



# 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**

January 4, 2012

Dear Saint Teresa of Avila School Families,

Welcome to a New Year! I hope and pray that your Christmas holiday was filled with all that is good, especially joy, peace and love! We now embark on a new year and a new month and are anxious for all the newness that will come!

**CHRISTMAS THANK YOU:** We received the following note from our friends in Greene County for our donation of hats, scarves and gloves/mittens:

*Dear Sr. Karen, Faculty and Students,*

*Your amazing generosity warmed the heads, hands and hearts of so many children in Greene County. Thank you for all you do to help those who need help.*

*God bless you!*

*Sister Sue Fazzini and Sister Audrey Quinn*

**CHRISTMAS GIFT:** During the Christmas vacation we received a check for \$2,500.00 from Bishop Thomas Tobin, graduate of St. Teresa, 1962. The gift was designated to be used for new computers for the Tobin Library. We are in the process of shopping for our latest gift! Please keep Bishop Tobin, as well as all of those who are generous to us, in your prayer!

**HENNINGER AUDITORIUM IMPROVEMENTS:** During the Christmas vacation new doors were installed at the entrance to the auditorium/gym. In addition other improvements in the interior of the gym are being made and will be completed by the end of the week. These improvements were made possible because of a gift from St. Teresa of Avila Parish, the St. Teresa of Avila School Athletic Association and proceeds from two Titan Walkathon events a few years ago. We continue to be so very blessed as we work together to make important improvements and upgrades to our school facility!

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Once again this year, Mrs. Gaber will be happy to help you recycle your Christmas cards to be used in various art projects. Several of the Christmas art pieces on display during the Christmas season used recycled Christmas cards in a very creative manner!

**MARCH FOR LIFE:** Monday, January 23, 2012, is the annual March for Life, which draws thousands and thousands of people to Washington, DC. St. Teresa of Avila Parish is sponsoring a bus for the march and a flier is included in the monthly envelope. While this is not a “school sponsored” trip, we certainly encourage families to participate in the event. It is strongly suggested that both parents and students attend. Students who attend the march are not considered absent and the trip is considered a school day for those who attend.

Please continue to pray for life at all its stages and for legislation to protect the very sacred gift of human life.

**FRAME SALE IN ART:** Students in all grades will be working hard in the Palumbo Art Studio to prepare something special for Catholic Schools Week (January 29-February 3, 2012). In the monthly envelope you will find an opportunity to purchase an art frame for you student’s work. This will be our second year with this program. Those families who purchased frames last year really enjoyed them. Contact Mrs. Gaber for further information!

**REPORT CARD CONFERENCES:** In the monthly envelope you will find the “request for conference” form. Please return the form to school as soon as possible. Only one conference per student can be scheduled. If you would like a conference with more than one teacher, you can sign up for a conference on conference day, February 3, 2011.

**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 in service with others. 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.

At a meeting yesterday we finalized the sites which we will visit and they are as follows:

- Kindergarten...Benedictine Sisters Monastery...9:30
- Grades 1 and 5...Little Sisters of the Poor...9:30 a.m. Diane Miller
- Grades 2 and 3.....Rehabilitation Center and Giant Eagle
- Grade 4...Manor Care...morning
- Grade 6...World Vision Distribution Center...9:15
- Grades 7 and 8...Children’s Institute...1:00 (1:15-1:45)

The purpose of each of these visits is to strengthen relationships with others outside our usual circle, heighten the awareness of the needs and gifts of others in our community, and to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ in a spirit of service and fellowship.

A trip to another nearby site related to a curricular area is also being planned.

Field trip forms for each of these events will be sent home soon.

**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 2012-13 :** 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](http://www.saintteresas.org). Complete them and return them to school. For students entering Grades 1-8, a formal appointment is necessary.

**“DIME-OND CLUB”:** The form for this event is also included in the monthly envelope. This is a wonderful way for students to participate...donations in any amount are welcome!

**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 eighth of twelve payments was due on January 2, 2012. 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 Anastasia Davis’ maternal grandfather, 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.