



NEWS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

Quarterly tests will be given the week of **December 12th**. Teachers continue to prepare students for their benchmark exams. However, the students must do their part if they intend to do well on their tests and in school. You can help by ensuring that the following takes place:

- Students come to school every day prepared for work
- Students complete all assignments on time
- Students spend time every evening studying
- Students set aside at least 30 minutes every evening for reading (novel, text, etc.)

Encourage your child to pay attention, be on his/her best behavior, and to give 100% effort in all things. Remind them that the holidays do not begin until they begin on **December 21st**.

Waiting for Christmas

The theme for Week Two of Advent is *Faith*. This week, we light two purple candles. And, as Advent progresses we come to a realization that we must look back in order to look forward. Jesus often reminded his disciples on the necessity of being ready. He did this not so people would live in fear and dread, but rather that they would live in expectation and hope, ever mindful of the signs of God's loving plan. We reflect on the scripture from **Matthew 24:42-44**: *"Watch out, then, because you do not know what day your Lord will come. If the owner of a house knew the time when the thief would come, you can be sure that he would stay awake and not let the thief break into his house. So then, you also must always be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you are not expecting him."* Our prayer for this week is: *Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the paths of your Only-begotten Son: that we may worthily serve you with hearts purified by His coming. Amen.*



T.I.P. [The Informed Parent]

A Teacher's Expectation of Parents: Part 1

Students, teachers, and parents all share responsibility in the education of a child. As a parent, here's a minimum level of involvement most teachers expect:

- Help your child by developing a routine or specific time for homework where you are available to help or listen if needed. You are vital to their success.
- Ensure your child is at school, on time, every day possible. Arrange for vacations, trips, etc. during days off school.
- Make sure your child eats a healthy breakfast each morning so they can function in class.
- Make sure your child is getting adequate sleep at night to support their growing body and mind.
- Be a positive role model in your child's eyes who shows interest in reading and learning new things.
- Notify the teacher of any concerns or questions you have regarding their learning or treatment in school.

Here Are Some Questions to Ask Your Children about Their Day:

- Tell me about the best part of your day.
- What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
- Did any of your classmates do anything funny? Tell me about what you read in class.
- Who did you play with/hang out with today? What did you do? Do you think _____ (insert subject here) is too hard?
- What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
- What rules are different at school than at home? Do you think they're fair?
- Who did you sit with at lunch?
- Can you show me something you learned or did today?



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

3	Saturday Class (9–12 Noon)
7	Early dismissal at 1 p.m.
12-13	End-of-Quarter Reviews
14-16	Benchmark Tests
17	Saturday Class (9–12 Noon)
19	Second Quarter Spirit Day 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.

PTO Renewal Meeting

Many, many thanks to the parents who came to meeting and gave their input, ideas, suggestions, and also helped decorate. We have now formed a core committee of parents who will be contacting other parents about a **"MANDATORY"** meeting on **December 17th**. Your presence is required because we are making plans for the second semester and we need and value your input. We will have door prizes, one of which will be a big one, refreshments, music, etc.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Recipe for Christmas All Year Long

Take a heap of child-like wonder that opens up our eyes. To the unexpected gifts in life—each day a sweet surprise. Mix in fond appreciation for the people whom we know; Like festive Christmas candles, each one has a special glow. Add some giggles and some laughter, A dash of Christmas food, Amazing how a piece of pie improves our attitude! Stir it all with human kindness; Wrap it up in love and peace, Decorate with optimism, and Our joy will never cease. If we use this healthy recipe, we know we will remember To be in the Christmas spirit, even when it's not December.

Emily M. Paul, Principal

