



School of St. Philip

December 8, 2011

“The School of St. Philip is strongly committed to providing its students with a fundamentally sound education in a Catholic atmosphere which will enable them to carry their faith and learning beyond this school.”

(School Mission Statement)



Blessed Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception. We honor Mary who from the time of her conception by her mother Anne was free from original sin. This honor was given to her in view of the sacrifice that would be given by Jesus which saved us all.

New Parking Restrictions Beginning Soon

On Monday evening, the Litchfield City Council approved our request to restrict the parking on our side of 3rd Street on school days from 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. This will make it possible for four or five buses to stop on 3rd St. at the end of the day. Currently, we have space for two buses in front of the school, but the five buses on Armstrong Ave. extend far beyond our property. If cars are parked in front of the house to the north, the last two buses stop in the lane of traffic for our students to board. This is not safe.

Signs should arrive in about two weeks. At that time, we will begin the change in bus parking. There will be no parking allowed on the north side of 3rd St. at the end of the day. When the buses arrive, the driveway to the playground on 3rd St. will be blocked. You may exit onto Holcombe if you wish, or wait until the buses leave. We trust that this will be much safer.

Warm Clothes

Thank you to all who are sending your children to school with warm clothes. We have been so spoiled by our warm fall that many children look at the sunny day and the lack of snow and don't realize that the temperature is well below freezing.

We require that all students have warm coats, mittens and hats and preferably snow pants and boots for warmth even if there is no snow. If your child is counting on a jacket hood to take the place of a hat, please be sure that it can be tied or velcroed securely to keep the wind out of their sensitive ears. **Please label all winter clothes and boots!**

We will be going outside for recess almost every day before school and before lunch. Since fresh air and exercise is so good for us and makes children more ready to learn, we stay in or shorten recess only when it is extremely cold.

Sharing

If you have warm hats or mittens that your children have outgrown, and you would be willing to share them with us, we would appreciate it. We can also use elastic waist pants in sizes 6-10 and boys underwear in those sizes. We thank you.

Scrip Sales

We thank Michelle Falling and Jane Beach for representing our school on Monday on the KLF D Newsmaker program to tell the community about our scrip program.

If you wish to make a special order for Christmas shopping or giving, orders will be placed on Monday, December 12 and December 19. Check out all the possibilities on our website under the Scrip tab and send your order to school along with payment. **It makes a great gift.**

Basketball

Thanks to some generous parents, we have our girls' and boys' basketball teams. Coaches for the girls will be Tom Zens and Brian Cruze. Coaches for the boys are Josh and Erica Carlson. Both teams will be practicing on Sunday evenings from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. in the Ripley School gym, each using half the court. The girls will begin this Sunday, December 11, and the boys will begin on Sunday, December 18. Because of number of students, the girls team will be only 4th and 5th graders and the boys team will include 2nd through 5th graders.

All students who participate must have their permission slips returned before they may attend practice.

Family Advent Prayer Service

If you are looking for an excellent family Advent experience, you may be interested in taking part in the Diocesan Family Advent Service with Bishop LeVoi. It will be this coming Sunday, December 11, at 4:00 p.m. at St. Aloysius Church in Olivia. You may take along the Baby Jesus figure from your home nativity set for a special blessing by the Bishop. There will also be a collection of baby layette items to be given to those in need at the San Lucas Mission and Birthright Centers.

Thoughts from *Waiting in Joyful Hope* by Jay Cornier

"Tis the season of Christmas presents. You're probably working through your own gift list today. But what about Christmas *presence*?

It's more than a play on words; it's the very focus of the Christmas mystery. It's hard to imagine: the God who sparked the first molecule of creation, whose very breath gives and sustains the life of every man, woman, and child, becomes present to us by becoming one of us. God embraces humanity in all its messiness, imperfections, failures, and poverty – and by that presence enables us to transform human frailty and failure into holiness and completeness.

So make this Christmas about Christmas *presence*: Make time to be with those you love; celebrate this season as a family, a community, a parish; welcome one another into the Bethlehem of your kindness, to the Nazareth table of your generosity.

Christmas *presence* is not easy. It demands shutting off, unplugging, powering down, and breaking out of our self-centered domain and embracing others in humble generosity and joyful welcome. Your *presence* – to talk, to share, to break bread, to comfort – could be the best *present* you give, and receive, this Christmas.

**May God bless you and your family as you prepare
for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.**

Mrs. McCarney