



Saint Teresa of Avila School

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Faith Grows • Excellence Abounds

The mission of St. Teresa of Avila School is to provide a foundation in the Catholic faith as we integrate Christian values with the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development of the child. Committed to the highest standards of academic excellence, we enrich our students with the knowledge and skills essential for life-long learning in the 21st Century.

MID-WEEK EXTRA

December 21, 2011

Dear Saint Teresa of Avila School Families,

We are about to complete the beautiful season of Advent as we prepare for the real “reason for the season!” May the final days before Christmas be filled with much happiness as you gather with loved ones!

PICS ON WEBSITE: Please visit our website to view pictures of the pageant/band concert and our students’ Christmas art as displayed in the hallway outside the Palumbo Art Studio. It is so wonderful to see the creativity of our students in “living color!”

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT: Our students certainly put us in the holiday spirit by providing lively and meaningful interpretations of the meaning of Christmas. Their hard work and joy permeated their performances at both the pageant and band concert and the Christmas festival. Thanks to our entire faculty for working so diligently in preparing the students for the programs!

SECRET SANTA’S WORKSHOP : Santa’s elves are already planning for next year! They would like to ask you to save your “gently used” Christmas gift bags and send them in to school the first week of the new year. What a great way to recycle!

CHRISTMAS VACATION : Our Christmas vacation will begin on Thursday, December 22, with the 11:15 dismissal. The City of Pittsburgh, Avonworth and Shaler school districts will

provide bus transportation at 11:15 tomorrow. All other students will need to be picked up at 11:15 a.m.

The vacation will extend through and including Monday, January 2, 2012. School will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at the usual time.

As previously noted, the January, 2012, envelope will be distributed on Wednesday, January 4. In the meantime, the activity calendar and menu is already posted on our website under the "calendar." You may want to refer to that for events and menus for the first week.

SERVICE/MINISTRY INITIATIVE: You have been reading in the EXTRAs the last few months about a new committee being formed focused on service to others. This committee is a direct result of our recent Middle States study and evaluation in which we recognized the need to take a "hands on" approach to service.

One of the first things that we will do as a school family will be to go out to various locations on Thursday, February 2, 2011, as part of our Catholic Schools Week celebration. Our students will be directly engaged with others in need. More details concerning these events will be forthcoming in future EXTRAs. And you may want to consider being a chaperone for one of the events.

LOOKING AHEAD...PTG SKATING PARTY Last year our PTG sponsored a skating party at North Park which was a grand success! A "repeat performance" is scheduled for Friday, January 20, 2012, following our 11:15 dismissal. Mark your calendar today!

EARLY REGISTRATION FOR 2011-12: New student registration will begin in January, 2012. Families having students who will enter our prekindergarten or kindergarten in the coming year are invited to register early to "save a space." (This year our four year old program was closed at twenty students.)

You may find the necessary forms on our website at www.saintteresas.org. Complete them and return them to school. For students entering Grades 1-8, a formal appointment is necessary.

DELAY IN "DIME-OND CLUB" Due to the many activities of December, the dime collection will be postponed until early in 2012!

HELP YOURSELF! Remember to purchase Bonus Bucks that are available for sale at the beginning and ending of each school day. By purchasing these gift cards to over 40 establishments in our area, you are also able to "pay down" your fund raising fee and/or tuition.

If you are purchasing large amounts (\$300.00 or more) of any one gift card, please call at least a week ahead so that there are sufficient cards available.

GRADEBOOK Please take the time regularly to review your child's grades on line. Our teachers make a conscientious effort to record all grades regularly (all within one week of submission). Your review of grades, and also any comments, will help to insure that your child

is on task as well as to note areas where reminders and other kinds of encouragement may help the student to “be the best version” of himself or herself as a student at St. Teresa!

TUITION PAYMENTS Your timely payments enable us to be accountable stewards to all to whom we are responsible. The seventh of twelve payments was due on December 1, 2011. Gradebook is currently available to all families whose tuition is current as of December 1, 2011.

Please remember in your prayer all those who have died, especially Catherine Ramsden’s grandmother, and Food Service Director Mrs. Mary Wrbas’ mother, all those who are ill, and for peace in our world.

Blessings,

Sister Karen Brink, OSB, Principal

REPEATS OF IMPORTANCE:

LOOKING AHEAD...INCLEMENT WEATHER In the event that weather causes a delay or cancellation of school, St. Teresa of Avila School follows the plan of the North Hills School District. Once I am informed, I immediately notify KDKA and WPXI and the announcement is posted on their screens and listed as a radio announcement. A call is then made to One Call and you will receive that call at about 6:00 a.m. (10:00 p.m. if I receive the information in the evening). The information is also posted on our website.

If we have a two hour delay, Morning Care is available at 7:00 a.m. If families do not use Morning Care, then students may arrive at 10:00 a.m. and go to their homerooms at that time. Classes will begin at 10:30 and the lunch schedule remains the same.

JANUARY ENVELOPE The December calendar indicates that the January envelope will be distributed on December 4. A change in the date has had to be made, so look for the envelope on January 4, 2012, and then you won’t have to worry about losing it in the “busy-ness” of Christmas!