

December 7th, 2011

Dear Parents:

Tomorrow is a Holy Day of Obligation as we celebrate the ***Feast of the Immaculate Conception***. The title of Immaculate Conception recognizes Mary's privilege of coming into the world free from sin. Through the power of Jesus' death and resurrection, every human can be freed from sin at Baptism. Through that same power, Mary was always free of sin, even from the very first moment of her life. Please join the student body at ***tomorrow's 8:30am Mass*** as we celebrate this special privilege given to Mary.

Next Monday, December 12th, third through eighth graders will participate in a ***reconciliation service*** as we do each year during the Advent Season. That will begin in the Church at 9:30.

Thank you to all who celebrated the ***installation of our Altar Servers*** with us on the second Sunday of the Advent season. We wish to congratulate the following students who have chosen to Altar Serve this year: Matthew Schivo, Peter Kolokotones, Anderson Nguyen, Adrian Embry, Remy Phaophongsavath, Maopeli Ali, Nicholas Lobre, Sean Coffey, Julietta Lehmann, Patrick Brown, Nizar Sweileh, Paulina Toledo, Crystal Tobar, Riley Mihelich, Jerrimay De Leon, Krystelle Chloe Sunga, Joshua Esteron, Matthew Embry, Ricardo Vila, Andrew Triunfo, Skyler Dela Cruz, Kenny Jung, Reuben Sablad, Ava Ragasa, Lemar Deguzman, Brian Qare, Rainier Dela Cruz, Adam Kolokotrones, Jessica Echarte, Arabella Sunga, and Haley Graves. A special thank you to ***Monsignor Labib*** for the donation of \$900 to the school from Sunday's collection. We are blessed to have such wonderful support from St. Thomas More Church.

A big thank you to Carol Schivo who once again successfully chaired yet another Santa's Secret Shop. Carol, whose 4th child Matthew is in 8th grade this year, has been chairing this event for many, many years. Over the past two years, she has been training in her helper elves, Gina Sheridan and Yvette Roca to take the reins next year. Thank you to all who volunteered their time to set up and help the children with their Christmas shopping last week.

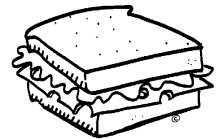


We hope you all enjoyed the activities of this past weekend. Thanks to the *Parents' Club*, and the *Alumni Association* and all who worked so hard on the Winter Faire. A big thanks especially to Linda Shah and Anarose Schelstrate, who chaired this event. Thank you to the following people who made the Winter Faire such a success: Carol Schivo, Gina Sheridan, Jessica Ramirez, Marcela Arrospide, Teresa Villarosa, Josie

Jung, Raquel Trigueros, Amanda Eng, Ivon van Mechelen, Ricardo and Gladys Duarte, David Joy and Emad. And to all the parent volunteers who **showed up for their time and worked extra** - Twinkle Sarmiento, Melvin Moran, Pranita Prasadi, Jane Pasol, Catherine Archer, Natsha Massarweh, Arlene Diaz, Annette Ramos, Antoinette Ricafort, Carol Diaz, Vanessa Sladewski, Tatum Mothershead, Ed Cuff, Arlene Rojo and Maria Locon. The pancake breakfast was enjoyed by all and a special thank you to the following 7th and 8th grade dads who showed up to cook/serve breakfast: Peter Quirke, Jon Gamboa, Peter Rojo, Hoang Nguyen and Miguel Cano. Thanks to 8th grader Melia Schelstrate for being the photographer for Pictures with Santa.

GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!: Thank you to the fifth grade families for providing such an abundant collection of ***sandwiches-for-the-needy*** last Friday. Our next collection is next Friday, December 16th, when the fourth graders will take the lead.

We encourage all families to provide an extra sandwich for this last collection of the year. Also thank you to Joan Cuddihy, mom of Peter in 6th grade, who delivered the sandwiches to the Martin de Porres House.



ONE WARM COAT: During these cold days, we are reminded to count our blessing that we have enough to eat, warm coats, and cozy homes. Unfortunately, many others in our community are not so lucky. As we mentioned last week, St. Thomas More is once again participating in the ***One Warm Coat*** program. Please look through your closets and see if you can locate a warm coat or jacket that is in good condition, clean and ready to be worn by someone less fortunate. ALL types of coats are needed and will be distributed to needy people by St. Anthony's and the Hamilton Family Shelter. Please drop off your donations anytime between now and next Wednesday, December 14th to the school office.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: On Tuesday evening, Dec. 13th, our students will present a performance of ***Three Wise Men*** and will sing a selection of favorite Christmas Carols. **All students will be involved in this production.** Students should wear dressy clothes unless notified otherwise by their teacher. No t-shirts or sweats please. Please review the clothing suggestions sent home last week. Christmas themed accessories are

encouraged. The front door of the school will open at 6:00 pm to allow students to enter their classrooms. Students are asked to line up on the sidewalk in an orderly manner until the doors open. Families with preschoolers will enter through the side gate, drop their children in their classroom and line up in the preschool yard until the gym doors open. **All students need to arrive by 6:15 pm at the latest.** The yard and the doors to the gym will open at 6:00 pm and the program will begin promptly at 6:30 pm. We look forward to your attendance for this fun-filled program. Everyone is welcome!

FIELD TRIPS: The 5th and 7th graders are receiving a permission slip today for an upcoming field trip to the San Jose Tech Museum on January 6th. Please pay close attention to the due date for the permission slip!



JAMBA JUICE: On Thursday, December 15th, as a special treat, we will be offering yummy, classic, all fruit Jamba Juice smoothies for purchase. If your child wishes to enjoy a smoothie on this day, please complete the order form you are receiving in your envelope today. Smoothies will be available in two different flavors and sizes. YUM!

THE NUTCRACKER: Next Thursday, December 15th, fifty-four students from grades 2-8 will attend the *San Francisco Ballet's* production of *The Nutcracker*. We had over 80 requests for tickets! For the most part we were able to accommodate ticket requests for almost all the students who wanted to go and have not attended similar performances in previous years. Those who are attending will be notified today and those who are not going are receiving their payments back in the Envelope today. Some students have been placed on a waiting list in case there are absentees on the day of the trip. Wait-listed students will have their payment returned to them next week if they do not attend.

WCEA/WASC PARENT SURVEY: If you have not already done so, we ask that you consider participating in our online WCEA/WASC parent survey. It will be electronically collated and the results will be incorporated into our next WASC study. To participate, please visit the STM homepage and click on the WCEA/WASC Parent Survey link. This link will be active until December 14th, 2011.



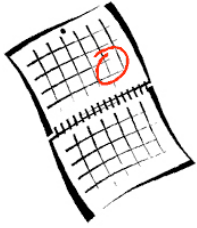
PARENTS' CLUB MEETING: A reminder - please join us tomorrow night for our monthly Parents' Club meeting. All are invited to Carroll Hall for that meeting beginning at 7:00pm. Newcomers are always welcome!

BOX TOPS: As a school we collected over 3,000 box tops during the past month. Did you know that translates into over \$300?! Congratulations to the 4th graders who turned in the most box tops for education! As a reward, they will enjoy free dress next Wednesday, December 14th. The individual winners for the most collected of each grade are as follows: Kindergarten - Connor Cristobal, 1st grade - Michaela Echon, 2nd grade - Tyler Reyes, 3rd grade - Jewel Ocampo, 4th grade - Haley Graves, 5th grade - Skyler Dela Cruz, 6th grade - Nicole Rubino, 7th grade - Daniela and Kevin Londero, and 8th grade - Melia Schelstrate. Thank you Pam Suboc for organizing this great competition. Even though the competition is over, keep those box tops coming in!



CIOPPINO 2012: Last year we held this dinner and fun event in our gym and it was a wonderful success thanks to all of you! This not to be missed event is set for February 25th. **SAVE THE DATE.** The evening includes appetizers, wine, antipasto, salad, garlic bread, cioppino (or chicken if you prefer), dessert, balloon prizes and a fabulous auction. Babysitting is also available on site! This event, like all events, is only successful with schoolwide participation. We look forward to seeing you there!

EXTENDED CARE BILLING: Bills for November are being sent home today. Please pay by the due date to avoid a \$25 late fee.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FEE: This fee, as described in the financial policies is in support of the construction and maintenance of the classroom additions and the gymnasium. The fee is set at \$300 per family. As a reminder, the Capital Improvement fee must be paid in full by next Thursday, December 15th, 2011.

SCHOOL UNIFORM PANTS: Beginning Wednesday, January 4th through March 30th, 2012, girls will be able to **wear uniform pants**. Those who wish to purchase uniform pants, may do so through either of the uniform companies that we contract with, Dennis Uniform and Simply Uniforms. Please remember that navy blue knee-high socks need to be worn with the pants. Girls must wear their uniform skirts (not the pants) on field trips or on occasions specified by the school.

SCRIP: Speaking of uniforms – we are happy to announce that Simply Uniforms is now offering scrip with a 10% rebate. This is a great (and easy) way to help fulfill your scrip requirement. Congratulations to Gina Sheridan and Christina Jordan! They are the November winners of a \$25 gift card of their choice. Order your scrip, you too could be a winner! Remember that this Friday, December 9th is the last order before the Christmas break. The next order will be placed December

Last but not least - Christmas vacation starts at 12:15/12:30pm next Friday, December 17th. There is no extended care that day, so plan ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie Fitzpatrick".

Marie Fitzpatrick
Principal