

NEWS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD



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

Waiting for Christmas

The theme for the fourth week of Advent is peace. Christ, the Prince of peace, came to reconcile us with God and others. It is He who helps us see that peace is possible. If we possess an intense desire for the coming of Jesus Christ, we can begin to merit His spiritual gifts. Our Advent prayer for the fourth week is: *God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory. Amen.*



T.I.P. [The Informed Parent]

Here are some tips for easing holiday stress:

- **Don't try to please everyone.** Someone, most likely an adult, is bound to be unhappy. But, as a rule, the children will not be -- and it's the little things that they will remember, like time spent playing a board game or teaching you to operate their toys.
- **Give the Pleasure of Giving.** Children will model your behavior. If you bake for the homeless shelter (and they help) or if you visit people in the hospital, they will remember that. These patterns stick.
- **Remember the less fortunate.** Help your children make gifts or contribute to the less fortunate. Suggest that they use some of their allowance instead of just a handout from dad or mom.
- **Let your children help wrap presents they have made.** They have to see that everything doesn't come from a store. Wrapping also creates a sense of excitement and is a good time to talk. Making gifts is also a good way to give kids a deeper sense of the holidays.
- **Encourage your children to make their own wish lists.** They must include a description of why they want each item.



WAYS TO GIVE BACK DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season can reinforce the "gimme-gimme" attitude. You can change this attitude by setting aside a little time to practice gratitude, empathy and thoughtfulness with your family to remember the things that truly matter.

Teach at the Table. Before the next family gathering, sit down with your child and flip through your old family photos. Helping your child connect with relatives he may not know well builds social skills and empathy in others.

Write Your Own Thank You Notes. Taking the time to write old fashioned thank you notes will increase your child's appreciation.

Plan a Donation. Have your children choose a charity or organization that they really care about. They can set aside a portion of their allowance to donate and should take the lead in deciding how much money to put aside and how they want to deliver the donation.

Serve a Delicious Meal. Reach out to a local homeless shelter, family organization, or religious organization to help serve a holiday meal.

Throw a Giving Party. If your family hosts a holiday party, ask guests to bring a gift for a child. Once you've gathered several gifts, bring them to a local shelter. The most important thing is the experience your child gains in delivering presents to someone else.

DECEMBER 2011						
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

19 Christmas Parties
DISMISSAL AT 3:00P
20 Christmas Program
DISMISSAL AT 12:00p
21-1/3 Christmas Break
NO SCHOOL

Note: Students return to school on January 4, 2012. DISMISSAL IS AT 1:00p.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Students return to school on **Wed., January 4th**, after the Christmas Break. Since that is the first Wednesday, dismissal for all students is **1:00p** and students must be picked up on time. On **Monday, January 9th**, students **DO NOT** have school.

A Savior Is Born

On the windswept hillsides outside of town, shepherds are huddling, too. All of a sudden the sky lights up and an angel proclaims:

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

The shepherds' fear is turned to joy as they hear news that a Savior is born. The Messiah! In Bethlehem, the city of David himself!

And so they run down the hillsides into the town and hurry from stable to stable until they find the Child in the manger, just as they had been told. Tucked in that manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes against the cold, is the Savior himself.

BLESSED HOLIDAYS TO ALL



Emily M. Paul, Principal