

January Newsletter 2012

Happy 2012! As we begin a new calendar year, please know that all of you are in my thoughts and prayers for a healthy and happy New Year! I look forward to a year full of wonderful educational and spiritual activities for your children.

Thanks to the Rueckert family, we will again offer the Portable Planetarium to our students in January. Each class will have a customized lesson that will fit with the curriculum. We are also able to offer a new club thanks to several students from Notre Dame High School and their advisor Ms. Valeriano. This club will focus on teaching students about bullying and how to prevent it. We also look forward to reinstating First Friday Masses.

Please check the January calendar for dates of the Children of Mary Club and the Arts and Crafts Club.

If you have a talent or passion that you can share with the students, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me through our office at any time.

May God bless you all in 2012!

Mrs. Hauck

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Each year we set aside a week to reflect on what it means to be a Catholic school. The theme for 2012 summarizes the essence and excellence of Catholic schools: faith, academics and service. Although Catholic Schools Week is celebrated the week of January 29 we begin the week before with our Portable Planetarium. We continue celebrating through the next month by recognizing heroes at our Learning Fair on February 12.

This year we hope to include activities that the children have planned or suggested during Catholic Schools Week. Several great ideas have come forth such as a talent show and a Notre Dame Book of Records. We will open Catholic Schools Week with a free dress down for the children on January 30. Please check our website for more information as the dates and times for various activities become available.

The Diocese of Syracuse opens Catholic Schools Week with the Light the Way dinner on January 27 at the OnCenter in Syracuse. Money raised from this dinner is used for tuition assistance. If you would like to attend please contact the school office.

REAPPLICATION PROCESS

Traditionally January is the month when the reapplication process begins. Any student returning in September must reapply. The Diocese of Syracuse announces the dates for application and the tuition rates in January. The diocese also establishes the timeline for seeking

tuition assistance. When that information becomes available we will send it home in “backpack” mail and also have it on our website.

If your hesitation to reapply is the cost of tuition, please contact the school office to speak with Mrs. Hauck.

The Pre-K application process will begin in February unless there is a sibling in the kindergarten through grade six program. Those families may apply for Pre-K during the open enrollment for kindergarten through grade six.

We will continue with Open Houses in January for new families, January 20 and 27. Please be reminded of the Finder’s Incentive Program offered. If you recommend a new family and they continue in our school for two years, you will be eligible for a \$300 tuition credit.

EXAMS

In order for our students to be prepared for junior high school, we require students in grades five and six to take midyear and final exams. Students in grade five will take exams in Math, English/Language Arts, and Religion. Students in grade six will also take Science and Social Studies exams. Exams are meant to be cumulative. Teachers may give your child a study guide. Your child’s teacher will give you a complete schedule of exams.

NEW YORK STATE TESTS

New York State has sent out a revised schedule for tests. The dates have been changed by just a few days to accommodate spring break for many school districts. The dates are as follows:

Grades 3 through 8 ELA: April 17 – 19

Grades 3 through 8 Math: April 25 – 27

Grade 4 Science: (Performance – May 23 – June 1), (Written – June 4)

MY STUDENT PROGRESS

Don’t forget to check out your child’s progress on the My Student Progress website. We have opened up a new calendar module on it. Teachers and administrators can add items including school events, homework and tests. Give us feedback by emailing jhauck@syrdiocese.org.