



The School of
Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales
307 School Street
Bennington, Vermont
05201
802-442-2446

www.sacredheartbennington.org

December News 2015

Prepare Your Hearts during Advent

During the season of Advent, various activities have been planned for our students. These include our morning prayer services with the Advent Wreath and daily reflections about the liturgical season. There are also a number of activities listed on our school calendar and in our parish bulletins that will give you and your family an opportunity to fully prepare for the coming of our Lord. Advent calendars are included with this week's notes to help you and your family prepare for the birth of Jesus. Suggested ideas will help everyone understand how important the season of Advent really is and that Jesus is the reason for the season. These calendars definitely add to the richness of the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Please try to encourage your children to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas during the weeks ahead by taking part in these activities.



Christmas Celebrations

Our Classroom Christmas Celebrations will take place on Friday morning, December 18, following our 10 AM Mass. This is the last school day before vacation begins. Room parents will be contacting you about the details once they have spoken with each of the classroom teachers about the necessary arrangements. All parents are welcome to join us.

We are always seeking new students. If you know of any family who may be interested in enrolling their children, please let us know or have them give us a call. Word of mouth is a great marketing tool. Maintaining our enrollment is crucial to our existence. Please help your school community.



Annual Tree Lighting Celebration

Get in the Christmas Mood!

Third and Fourth Grade parents will be hosting a Christmas Tree Lighting on Wednesday, December 2, from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM on the school grounds. This will be an outdoor event, so dress warmly! There will be refreshments, caroling led by our Middle School Chorus, and a very special visitor. Please join us as we begin our countdown to Christmas. All families are welcome to attend.

“May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope; the spirit of Christmas which is peace; the heart of Christmas which is love.”

Ada V. Hendriks

CALENDAR NOTES

**THURSDAY AND
FRIDAY, DECEMBER
10 and 11**

**NOON DISMISSAL—
PARENT-TEACHER
CONFERENCES**

**FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 18
NOON DISMISSAL**

**NO SCHOOL—
DECEMBER 21—
JANUARY 1

CHRISTMAS BREAK**

2

“Arrest These Merry Gentlemen”

In A Quiet Little Town Called Bethlehem

“Arrest These Merry Gentlemen” will be presented by the students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5 on Monday, December 14, at 6:30 PM at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church. The show will be approximately 30 minutes long. This year we are also anticipating having a performance on Monday afternoon at school starting at 1 PM for grandparents and other guests who cannot come in the evening. With the exception of the fifth graders, all children must wear nice Christmas attire. More detailed information will follow.

We will be having a run-through rehearsal at the church on Friday morning, December 11. We will walk to the church and then back to school when we are done.





Harvest Bazaar Results

On November 7 our entire community came together to show their support for The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales. Our annual Harvest Bazaar was once again a huge success. We were able to raise \$14,500 this year.

Thank you to all our students, parents, parishioners, and friends who played some role in this year's bazaar. A special note of appreciation goes to all the chairs and workers of the many booths and various activities. A special note of thanks to the Ladies Sodality of St. John's for organizing the pasta dinner. You are all truly amazing! We could not have done it without you.

We certainly can understand and know why we have heard so many positive comments about how wonderful an event it was and the sense of community it fostered.

Let Music Fill the Air

Sounds of the Season

Our School Bands and Chorus, under the direction of Mr. Daniel Timmermans, will present an evening of Christmas Music on Wednesday, December 16, starting at 7:00 PM in our multi-purpose room. If you can attend the concert on the 16th, you will be surely entertained by the beautiful music they have prepared for your listening pleasure.



Christmas Wish List

Many times during the Christmas season parents and friends wonder if there is something in particular that the school needs and how can they help. If anyone is willing to donate a special gift during the holidays, the following items are suggested:

- postage stamps
- a new thermoscan thermometer
- Staples gift cards
- dish towels for lunchroom
- 5 alphabet index dividers
- latex free bandaids
- ice packs



Mission Statement

Providing excellence in academics and a deepening faith in God and Gospel Values in an environment that is caring, challenging, and respectful, striving to develop in every student the habits of thinking critically and acting responsibly in daily life.

From the Principal's Desk

Every holiday season comes with the delight of creating a wish list; (see ours on the previous page); the joy of decorating the Christmas tree; and much anticipated family time, gifts, and celebration. Amidst all of this excitement, it is important that we take time to appreciate the countless gifts we already have and to think about what and why we are celebrating.

Here are a few tips to keep your holidays bright and full of joy, while enjoying your family time and reminding your family what is really important during the holiday season:

Remember to be kind and a model of thankfulness: You are your children's most important role model, and our families are one of our greatest gifts. When you express thankfulness to your children for having them in your life and provide a caring family support system, they will learn to appreciate you and one another. If you model kindness in your home by taking time to really listen to your children, provide help when needed, and treat them with respect, your children will be more inclined to treat others this way.

Focus your family on Christ this Christmas: Work to keep Christ and the gift of love at the center of your holiday celebrations. The very first Christmas gift was a gift of love in the infant Jesus. If you want to make this a very special Christmas, help your family give some gifts of love: give encouragement where there is fear, companionship where there is loneliness, and hope to those who are hopeless. Spreading your love and helping your children do the same is a powerful way to teach the importance of faith, and of opening our hearts to God.

Give back to your community: Volunteer or donate toys to a local homeless shelter, visit nursing homes or the Veterans' Home, volunteer a few hours to His Pantry or decide with your family some new way to give back to your community.

Wishing you and your family a very happy holiday season that is full of joy, thankfulness, and the spirit of the season.

