



NEWS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

January 4, 2012

"IT'S ALL ABOUT S.U.C.C.E.S.S.!"

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! I trust that your family celebrated some wonderful holidays and that this New Year will bring much joy and blessings to you all. Each **January 1st**, the tradition is to make a list of resolutions, all, of course, with good intentions. But, as with all new things, the "newness" wears off, and we know what happens then. I would like to share with you something that may be seen as resolutions or possibly a road map showing us how to live a Christian life.



- † *Respect others, even if they don't respect you. Later in life, they may remember that respect.*
- † *Love with your whole heart. It may be broken, but you can't say that you never loved.*
- † *Be honest with the people that you love. Honesty really IS the best policy.*
- † *Admit your mistakes; it shows that you are human.*
- † *Learn from your mistakes, but don't dwell on them. Negative thinking will only make you depressed — and that's not good for you or those around you.*
- † *Tell your family often that you love them. You never know when it will be the last time you get to say it.*
- † *Never tell others that their dreams are stupid or dumb. Each of us is entitled to our dreams. Who are we to say they won't come true?*
- † *Realize that the only person you can change is yourself.*
- † *Be thankful for everything you have. Knowing you are blessed isn't arrogant or cocky if you're truly thankful for your blessings.*

However you choose to see them, I pray that they will have meaning for you and your family as we look forward to a new year and all that it holds for each of us.

T.I.P. [The Informed Parent]

January is the time when academics become more intense and fast-paced. Now is the time to renew your efforts to help your children succeed. There is no time for slacking off. Here are some steps you can take to continue improving your children's education:



Read together

- Children who read at home with their parents perform better in school. Show your kids how much you value reading by keeping good books, magazine, and newspapers in the house. Let them see you read. Let children read to you, and talk about the books. What was the book about? Why did a character act that way? What will he or she do next?
- Look for other ways to teach children the magic of language, words, and stories. Tell stories to your children about their families and their culture. Point out words to children wherever you go -- to the grocery, to the pharmacy, to the gas station.

Use TV wisely

- Academic achievement drops sharply for children who watch more than 10 hours of television a week, or an average of more than two hours a day.
- Parents can limit the amount of viewing and help children select educational programs. Parents can also watch and discuss shows with their kids. This will help children understand how stories are structured.

Establish a daily family routine with scheduled homework time

- Studies show that successful students have parents who create and maintain family routines. Make sure your child goes to school every day. Establish a regular time for homework each afternoon or evening, set aside a quiet, well lit place, and encourage children to study.

THIRD QUARTER GOALS

The third quarter begins today. Students in grades 2, 3, 6, and 7 should be setting at **least three goals** they would like to achieve. Please discuss goal-setting with your children and the steps they will take to accomplish their goals.



JANUARY 2012						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MONTHLY CALENDAR

- 4 Students Return to School
1:00p Dismissal
- 7 Saturday Class (9 – 12 Noon)
- 9 **NO SCHOOL TODAY**
Report Cards Go Home
- 11 Martin Luther King Jr. DAY
NO SCHOOL TODAY
- 16 Early dismissal at 1 p.m.
- 21 Saturday Class (9 – 12 Noon)
- 27 Progress Report One
- 30 Catholic Schools Week Begins



HOME AND SCHOOL

On **December 4, 2011**, we began our push to re-energize the Parent / Teacher Association. **13 parents** (20% of our families) attended and formed the core group of the Association. On **January 7, 2012**, we will have another meeting, which will begin at **9:30a**. Our attendance goal for this meeting will be 40%. We invite you to come and give your input as to how we can continue to grow. We want and hope to see you there. Bring another parent.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

This year, the **BCS** is being played in New Orleans. This is an event that happens every four years. Because our school is located in the heart of the CBD where all the action will be, including anticipated traffic jams, possible street closures, large crowds attending, etc., on **Monday, January 9th**, **SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED.**

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Throw a stone into a pool and the circles widen and overlap. None of us lives in isolation. The circles of **home**, **community**, and **school** overlap also. For our children to learn and thrive, they need the support and the encouragement of all of the circles in which we live. **But the circle in the center is the home and that's where it all starts.**

Emily M. Paul, Principal