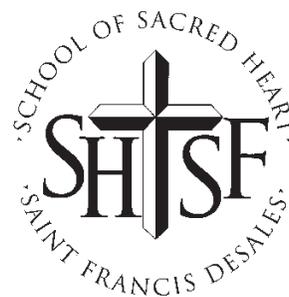


SHSF NEWS



Monthly Newsletter

December 2016

Advent Begins

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 being sent home this week 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.

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.



In This Issue

- Bazaar Results
- Tree Lighting
- Christmas Program
- Calendar Notes
- Christmas Parties
- Reflection



A Christmas Reflection

O God, our loving Father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus,

That we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving, and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Amen

Sounds of the Season

Our School Bands and Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Stephanie Paul, will present an evening of Christmas Music on Monday, December 12, starting at 7:00 PM in our multi-purpose room. If you can attend the concert on the 12th, you will be surely entertained by the beautiful music they have prepared for your listening pleasure.

Harvest Bazaar Results

On Saturday, November 5, 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. 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 and the Norshaft Lions 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.

Because of all your hard work, and after all expenses, we raised \$12,885 for our school this year. We are so very grateful.

**WISHING YOU THE SPECIAL BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS
FROM ALL OF US AT SACRED HEART ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL!**



Our Annual 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 can help. If anyone is willing to donate a special gift during the holidays, the following items are suggested:

- postage stamps
- 5 oz cups for ASP
- blank CD-R discs
- photo memory cards
- driveway salt
- lunch room aprons
- colored copy paper
- page protectors



- and a million dollars!

THANK YOU

Christmas Tree Lighting

Third and Fourth Grade parents will be hosting a Christmas Tree Lighting on Tuesday, November 29, 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 .

“The Light Has Come”

“The Light Has Come” will be presented by our students (PS-Grade 8) on Thursday, December 15, at 6:30 PM at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church. The show will be approximately 30 minutes long. We will also be having a performance on Thursday afternoon at school starting at 1 PM for grandparents and other guests who cannot come in the evening. All children must wear nice Christmas attire. More detailed information will follow.

We will be having a run-through rehearsal at the church on Wednesday morning, December 14. We will walk to the church and then back to school when we are done.

Christmas Parties

Our Classroom Christmas Celebrations will take place on Tuesday morning, December 20. 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.

CALENDAR NOTES

***THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 and 9.
NOON DISMISSAL—PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES***

TUESDAY—DECEMBER 20 —NOON DISMISSAL

***CHRISTMAS BREAK— NO SCHOOL
DECEMBER 21—JANUARY 2***

From the Principal...

The ability to say the right thing at the right time in social situations makes everyone more comfortable. It can even stop arguments or potential fights. This is surely a skill we want our children to have, and it is one that can be learned if we all provide opportunities and examples for practice.

Good communication skills allow students to express their own ideas clearly in speaking and writing, to understand better the ideas of others through listening and reading. In any situation, people need to have a mutual understanding of what is said and what is meant.

Like it or not, we are role models for our children. We set an example by our willingness to listen to another point of view and to express our own ideas clearly and calmly, as well as by our interest in building a better vocabulary. Through interaction with us, children first develop a sensitivity to meanings conveyed by body language and facial expressions.

Because your home is an important part of your child's language-learning environment, daily activities can reinforce the skills taught in school. Families can enjoy word games and share interests in books. Discussions about news or other topics of interest provide conversational practice. Roleplaying social situations offers practice in what to say and how to say it, while letters, note, phone calls, and yes, even email messages develop other communication skills.

Unfortunately, social media has had a negative effect on one's ability to communicate effectively, especially face to face. We need to help our children so they do not forget or lose the necessary skills that are important in order to communicate with others in a meaningful way.

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.



The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales

307 School Street
Bennington, Vermont 05201
802-442-2446
www.sacredheartbennington.org

