

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear Parents:

For a long time now, many have lost sight of what Christmas really means. People these days think Christmas is just giving and receiving presents. We ask that you take time from your busy schedule to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, Jesus' birthday, and that you remind your children of this. As you make holiday plans, don't forget to include Advent and Christmas services at your local church.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** You're children were AWESOME! We hope you all enjoyed our *Christmas Program* last night. You should all be very proud of your children who did such a wonderful job. A special thank you to Natalia Girlich, Megan Kennedy and Claudia Heikel for writing and producing such a wonderful program.

**SPECIAL MASS:** Friday, our last day of school before Christmas vacation is a busy day. Please join the student body for a special end of year Mass at 8:30am presented by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This Mass is celebrated for the repose of the soul of Doug Kapovich who passed away at this time last year. Please keep the Kapovich family in your thoughts and prayers.

**SANDWICHES-FOR-THE-NEEDY:** Our last collection for the year is also this Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, when the fourth graders will take the lead. We encourage ALL families to provide an extra sandwich for this last collection of the year.

**CHRISTMAS VACATION:** *Christmas vacation begins at 12:15pm for grades K-3 and at 12:30pm for grades 4-8. Preschool will also be dismissed at 12:30pm.* There is no afternoon extended care that day, so plan ahead. If you forget to pick up your child at dismissal, you will discover that it is very expensive to leave one attended to by a faculty member who would rather be starting vacation! Parents who have not picked up their child by 12:45 will be charged one dollar per minute thereafter payable in cash to the supervising adult. **Classes resume at 8:10am on WEDNESDAY, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

**THE NUTCRACKER:** Tomorrow, select 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders are going on the last field trip for 2011. They will enjoy the San Francisco Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker*. Those attending will be lucky enough to see two of their classmates, Alexandra Diaz (7<sup>th</sup> grade) and Francesca Diaz (4<sup>th</sup> grade), dance in this performance. The show ends at 4:00pm and students are expected to arrive back at STM between 4:30-5:00pm.

**JAMBA JUICE:** Also tomorrow, the students will enjoy a special treat – Jamba Juice! Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser. Smoothies will be distributed to students who ordered at snack recess.

**FEES:** A reminder that the Capital Improvement fee of \$300 per family is due no later than dismissal tomorrow, Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**STM TAP:** Christmas came early to St. Thomas More School – we are happy to announce that we have once again received a \$25,000 grant from the Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation to be used for tuition assistance. More information will be available on how to apply for the St. Thomas More School Tuition Assistance Program (STM TAP) in the New Year. Thank you once again to the Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation!

**CLINT REILLY SCHOLARSHIP:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade families are receiving information regarding the Clint Reilly High School Scholarship Fund. Further information regarding high school applications and scholarship funds will be sent home as it becomes available.

**TURTLENECKS:** Turtlenecks with the STM logo will not be available this year. Students who have purchased a turtleneck with a STM logo in previous years, may continue to wear it. If you wish for your child to wear a plain white turtleneck under their school shirt, please purchase at a location of your choice.

During this busy time of the year, we ask that everyone use patience and consideration during the drop off and pick up of students. For the safety of our children, please use indicators when appropriate, follow directions from the school traffic patrol, avoid U-turns unless absolutely necessary and be aware of pedestrians and other drivers.

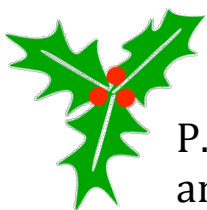
As we reflect back on the past year, we are thankful for so many things. We are thankful for our supportive families, our dedicated teachers and staff, our Parents' Club, and the many parents who volunteer hundreds of hours beyond that required. Most of all we are thankful for our children.

Blessings of the Advent and Christmas Seasons to you and your family.

Sincerely,



Marie Fitzpatrick  
Principal



P.S. Show your Christmas Spirit this Friday and wear Christmas accessories with your school uniform!

