

## December 2011 Newsletter

The Christmas season is upon us. We see it everywhere we turn: in the stores, in the media and in the eyes of our children. We tend to rush through the Christmas season. This year make time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. We hope that your children will understand the true meaning of Christmas as they are unwrapping their gifts on Christmas morning.

Have a blessed Christmas!

Mrs. Hauck

### CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

In preparation for the true meaning of Christmas, the children will participate in **Advent wreath prayer services** every Monday in December in our auditorium. Each week during Advent we will reflect on ways to prepare for Christmas in our hearts. During the prayer service we will be accepting donations for Historic St. John's Church in the form of mittens, gloves, scarves or jackets. We will add them to the Christmas tree that we will have on display on the stage in our auditorium. We thank you in advance for your donations.

The students in grades three through six will also receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** in preparation for Christmas. On December 13, priests from numerous parishes will come to Our Lady of Lourdes Church to administer the sacrament.

Also in anticipation of Christmas the children in grades kindergarten through six will participate in our annual **Christmas concert** on December 21 in Our Lady of Lourdes Church. All of the children in those grades will be performing. Please take a moment out of your busy schedule to enjoy the voices of our children. Although we invite you to attend, performance is a requirement for the curriculum of New York State.

Our children love to spread Christmas cheer by giving gifts to their loved ones. We offer our **Santa Sale** as an opportunity for the children to have a secret time to shop. All items are \$2. Each class will have a scheduled time to attend the sale during the week of December 12. Your child's teacher will inform you of the exact day and time.

Local radio personality **Hank Brown** invites children ages two through eight to a Christmas party on December 11 at the American Legion on Herkimer Road. Please sign up through the school via a flyer that was sent home before Thanksgiving. Responses need to be returned to the school office by November 29.

On December 23, we will have a **Christmas Birthday Party** for Baby Jesus. It will be celebrated in our school auditorium at 9:30 AM. The students will then return to school for classroom parties. Please check with your classroom teachers for party details. We will be having

a half day on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. All students in Pre-K will be dismissed at 11:15 AM. All students in kindergarten through sixth will be dismissed at 11:30 AM. There will be **NO AFTERCARE** that day.

## **OPEN HOUSES**

Beginning on December 9 at 1:00 PM, we will have scheduled Open Houses for new families twice a month. If you have any friends or family members interested in our school, please inform them of these open houses. We have a Finder's Fee Policy. If a new family enrolls because of your recommendation and then reenrolls the next year, you will receive \$300 tuition credit. For more information on this policy please call the school office.

## **LIGHT THE WAY DINNER**

Each year the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Syracuse open Catholic School's week in January with a formal dinner at the OnCenter in Syracuse. Each school must be represented. If you would like to attend, please contact Mrs. Hauck.