

SHSF NEWS



Monthly Newsletter

January 2017

Catholic Schools Week 2017



Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated a week later this year, starting on January 29

At Sacred Heart St. Francis we continue to build the Kingdom of God each and every day.

We proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ because our school community has been enriched by God's gift of faith. We must build on that and create a faith filled future for our children, our school, and our parishes.

Catholic Schools Week 2017 provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate to the community what Catholic school parents, administrators teachers, and students have known all along...that we are truly forming a future full of faith and promise. Our school is strong and vibrant because of the faith that we share.

We invite you to celebrate Catholic education by participating in the activities that we have planned beginning with CSW kickoff at the 9:30 AM Liturgy on Sunday, January 29, at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church. We will be hosting a breakfast following Mass this year.

A complete calendar of events will be sent home soon. Please note the daily themes listed on page 3. Come celebrate with us!

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.



"Teacher Swap" during Catholic Schools Week is an annual favorite for everyone.

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A Catholic Schools Week Service Project created by our students.

A Note of Thanks

We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Special thanks for all the many kindnesses the school staff received during the holiday season. We are extremely grateful for all the notes, cards and gifts that we received. Your kindness and thoughtfulness was over the top. It is, as always, a pleasure to work with your wonderful children.

We would also like to express our appreciation to all those who helped in any way at our annual Christmas programs. "The Light Has Come" was a lot of fun for everyone and the children performed it amazingly well. Our choral and instrumental concert was also exceptional. The Christ Child was certainly present as the children sang and played with joy and enthusiasm. We were all so proud!



MONDAY
January 16
NO SCHOOL

Safe and Sacred

Have you completed your on-line training? Are you up to date? All volunteers, including parents, are required to comply with the school's request for a Vulnerable Record Check for the safety of our children. This is in accordance with Diocesan policies and is required for anyone who wishes to work with our students in any capacity. Fingerprinting is not necessary for this background check.

In addition, all staff members, coaches, and volunteers (new and old) who work directly with children (including field trip chaperones, lunch room helpers, etc.) must complete the on-line program called **"Safe and Sacred."** New volunteers need to do it right away. Don't delay, do it now.

To log on, go to VermontCatholic.org and follow the links for completion.

Catholic Schools Week 2017

Highlights

Sunday—January 29

Faith, Knowledge and Service: In Our Parish and In Our Families

Monday—January 30

Faith, Knowledge and Service: In Our Community

Tuesday—January 31

Faith, Knowledge and Service: In Our Students

Wednesday—February 1

Faith, Knowledge and Service: In Our Nation

Thursday—February 2

Faith, Knowledge and Service: In Our Vocations

Friday—February 3

In Our Faculty, Staff and Volunteers (Teacher Appreciation Day)

Happy New Year!

To many people, New Year's Day provided an occasion for closing rifts and healing disputes. It was a day of reconciliation.

It was as much a custom to greet a person with "Forgive me for the New Year!" as to say, "Happy New Year!"

Even if there had not been a misunderstanding, one friend would greet another by shaking hands and saying: "If I have done you any wrong during the year just past, I want you to forgive me for the new one."

Make It Your Best Year Yet

For a happy New Year... just stick to some simple and basic rules. Have faith in yourself and your abilities. Count your blessings before you cry on your misfortunes. Learn to take each day one at a time. Create opportunities for yourself for quitting is never an option. Above all accomplish all you take under your wings – never abandon without completion.

And then... close your eyes, say a warm goodbye to the year 2016. Thank God for everything that he has given us. Ask for forgiveness for all our mistakes and at last, wish for an even better year 2017.

Calendar Note

Public schools in Bennington will not be in session on Friday, January 20. Since this is the case, school lunches will not be available for SHSF. All students are asked to bring a lunch to school on the 20th.



From the Principal...

Theoretically, childhood is a happy time for fun without burdensome responsibilities. Few of us like to think of our children stressed and depressed, yet many authorities on childhood development are warning us that this is very real possibility. Today's world is truly a different world, one that holds both infinite promise and infinite dangers.

Like parents throughout history, we want our children to have the best we can give them...more education, more social skills, more opportunities to participate in sports, and more chances to develop their talents in the arts. In our eagerness to see them achieve, are we putting too much pressure and emphasis on the wrong things? Are we crowding out the time needed to develop their moral values? Their sense of right and wrong?

Each day still has only 24 hours, just as it did 50 years ago. Since we can't stretch time, we need to make wise choices for ourselves and for our children. Let these choices include some quiet time to dream and time to listen to God. Let them include time for you and your child to spend together, to truly know each other. When we listen to children rather than just talk to them, we can better understand their true feelings. Do they feel pressured? Do they worry about succeeding? Are they trying to meet your expectations or their own?

Our children are a gift from God, but not a gift meant to fulfil our own dreams. Let's give them the freedom to grow as individuals. It is well worth it.

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.



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