BB vs. Spring Grove @ SH @ 4:00pm 7th Gr. Girls BB vs. Spring Grove @ SH @ 5:00pm Boys Soccer vs. Charter 2 @ MH Complex @4pm
	13	Tues	ECE Christmas Program (PS-K) @ 10:30am Kindergarten (MIN DAY) Boys Soccer vs. Spring Grove @ SG @ 4pm
	14	Wed	Min day - All school "rehearsal" at 10:30pm (1-8) Christmas program (1-8) @ 6:00pm
	15	Thur	9:00am Mass - 5th grade 2nd grade Field Trip Boys Soccer vs. Crossroads @ Vets @ 4pm
	16	Fri	Min day/ NO EXTENDED CARE
	19-30		Christmas vacation
	24	Sat	Christmas Eve Mass (8th grade)



Thank You the Men's Club for their generous donation to the athletic department for the purchase of new basketball uniforms.

The Christmas Tree teaches about love

Like many of our Christmas traditions, the background of the Christmas tree is a patchwork quilt of many cultures. One piece concerns St. Boniface, a missionary in the time of Pope St. Gregory II.

St. Boniface's greatest challenge as a missionary was to eliminate pagan superstitions that kept people from accepting the Gospel he preached. One Christmas Eve, St. Boniface was traveling through the woods with his companions and came upon the townspeople gathered around a sacred oak about to offer a human sacrifice to their god, Thor. St. Boniface stopped the sacrifice and chopped down the oak.

Behind the oak stood a fir tree. St. Boniface asked the people to bring it into town and set up in the great hall of the duke. They placed candles on its branches and listened while St. Boniface told the story of the Nativity and the Baby who would grow up to be the Savior and sacrifice himself for all of us. Many were captivated by the story of love and were converted.



Thoughtful Moments—God came

The miracle of Christmas is that the God of love came to us. Isn't that amazing? Even more incredible, he hasn't left. Look for ways you and your family can find Jesus in the world this Christmas.

Feasts & Celebrations

Dec. 14—St. John of the Cross (1591). As a carmelite, St. John led a reform in the Order to encourage more prayer and simplicity. Some of his most beautiful spiritual writing came while in prison. His mystical-poetical reflections showed his love of prayer.

The Boy Scouts will be picking up used Christmas trees in Hollister and San Juan Bautista on Sun. Jan. 1, Sat. Jan. 7 and Sun. Jan. 8. On pick up dates, please leave your tree visible at the curb by 9:00am stripped of decorations and stands. We accept flocked trees.

Troops are asking for an \$8 donation. Donations can be left under the doormat. For Hollister trees, make checks payable to BSA Troop 436. For San Juan trees make checks payable to BSA Troop 428. For further questions, call 831-638-9646 in Hollister or 831-636-8360 in San Juan.



Prayer corner

For those who are ill especially, **Mrs. Picha, Mrs. San Miguel, Mrs. Olivas, Mr. Miller, Troy Mitchel, Gabriel Preciado, Kenneth Klauer, Sr. Margaret Ann and Mr. Mifsud.**

For the needs of our parish and school community and all our friends and benefactors.

Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for December 2011 is **"That all peoples may grow in harmony and peace through mutual understanding and respect."**

Christians have always believed that all truth is God's truth. We should not fear those who search for the truth but welcome them, because we know that, if they are sincere, their search for the truth will lead them to Christ.



What are the rules regarding fasting and abstinence during Advent?

There are no longer any "official" days of fast or abstinence during Advent, but Catholics are encouraged to prepare themselves spiritually during Advent with voluntary acts of prayer, fasting, penance and almsgiving.

Traditions: Calendar

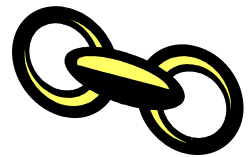
The Advent calendar started in Germany during the 1800s. Families drew a chalk line or lit a candle every night to mark the days until Christmas. Gerhard Lang produced the first printed Advent calendar, which contained small pictures that could be glued to a piece of cardboard each day.

Traditions: Posadas

Posadas, a word that means "shelter" or "lodging," is an Advent custom in Mexico. It re-enacts Mary and Joseph's search for lodging as they traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The Posadas takes place over nine days, Dec. 16-24, which symbolizes the nine months of Mary's pregnancy. People go from house to house seeking lodging, but the "innkeepers" refuse to let them stay. On Christmas Eve, the travelers are finally welcomed at the last house where they celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Traditions: The Advent Chain

An Advent Chain is a way to mark the days through Advent. Cut one strip of purple construction paper for each day of Advent. Use a pink strip for the third Sunday of Advent and a white strip for Christmas. Some families like to write something special on each strip such as: "Call Grandma today." "Do something nice for someone." "Say a Hail Mary for someone who is sick." "Read a book about a saint." Let everyone in the family brainstorm other things to write. Then paste or staple the strips to create loops that interlock to form a chain. Each morning detach one loop and read the message as you prepare for Christmas.



Traditions: Advent Wreath

The circular wreath with four candles reminds us of God's eternal nature and the light Christ brings into our lives. You can say a prayer and light the candles before dinner each night or at some other consistent time.

Welcome St. Nicholas

The true story of Santa Claus begins when Nicholas' wealthy parents died in an epidemic while he was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you have and give to [the] poor" (Mt 19:21), Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was appointed bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need.



On the evening of Dec. 5, have children fill their shoes with pieces of a carrot or bits of hay for St. Nicholas' white horse or donkey. Place shoes outside bedroom doors or on the hearth. See that a candy treat appears by morning on Dec. 6.

What is Advent?

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin Adventus, which means "coming." It is a time for quiet reflection, prayer and conversion in anticipation of the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. The readings and the liturgies during Advent prepare us for the birth of Jesus, but they also prepare us for the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of the world. The season offers us the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert as we await his Second Coming. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas. It ends at sundown on Christmas Eve. Since Christmas falls on different days of the week, Advent can range in duration from 22 days when Christmas falls on a Monday to 28 days when Christmas falls on a Sunday. Advent marks the beginning of the Church year. Unlike the secular year, which marks the passage of time, the liturgical year celebrates the sacred mysteries of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The year begins during Advent in anticipation of the coming of Jesus with reflections on the Hebrew prophecies and the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah.

Sacred Heart Parish School students are on FIRE and show it by:

Faith

- Actively participating in Mass, religious studies and Catholic traditions
- Using different types of prayer to show reverence for God's creation, self, family, and others
- Having a basic knowledge of the teachings, doctrine, and practices of the Catholic Church

Intelligence

- Showing grade level proficiency in core subjects
- Using technology responsibly as a tool for learning
- Using study skills wisely

Responsible citizenship

- Reaching out to serve others
- Demonstrating self control and responsible behavior
- Realizing that individual choices impact the world socially and environmentally

Effective communicators

- Effectively presenting ideas with confidence and poise in a variety of situations
- Expressing written thoughts clearly, using correct grammar and mechanics in diverse forms and for different purposes
- Utilizing technology effectively to communicate with a variety of audiences

Immaculate Heart Radio

The Most Reverend Richard J. Garcia,
Bishop of the Diocese of Monterey
and

Immaculate Heart Radio
cordially invite you to
celebrate the launch of
1240 AM KNRY,
which will broadcast
the best of Catholic radio
programming, 24/7.

8th grade corner

Reminders:

- Please turn in baby photos to the office or email: navarroteam3@aol.com.

Entrance Exams

Notre Dame High School
January 7th & 14th

Palma School
January 14th, 28th & February 11th

St Francis
January 14th, & 21st

Honor Roll**5th grade First Honors**

Sean Slavich
Joseph Nino
Olivia Guerrero

Jessica Slater
Christina Peterson
Samuel Banuelos

Mathieu Morin
Leah Cottrell

Second Honors

Ambria Del Curto
Morgan Scott

Brady Miguel
Alex Vodanovich

Marielle Hayford

6th grade First Honors

Katie So
Adam McCullough
Kyle Haas
Saul Martinez
Kieley Hoskins
Christina Carvalho

Nicole Andrade
Jordan Laib
Kinsey Canez
Lindsay Cagnacci
Eduardo Villanueva
Sydney Kunz

Elena Gonzalez
Marisa Sachau
Akemi Ito
Dominic Garcia
Elian Sanchez
Skye Lompa

Second Honors

Claire Gastello
Henry Lompa
Nicole Diehr

Andrei Vladimirov
Atzin Esquivel
Robert Bessa

Brandon Moakler
Lauren Sabbatini

7th grade First Honors

Riley Scherr
Christopher Johst
Alexander Armlin

David San Miguel
Monique Hayford
Pedro Gomez

Caitlyn Gonzalez
Ashley Sparrer
Giovana Donati

Second Honors

Blake Miller
Anthony Brigantino

Mark Scalmanini
Maddie Hiura

Melissa Alvarado

8th grade First Honors

Felicia Markfield
Maggie Campo
Sean McCullough
Joseph Murray

August Brigantino
Beatrice White
Ashley Slavich
Christopher Albright

Matthew Gastello
Adam Gonzales
Sean Moakler

Second Honors

Alex Kunz
David Cuellar

Jacob Penzo
Jonathan Jurevich

Mathias Ito
Jonathon Duarte

SHPS Men's Club Ipad 2 RAFFLE

Ticket Prices:

1 for \$5.00

or

3 for \$10.00

Do not need to be present to win



**Winner announced
at the Christmas
Program**

Tickets available in the office

Support the sports at SHPS