



Purple & Gold Rush

November 30, 2009

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Web: www.spxcatholicsschool.org
Email newsletter articles to stenson@lei.org



PRINCIPALS' CORNER

School Mass Notes:

Join us for school mass on
Wednesday, December 2nd
at 8:30 am!

- * Mrs. Ringwald's class is planning mass.
- * Children's Collection will be taken.

November Gospel Value:

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is an act of giving thanks and an expression of gratitude, especially to God.

"Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name; make known among the nations his deeds. Sing to him, sing his praise, proclaim all his wondrous deeds." 1 Chron 16: 8-9

MONARCHS IN SPACE: As parents, we hear about and even help with many activities at school. Have you ever stopped to think about the authentic learning that takes place when students step away from their books and use technology and real life experiences at school?

Maybe you have heard about the Monarchs in Space project that the 5th Grade is involved in. The space shuttle Atlantis launched into space on Monday Nov. 16 (as the 5th graders watched on NASA TV) to work at the ISS, but they also took 3 live MONARCH CATERPILLARS! Working with Monarch Watch at the University of Kansas, the space crew will be studying the effect of weightlessness on these caterpillars/butterflies. Participating classrooms across the country (like Mrs. Chriss' class) received 6 caterpillars to raise simultaneously with those in space...with all environmental conditions the same except for gravity. Students will be comparing their monarchs' growth and development to those in space! They are observing, measuring, collecting and recording data, learning more about gravity, hypothesizing the outcomes of the challenges monarchs will face in space, and connecting to the real world in an exciting way! Check out the website www.monarchwatch.org/space daily for updated photos/videos/articles about this amazing project!



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTION

We have all been so blessed with loving families, warm homes, food to eat, even pet cats and turtles that we love and love us. Not everyone is this lucky. At Mass before Thanksgiving, we collected non-perishable foods for distribution through Anna's House to families who need our help during these trying times. Why do we do this every year? Why does this small act of kindness mean so much? How does this act fulfill Christ's directive to love one another?

TEACHER OF THE YEAR: This type of learning takes place daily in fifth grade teacher Mary Chriss' class. Mrs. Chriss was recently named the Teacher of the Year for SPX. We are very proud to have Mrs. Chriss represent our teaching staff as an exemplary teacher. Mr. Caron shared some insight into Mrs. Chriss teaching, and we too, agree with his words.

Mr. Caron writes, "during my career in Catholic education, I have not met anyone who has taken her vocation as a Catholic schoolteacher more seriously than Mary. She assumes such personal responsibility for the kind of education her students receive. During my time at the school, I asked teachers to submit bimonthly "teacher binders" to showcase effective instructional strategies as well as specific student work. Mary took this task as seriously as anyone on the staff. She would submit her binder with a lengthy written reflection replete with rationales for the instructional decisions she made. She would often ask questions as well, as a way to receive additional ideas about the lesson.

Dates to Remember

- 11/30 Advent Prayer Service: Hope
2:15 pm in Church
- 11/30 First Reconciliation - 2nd Grade
7:00 pm in Church
- 12/2 Children's Collection
- 12/5 Breakfast with Santa
- 12/7 Advent Prayer Service: Joy
2:15 pm in Church
- 12/8 Healthy Snack Sale in am
- 12/8 School Mass at 8:30 am
Feast of Immaculate Conception
- 12/9 No School Mass
- 12/10 PTO Meeting
- 12/10 Christmas Play - 2nd & 3rd Gr
7:00 pm in Ross Hall
- 12/11 PTO Middle School Party

When confronted with new ideas and practices that have the potential to improve the quality of teaching and learning for her students, Mary embraces change in a way that is rare among veteran teachers. Two years ago, Mary was asked if she would be interested in learning more about the purposes and functions of a Smart-board. Knowing that others had used it effectively to engage students, Mary's enthusiasm was unbelievable! As she does with any new idea, Mary quickly established herself as one of the leaders in the building using technology to benefit student learning. Having attended the National Educational Conference for Computing the past three years, Mary embraces tech-rich ideas as a way to stimulate student thinking in her English, Reading and Social Studies units.

Mary Chriss embodies all of the possible commitments, attitudes and habits of mind one could ask from a Catholic educator. She is gentle, funny and compassionate in her dealings with students. She is smart, thoughtful, resourceful and truly imaginative in her teaching. Mary speaks to the students in her classroom with respect. She talks to them with a gentleness and sense of understanding. Her peers and parents see this as well. As part of a prior survey that was administered to parents, they pointed out, above all, how much their students had come to love learning

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Send articles to stenson@lei.org



SCHOOL LUNCH BOX

Thank you to our outstanding turkey crew: Heather Douglas, Kelly Faler, Pam and Ted Zvakos, Jill Thierwechter, Jennifer Mitchell, and Kathleen Prechtel. Thanks also to Debbie Taylor who came in at 5 am to cook the turkeys and Robin Hensley and Kathleen Prechtel who prepared the apple cobbler on Sunday afternoon. The meal was a feast indeed! We hope your children enjoyed it. There were a lot of clean plates!

Lunch menus for January will come home on Monday, Dec-7th with orders due by Friday, Dec-18th.



PRINCIPALS' CORNER Continued

in Mary's class. Her wonderful personality and effective planning had changed their view toward learning!

Outside the door of Mary Chriss' 5th grade classroom is a sign that reads "Let go and let God." Mary has a deep faith that underscores the reason why she is so passionate about Catholic education. She believes in every student's potential and works with those that need her help the most. She consistently requests to have the most challenging students assigned to her class as she loves the challenge of meeting their needs. Her faith-in-action is a model for others on the staff!"

Congratulations, Mary Chriss,

you are a shining star at SPX and we value what you do for our students!

If you want to observe a true St. Pius X teacher make an appointment to come observe her in action-you will not be disappointed. Let's pray for each other, Bill and Theresa

We still are not sure when SPX students will receive the H1N1 shot/mist, but a signed H1N1 Form for each student must be in the school office before he/she will be allowed to receive the H1N1 vaccine. Have you returned the forms for your student(s)?

SPXtras Reminder

Contact: Erin Dorsey or Christine Marsella

Christmas Craft

Gr: 1st-3rd

Day: Tuesdays 3:15-5:00 pm

Dec 1 - Dec 15 (3 weeks)

(12/1, 12/8, & 12/15)

Location: Art Room

Children's Collection Envelopes

We will be collecting children's envelopes during school mass this **Wednesday, December 2nd.**

Students are invited to participate by placing a small donation inside the envelope. We also ask each class to write a class prayer and individual students to list a "good deed" on the outside of the envelope. The prayers and good deeds are shared as part of our morning announcements. These children's envelopes are designed to give students an opportunity to support the parish.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Fr. Jerry would like share that the Christmas Eve Anticipation mass has been moved from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm.



Christmas Mass Schedule - 2009

Thur, Dec 24 - Anticipation Mass - 4pm & 6pm

Fri, Dec 25 - Midnight, 8am, & 10am

Thur, Dec 31 - Anticipation Mass - 4pm

Fri, Jan 1 - 11am

Christmas Eve Children's Liturgy

Take part in the Christmas Eve Children's Liturgy at St. Pius X - Children aged 3 and older (plus Adult helpers) are invited to play a special part in the St. Pius X Christmas Eve celebration by bringing the Nativity story to life during the 4:00 pm Children's liturgy. Children can participate in the reenactment or as members of the children's choir. For Nativity sign-ups, contact Sue Kempf (poolmomsue@comcast.net) or Lisa Doyle (kl.doyle@sbcglobal.net) before December 21st. Practice will be held on Mon, Dec 21 from 5:30-7:00 pm.



Wellness Corner

As the Holiday's approach, keep in mind what we drink can be worse for us than what we eat. Did you know that a typical 20ounce bottle of Sunkist has 325 calories and 88 grams of sugar? The sugar equivalent is equal to 17 Chewy Chips Ahoy! cookies. Enjoy the holidays, but being conscience of what the kiddos are drinking, as well as eating, to avoid those dreadful sugar highs and lows!

SPX Hobby Show

Hard to believe it, but it's time to start thinking about the St. Pius X Hobby Show! This will be your time to show us your talents and we know that they are many and varied! There are several categories including Baking, Kit Crafts, Fine Arts, Skilled Crafts, Collections and Media. The hobby show this year will be on February 1st, 2010. These items will be displayed all day in Ross hall for the entire school to see. Please start thinking now about working on a drawing or writing a short story. We know some of those Lego and K'nex kits can take a long time to assemble. Start organizing now your collection of shells or baseball cards! You might even add something to a Christmas list that you would like to complete for the Hobby Show. For questions please contact Shelly Lindley or Kelley Faler.

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Looking for a Few Good Men or Women

The SPX School Open House is one of the major marketing tools for our school. Our next Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2010, and we are looking for one or two (or three!) people to serve as coordinators for this event. We hope to get the group going before the end of the month. We already have a small team of workers ready to go. If you can help lead this effort, please contact Jenny Myers (ballplayers@earthlink.net) by the end of the week. Thanks!

Games of the IV Triviad

Save Saturday, January 16th, 2010

Will it be the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat? "Games of the IV Triviad" will begin immediately following 5:00 Mass at 6:00 pm in the SPX gym on Saturday January 16, 2010. There will be a fun Olympic atmosphere for the 4th running of PTO Trivia Night, cost will remain the same--\$20 per person, \$160 per team--pizza and adult beverages included. Start lining up your fun and smart friends for your team of eight, and watch for registration forms soon. Contact Amy or Kevin Beausir (akbeausir@comcast.net) to volunteer or get your \$99 round sponsorship before they're gone!

Scrip Information



Get all of your holiday shopping done through Scrip!

Look at all of the opportunities to buy Scrip over the next month for all of your holiday shopping!

- STG on Friday, 12/4 in the AM and PM!
- Sales at Breakfast with Santa on Sat, 12/5!
- Sales after Mass on Sat 12/6 and Sun 12/7!
- On-line order by 11:59pm, Sun 12/6 for order receipt on Thurs 12/10
- STG on Friday, 12/11 in the AM and PM!
- Order by 11:59pm, Sun 12/13 for order receipt on Thurs 12/17
- STG on Thursday, 12/17



Enjoy a meal out and make \$\$ for SPX!

We all are busy during the holidays and sometimes need a night off of cooking. Pick up a Scrip certificate to La Hacienda and take the family out for some great Mexican food. If each of the 330 SPX families purchased just ONE \$25 gift certificate to La Hacienda (with their incredible 25% contribution), SPX would earn over \$2,000! PTO and Parish Tuition Fund can use those funds to make a difference for every student.

Scrip Vendor Advisories:

- iTunes is now available in a \$25 denomination (in addition to the \$15 card).
- Hardees has been added to our list. Get \$10 gift cards and SPX gets an 8% contribution.
- Crazy 8 (Gymboree's newest brand) has been added to the list of vendors. Get their \$25 cards and SPX gets a 13% contribution!

Annual Sale at SchoolBelles

The much anticipated Schoolbelles Winter Sale is here! This year we are offering deep discounts from **25% to 50% off** every item in our line from November 15, 2009 through January 3, 2010. Possibly financial restraints prevented parents from purchasing new uniforms in the fall; have them take this opportunity to freshen children's worn uniform or stock up on cold weather items.

HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS INFO

See school website for Shadowing Information

***Bishop Chatard High School**

Admissions Tests: 12/5, & 1/9/2010

Application Deadline: 1/15/2010

www.bishopchatard.org

***Brebeuf Jesuit High School**

www.brebeuf.org

***Cathedral High School**

Admission Tests: 12/5

Application Deadline: 12/11/2009

www.cathedral-irish.org

***Guerin Catholic High School**

(Don't get confused with Guerin Prep HS which is located in Chicago area.)

Admission Tests: 12/5

Application Deadline: Applications are available online and are currently being accepted.

Priority Placement Deadline is 12/15/2009

www.guerincatholic.org

Youth Ministry!

Jr. High Rally - The Junior High Rally "Road Trip with Jesus" is scheduled for Saturday, December 5th from 4-9:30 pm at SPX for all North Deanery 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students. Go to the Youth Ministry section of the SPX website for a permission slip. Any questions, contact Angie Hyre (ahyre@spxparish.org).

SPX Youth Mass - The next SPX Youth Mass is scheduled for Sunday, December 13th at 5:00 pm. Please contact Angie Hyre (ahyre@spxparish.org) if you would like to participate in Mass.

North Deanery Ski Trip to Perfect North Slopes: The annual ski trip to Perfect North is now scheduled for January 9th. Watch for permission slips, which are due by Sunday, December 13th.

Scrip online orders are due Sundays by Midnight

Checks due on Tuesdays!

Scrip to Go - Friday mornings before school - 7 to 8 am!

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St. Pius X Breakfast with Santa - December 5th!

Come join us from 8:00 am -12:00 noon on Saturday, December 5th for our annual Breakfast with Santa event! Doors open at 8:00 am with our Breakfast & Boutique.

Tickets: Adult's \$7.00 pre-sale- \$8.00 at the door. Children \$5.00 pre-sale-\$6.00 at the door. Family price -\$25.00 (immediate family members only) Admittance to the Boutique is FREE.

Boutique: Please contact Mary Schilling-Sims (mitsims4@sbcglobal.net) to reserve your booth at the Breakfast with Santa Boutique. All booth reservations must be paid on or before November 23rd. After November 23rd any unpaid booths will be reassigned to another vendor.

SPX Wrestling Sign-ups

The St. Pius X wrestling team will be having signup this year on Tuesday, December 1st from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Ross Hall. The first practices will be early in January for grades K through 8. The cost this year will be \$70 for each participant. If you can't make it to this meeting, please contact Scott Schrader (wabash1988@comcast.net) as soon as possible and we will make arrangements to get your child registered for the season.

SPX Girls Volleyball

Registration is now open for girls' volleyball at St Pius X for all girls 4th thru 8th. You can register online for CYO Girl's Volleyball at www.spxcatholicsschool.org & go to the Athletics tab. Please follow the instructions on the Sports webpage for the SPX online registration and the CYO registration.

Registration needs to be completed no later than Wednesday, December 2.

A registration fee of \$65.00 for SPX parishioners will be due at this time.

Please make sure that your student athlete has a CYO sports physical on file with the Athletic Director. If you are unsure if you have one for this school year, go to Edline at look under CYO Sports/Forms/Sport Physicals.

Uniforms - All girls will be issued a volleyball jersey that they will have to return at the end of the season. All girls will be responsible for providing their own black spandex bike shorts and kneepads.

Evaluations will be held as follows:

7th & 8th grade Sat, Dec-5th from 2:00-3:30 pm at Bishop Chatard HS*

Mon, Dec-7th from 6:30-8:30 pm at SPX gym*

*All players need to attend both sessions.

5th& 6th grade Sat, Dec-5th from 3:30-5:00 pm at Bishop Chatard HS

4th grade Mon, Dec-14th from 4:45-6:00 pm at SPX gym

For questions, contact Debbie Barrett (d Barrett@m-n-a.com or 585-1406).

Phone Book Recycling

RECYCLE OLD PHONE BOOKS

Now - December 15

Broad Ripple Park 450 Broad Ripple Avenue
(Boat Ramp Parking Lot, near Family Center)

Circle City Recycling 3617 Southeastern Ave

Langsdale Recycling 832 Langsdale Ave

Perry Park 425 E. Stop 11 Road

Product Development Corp Warehouse

3000 S. Shelby Street

(1 block south of Troy St, on the west side of Shelby St., where Perry St. ends at Shelby St.)

Republic Services 96th St Transfer Station

Sahm Park 6801 E. 91st St

*The SPX Recycling Bin does not recycle phone books!

5th Grade Snack Sale

The fifth graders will be selling Healthy Snacks the first Tuesday of every month. Parents will not have to remember to send a snack on this Hot Lunch Day. All snacks will be \$.50 and can be bought from 7:30-8:00 am in the front lobby. Our next sale will be **Tuesday, December 8th**. The 5th graders decided to offer this sale after Mr. Herman challenged them with an Alms Box. They will be using the money to feed the hungry in Indianapolis.

Where are YOU shopping this weekend?

Get Scrip this Friday for all of your shopping needs!