

# ST. PHILIP SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2011

"LOVE NEVER FAILS"

1 Corinthians 13:8

Dear Parents,

"It might be easy to run away to a monastery, away from the commercialization, the hectic hustle, the demanding family responsibilities of Christmas-time. Then we would have a holy Christmas. But we would forget the lesson of the Incarnation, of the enfleshing of God—the lesson that we who are followers of Jesus do not run from the secular; rather we try to transform it. It is our mission to make holy the secular aspects of Christmas just as the early Christians baptized the Christmas tree. And we do this by being holy people – kind, patient, generous, loving, laughing people – no matter how maddening is the Christmas rush..."

~ Rev. Andrew Greeley



These inspiring words from Fr. Greeley help to remind us what the Christmas season is all about. Let us take time from the hustle and bustle of this busy time to remember the real reason we celebrate **Christmas**, and to be sure that those with whom we come in contact are transformed by the love and joy that radiates from Christ through us!

Last Tuesday students and faculty assembled in the parish center to participate in a beautiful Thanksgiving prayer service which was prepared by students under the direction of Mrs. McCormick. At the conclusion of the service, we began our annual **Star in the Manger** service project. Thank you so much for the gift cards and monetary donations which you are providing for our adopted families. It fills us with thanksgiving and gratitude to know that so many are willing to help others even when they may be dealing with difficult circumstances themselves. We are so blessed to be part of such a caring, giving school community. Please note that all donations should be returned to the school no later than **Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**, so that they can be sorted and delivered to families before we leave for our Christmas vacation.



We bid a fond (albeit temporary!) farewell to Mrs. Mary Sorice today as she leaves to give birth to a little sister for 18-month-old Benjamin. We wish the Sorice family well as they welcome the Christmas holidays with the most precious gift of a new little bundle of joy. Mrs. Sorice will entrust her students to the care of Mrs. Joanne Fede, who has served as a substitute teacher at St. Philip School many times and is familiar with both faculty and students. Welcome, Mrs. Fede! Next week we will welcome back Senora Gonzalez, who has been recovering from surgery. We wish to extend our sincere thanks to Mrs. Maureen Comando for taking over as Spanish teacher for the duration of Senora Gonzalez's surgery and recovery time.

On Wednesday of this week we began a new novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe by gathering for prayer in the parish center as a school community. Each subsequent day of the novena, prayers are taking place over the school intercom at the same time each afternoon. This prayerful devotion has become an annual one here at SPS since it was begun a few years ago when we invoked Our Lady's intercession for one of our students who was very ill. Since that time we have prayed for many others who are in need of special help – and we are so thankful for God's blessings in our lives!

As we truly believe that the prayers of children are especially dear to Our Lady, we continue to ask for her intercession for the needs of the members of our school community this year, with special intentions during this novena for our school nurse, Mrs. Marie Xiarhos, and all of those people we mention during morning prayers each day. A 'Shrine of the Pilgrim Queen' with Our Lady of Guadalupe's image is also traveling from classroom to classroom again this year, with students praying the rosary and offering special intentions.

When we return from our Christmas vacation in January, we will be prepared to 'hit the ground running' in preparation for Catholic Schools Week and our upcoming registrations for the next school year. We began accepting applications for next year's Pre-Kindergarten program on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our Pre-K program, or you know someone who may be interested, you may download an application at [www.stphilipschool.com](http://www.stphilipschool.com). Click on the Pre-Kindergarten button to the left of the Enrollment page. Applications may also be obtained from the school office.

We sincerely wish you and your families a Christmas season filled with the light and love of the newborn Christ. The gift of God's Son, whose very life reminds us that He is a Father of compassion and one acquainted with grief in the midst of joy, and joy in the midst of suffering, should help us to remember to hold each other close and to treasure each other on Christmas day and all the days of our lives.

Sincerely,  
Darlene Walsh & Patt McCormick



### ST. PHILIP PARISH ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

We hope you will take some time out of your busy schedule to 'prepare the way of the Lord' by joining us in these events or participating in any of those offered through your own home parish.

#### ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Sat. December 3 ~ 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.  
(Cost \$40 ~ includes luncheon in parish center)

#### ALL DAY CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 17 ~ 8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.  
(Guest priest-confessors will be available to hear confession in several languages)

#### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve ~ Saturday, December 24  
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., and 12 Midnight

Christmas Day ~ Sunday, December 25  
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.

### CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET ITEMS NEEDED!

St. Philip Parish's St. Vincent dePaul Society is accepting donations of items suitable for the food pantry and its Christmas food baskets. These items include:

Gravy, pie filling, pie crust mix, muffin mix, jello & pudding, peanut butter & jelly, rice, instant potatoes, coffee/tea, soups, canned vegetables, cake mix, canned tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, chili, and beef stew. *(Please, no stuffing mix or cranberry sauce at this time.)* Grocery gift cards in denominations up to \$10 are also most appreciated!

Please be sure to send in any donations by **Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** for Christmas basket delivery to needy families. As always, the St. Vincent dePaul Society appreciates your continued generosity.

Thank you!  
God bless you!



### TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION®

St. Philip School has participated in our community's Target **Take Charge of Education®** program for many years. Through the **Take Charge of Education®** program, Target donates an amount equal to 1% of REDcard (Target Visa, Target Card or Target Check Card) purchases made at Target and Target.com, and ½% of Target Visa purchases made everywhere else, to the eligible K-12 school of your choice when you designate the school on your card. To participate in raising money for our school when you shop, all you need is a REDcard and to designate St. Philip School online at [www.Target.com/tcoe](http://www.Target.com/tcoe) or by calling 1-800-316-6142. Thank you to the families who are already signed up!



## “CLUB SANDWICH” RETURNS!

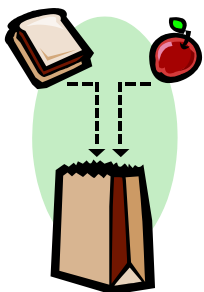
Returning families may remember our after-school service project, dubbed “*Club Sandwich*.” Designed to help to ease the plight of those who are homeless in our state, we have collected food, clothing, blankets, and personal care items for distribution to the needy in the past. Several years ago we began a ‘meal-making’ club to supplement our assistance to the needy of our state. Your response to this drive was so generous and inspiring that the volunteers in charge of the distribution keep asking us to sign on for another year!

Beginning on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, our middle school students will begin this year’s *Club Sandwich* ~ voluntary participation after school which will provide an opportunity for them to plan and put together approximately 150 “bag lunches” for the homeless. These meals are then delivered to the homeless in our state by a group of dedicated volunteers who begin their Friday evening missions by meeting at St. Patrick’s Church in Providence. Other organizations, including St. Philip Parish, provide hot additions (pasta, soups) to supplement these bagged meals. *Club Sandwich* will meet on pre-scheduled dates to assemble these meals (*Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Mar. 9, Apr. 13 & May 11*). Occasionally we are asked to change a date or to add additional sessions as needed.

Although our middle school students will be *assembling* the lunches, this project is successful only because of the participation of *all* of our St. Philip School students. To that end, we are hoping for your continued support as we supply a list of items (see below) that will be needed for these bag lunches. In order to ensure that we don’t have an overabundance of some items and not enough of others, we have taken the liberty of ‘assigning’ certain items to each grade level. (This will rotate from month to month.) Your participation is entirely voluntary – but we hope that you will join us as we endeavor to “inspire service” in response to God’s call and our school’s mission. We have found that adding one or two items to our weekly grocery shopping carts is a good way to contribute without ‘feeling the pinch’ too much. If you are willing to participate, please send in your first items *no later than Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>*. This will help us to take an inventory and to purchase possible additional items that may be needed before *Club Sandwich* members meet to assemble the lunches. (The school purchases fresh deli items, bread, and condiments for the sandwiches, and monetary donations are gratefully accepted at any time.) We will send out requests periodically for items to keep our larder stocked with lunch-making supplies.

We thank you for your consideration, your commitment, and your generosity! For those of you who are new to St. Philip School – *welcome to the ‘Club’!*

Sincerely,  
Darlene A. Walsh, Principal



- Pre-Kindergarten: juice boxes (*real juice preferred – more nutritious*)
- Kindergarten: bottled water (16 oz. size or less)
- Grade 1: single serving size chips or pretzels
- Grade 2: single serving size fruit cups or applesauce cups
- Grade 3: single serving size cheese/cracker combinations
- Grade 4: **soft** breakfast-style granola bars (*the homeless often have dental problems*)
- Grade 5: single serving size packages of cookies
- Grade 6: bottled water (16 oz. size or less)
- Grade 7: juice boxes (*real juice preferred – more nutritious*)
- Grade 8: single serving size fruit cups or applesauce cups

## UNIFORM ITEMS

Parents, please be reminded that we have a closet that is loaded with gently used uniform components. You do not have to wait for a 'uniform swap' in order to avail yourselves of these items.

If you are in need of anything at any time during the school year, please send a note to the office to the attention of Mrs. Daigle. She will be happy to look for the specific clothing and sizes that you want and to send home anything she finds that might be helpful to you.

Clothing items we have on hand include jumpers, skirts, blouses and dress shirts, polo shirts, gym t-shirts, gym uniforms, shorts, sweaters, belts, socks, and even shoes! So if your children are 'growing like weeds,' please check with us before purchasing anything brand new!



## ARE YOU IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR HEATING BILLS?

The following agencies may be contacted for information regarding heating assistance:

East Bay Community Action Program	437-1000
Family Resources CAP	767-0866
South County CAP	789-3016
West Bay CAP	732-4660
Tri Town CAP	351-2750
Blackstone Valley CAP	723-4520
Providence CAP	232-0060
Project Hope (Proyecto Esperanza)	728-0515
Cranston CAP	467-9610
Coventry Friends of Human Services	822-9175
The Jonnycake Center of Westerly	377-8069
The Emergency Fuel Hotline	222-3003
The Good Neighbor Energy Fund	831-1119
<b>"Keep the Heat On"</b>	421-7833

(Keep the Heat On is Bishop Tobin's diocesan-sponsored fund and is a program of 'last resort' for individuals and families who do not qualify for any of the other assistance programs.)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Children who have health insurance are more likely to receive medical treatment for common health problems, to receive the immunizations they need to stay healthy, and to get medication they need for common illnesses like asthma and ear infections. When parents have health coverage, they are more likely to bring their children to get the medical and dental care they need. There are thousands of children, pregnant women and families in Rhode Island who are eligible for low-cost or no cost health insurance coverage through Rite Care but who have not yet enrolled. Many of them simply do not know that they are eligible. In these difficult times, more than ever, people need to know – health coverage is available! If you or someone you know is in need of health insurance, information may be found by calling the Rite Care Information Line toll-free at (401) 462-5300, or by visiting [www.dhs.ri.gov](http://www.dhs.ri.gov). For assistance in applying for Rite Care, call (401) 274-1771, ext. 217.

(Information provided by *Rhode Island KIDS COUNT*.)



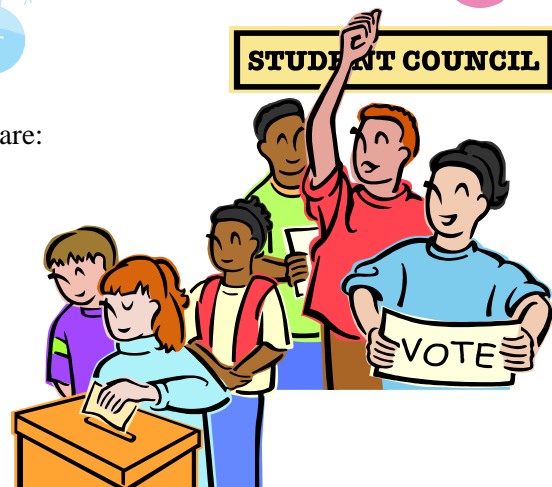
## Congratulations to...

...our new Student Council officers and representatives! They are:

President – Maggie Pressler (Gr. 8)  
Vice-President – Alyssa Piampiano (Gr. 7)  
Secretary – Marisol Handren (Gr. 8)  
Treasurer – Cory Pacheco (Gr. 8)

Class Representatives:

Grade 6 – Lucy Baxter & Elizabeth Kent  
Grade 7 – Jennifer Shardlow & Andréa Vaughan  
Grade 8 – Gabrielle Delos & Justina Mabray



# STUDENT NEWS



## GRADE 1

Mr. Kline was a welcome guest this month. He tackled the age old problem of making b's and d's correctly! (h-oney b-ee...make the h and turn it into a b!) Mrs. Iafate led the class in an investigation of magnets. The children approached the topic with a very POSITIVE attitude; there were no NEGATIVE reactions to our experiments!

The class has now read 421 books and students have taken that many computer tests. Our 'popsicle moms' provide a great incentive! The children have begun learning how to type correctly on their Neos, and Elmo is helping by connecting us to a wonderful typing program on the internet.

Parent Conferences provided a wonderful opportunity to meet with parents to discuss their children's progress. November may have been a short month, but it was a very busy and interesting month for Grade One!



## GRADE 5

Grade 5 thanks Father Rodrigues for his help in preparing us for the New Mass. We have been studying the lessons in the New Mass booklet and watched the informative video. We thank Father Frank who is continuing to read and discuss the novel, On My Honor, and we are writing a religion response journal.



In Science with Mrs. Iafate, we are learning about food fat content, in learning about the new science kit module about food. Students keep a lab book and record in a scientific journal. Each person has a specific job and contributes to the experiment.

We have received more New York replies to our bottle project. Mrs. Dawson has begun a fairy tale project for the fifth grade.

## MATH NEWS FROM MRS. VENTER

Grade 5 has moved on to studying multiplication. Enrichment groups change daily in an attempt to challenge students who already have mastered the concept of the day. We continue to reward STAMPSS champions who have independently solved 10 of these brain teasers. We have four tenacious souls who have been to the prize bin already!

Sixth graders continue their challenge with decimals this month. Binder/composition notebook reviews show that many of the students are getting organized and becoming excellent note takers.

Data, data, and more data – that's been the focus in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Students are currently finishing posters that depict their findings from a middle school survey they created. Check the halls to see if you have anything in common with an "average" middle schooler at St. Philip School!

We've been brushing up on skills in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, preparing for the Secondary School Entrance Exam that many students take. Their next venture is into proportion and percent, always helpful in figuring discounts during this shopping season!

Pre-algebra is courageously attempting to solve equations while Algebra continues their study of polynomials. All students are working hard on these challenging concepts.



## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

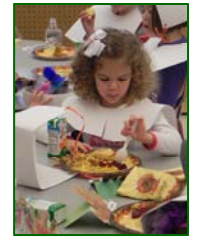
The month of November has certainly gone by quickly. The Pre K class has been so busy this past month. In the beginning of the month our theme was community helpers. The children created their own community at the block center. In using blocks, airplanes, toy vehicles and people, the students worked their imaginations tirelessly to create a realistic looking town out of the plain blocks. In dramatic play the boys and girls will be visiting the grocery store, working in the bakery, bagging items and a usual favorite; utilizing the cash register.



In looking more closely at patterns the students reviewed various manipulatives to create AB, AAB, and ABB patterns. The students also worked in teams to build and count blocks. This math lesson on patterns and building also enhanced their team work abilities and skills.

Our field trip to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry was a huge success. The students personally brought their contributions to the pantry for families in need. Our little ones received a tour from Mr. Carroll, the organizer of the pantry. He explained and answered many questions about how the pantry receives and distributes its food to those in need.

During the end of November, our theme was occupations. Students played the part of police officers, doctors, train engineers, and chefs! We even had a few students put on safety glasses and hard hats, as they worked as construction workers in building sites. It was our goal that the children would enjoy various career choices and have fun along the way.



Our Thanksgiving celebrations were wonderful! All of the children were dressed up as Pilgrims and Indians. What fun we had preparing and cooking muffins and mashed potatoes for our celebration. We would like to thank all of the parents who sent in many other traditional Thanksgiving items for our wonderful feast!

We would like to wish all of you a healthy and happy Advent Season filled with blessings and love!

## KINDERGARTEN

During the month of November we thanked God for our blessings and we participated in a service project – baking breads for the food pantry. What a nice letter we received from them, thanking us for the 60 loaves of bread and the gift cards to Stop and Shop. We learned all about the voyage of the Pilgrims to America and how important it was to be helpful and to pray for blessings-they had a very hard winter.

We have enjoyed working in Science with Mrs. Iafate and learning about habitats and the water cycle (big words – evaporation, condensation, precipitation) and we are excited about learning about guppies and goldfish in the month of



January as we begin our new science studies. We can read some books now and we are learning how to sound out longer words. We are writing sentences and learning about naming, action and

describing words. In Math we have used geoboards to make flat shapes and now we know the difference between solid and flat shapes.

Now it is December and what an exciting time for us – we have already visited Santa and his workshop on the internet and we have begun to e-mail him letters and guess what – he writes back to us. He even talks to us in our room on the computer. Our stockings are decorated and hung by the fireplace next to Santa – will the elves come and take our stockings to the North Pole and bring them back?

We are learning about Advent (WAITING FOR JESUS) and how special Jesus is – we receive presents on His birthday – IMAGINE THAT!! We have given Jesus "gifts of the heart" in our room – gifts of love, praise, joy and prayers. We also promised Mrs. Ahern that we will say "Happy Birthday,

## GRADE 2

Well, imagine that, another whole month has gone by! It hardly seems possible that we are beginning the second trimester and report cards will go home next week. We are having a great time in grade 2. We are learning so much!

We are learning all about animal habitats with Mrs. Pierpaoli and Mrs. Iafate. We are focusing on the Rain Forest. This week, we began a research project on Rain Forest animals. We are using books and the computers in the classroom and the library to help us gather research facts.

In Religion, we are preparing for First Penance, learning about the Church seasonal calendar, and awaiting Jesus' birth by doing good deeds and focusing on the spirit of the Advent Season. We made really nice Christmas tree Advent Calendars and Wreaths.

Jesus" before we open our presents on Christmas morning. December is a very exciting and awesome month in kindergarten and we hope that Santa will visit us before our Christmas vacation. We will let you know what happened when we share our news in January. Ho, Ho, Ho!!!! Merry Christmas – may it be a happy and HOLY Christmas for all of you!!!

## SCIENCE NEWS FROM MRS. IAFRATE

Science is progressing very well. The students in Kindergarten through Grade Five are having a wonderful time doing their labs in Science. They love hands-on science labs. Students are not only learning answers to questions they may have about a particular subject, but are also learning how to apply this knowledge in real life. They are also learning how to work together in groups. The labs have been great.

In Kindergarten and Grade Two, we are continuing to discuss habitats. This week we discussed a pond habitat. We watched a video. Next we will look at some pond water using a magnifying glass and a microscope. In Grade One, we did many labs involving magnets and their magnetic field. Next we will make magnetic flowers. In Grade Three, we have performed many labs in which we learned the properties of water. Next we will construct a thermometer to observe that water expands as it warms and contracts as it cools. In Grade Four we are continuing our discussion of earth materials. Next



we will perform a scratch test on some minerals to test for hardness. In Grade Five, we will continue our study of food and nutrition. We will finish our lab on the amount of sugar in certain foods. If

you have any questions or anything you would like to do or add to our lessons, please feel free to call me at school.



For math, we are now adding double digit numbers with carrying and we will soon begin subtracting with borrowing. We are also learning about rounding which can be rather hard... but we are really trying.

In reading and writing, we just had two big tests, wrote some great Thanksgiving acrostics, wrote Turkey Pleas for a classroom contest, and are now working on Christmas stories. Pretty soon, we will begin sharing our Christmas reports. We can hardly wait! Our Turkey Plea Contest winners were: *Turkeys that were on the dinner table* – Anna Giacobbe and Kayla Kumar; *Turkeys that were spared* – Kyle Bourque, Cassidy Correia, and Mia Russo. We had a great time writing them and sharing them with the class.



We're very busy here in grade 2. On Friday, we will meet with our buddies and say good-bye to Mrs. Sorice until she returns after having her new baby. We will miss seeing her. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!!!

## GRADE 4

What a fun and historical month November turned out to be! The month began with our learning about the 3 branches of Rhode Island government. We created our own flipbook to help us learn the differences between each branch, and we created a historical time line to help us learn about Rhode Island's most important historical events. As we leave the study of RI behind, we are ready to move on to the Northeast Region. We quickly started our study of the Northeast by creating our own political map of this region.



During math time we finished up on chapter 2 where we estimated sums and differences as we learned to solve problems through the use of logical reasoning. We even learned how to solve algebraic expressions by using variables. We are now ready to move on to reviewing the process of regrouping in addition and subtraction.

As part of reading, we read *Squanto* by Clyde Robert Bulla. After this we created story quilts of sequential events. We continued on by writing paragraphs comparing *Squanto* and Captain John Smith.

Finally, in religion we paid tribute to our deceased family members and friends with our "All Souls" bulletin board and by praying the prayer of St. Gertrude for the release of souls in Purgatory. We also learned about the new Mass through our new Mass booklets and a presentation by Father Rodrigues. Lastly we learned a new Thanksgiving prayer.

All in all, the month flew by as we continued to learn and grow in fourth grade!

## GRADE 3

What a fabulous and fast month we have had in grade 3. Students are thoroughly enjoying their experiences in science, with Mrs. Iafate and me as we put on our lab coats and goggles and investigate the properties of water. The scientists work together in teams as they conduct experiments and share information and discoveries. We are all looking forward to continue the investigations of the properties of water.



Math is another area of discovery and fascination as connections are made between multiplication and division. Students have been working diligently on number concepts, place value, rounding of numbers and many other skills. Great emphasis is being placed on memorization of the multiplication tables. As we move into the second trimester of the year, students will be applying their math skills in a variety of ways.

Being thankful is important every day, however, we spent extra time during the month discussing all that the students are grateful for. How proud you can be of their wonderful sentiments and loving hearts. November was also a time during which we learned about the history of Pentecost and the changes in the Mass due to changes in the Roman Missal. Learning the new responses will be a challenge for all.

Much has happened in language arts this month as well; students have worked on a variety of important skills including sequencing, making inferences, and summarizing. Developing and improving writing skills is always a goal, students have been working very hard on their editing skills and understanding of parts of speech.

Geography has been another area of study this past month; children worked on using a map scale and locating geographical features on a map. It was truly a busy and a wonderful month. May you have a wonderful and blessed Christmas!

## GRADE 6

Sixth graders have been working diligently on their persuasive research projects. They are also honing their grammar skills as they pass through the enlightening chapter of personal, possessive, and demonstrative pronouns! Literature groups are wrapping up their final summaries of *Letters from Rifka* and *The BFG*.



Also, the Saint Philip School Newspaper Club is preparing the first edition of the *Cardinal's Corner*. School reporters, editors, and photographers are scrambling to meet their news deadline in order to publish before the Christmas vacation.

## GRADE 7



Things could not be more exciting in the middle school science lab as we discover the diversity of life under our microscopes. We spent some time going over the parts to the microscope and understanding exactly how to use the magnification to determine the field of view and the measurements of our organisms. We have been looking for the characteristics of life in brine shrimp, elodea plants, and paramecium. Next week we will feed our paramecium under the microscope and watch their food (red dyed yeast) turn blue when it reacts with the acids in their bodies. How cool is that?

In religion class we have finished our study of the booklet, *What's New about the Mass*. We are returning to our religion book and our study of the season of advent.

## NEWS FROM MRS. SORICE

During the month of November, students in the middle school were very busy. Eighth graders worked tirelessly on their studies of pronouns and verbs. As we worked through different short stories and works of fiction, literature circles were often animated with students' observations and connections to the text. We have welcomed the new addition to our classroom, "Elmo," for assistance with our understanding of the writing process, especially the revision step. 'He' has truly added another dimension to the classroom, and we are looking forward to using 'him' further in the months to come!

Seventh graders rose to the occasion on the scrapbook research project and the final results are looking beautiful! I can't wait to hear all about what they've learned in presentations in addition to the interesting writing pieces that were submitted.

Sixth graders were wonderful in religion discussions; their observations and connections to the changes in the Mass were very enriching. As we transition into our studies of the Liturgical Year, most notably Advent at this time, I am sure the discussions will continue to be delightful.

I can't thank everyone in the school community enough for their prayers and well wishes as my family and I prepare to welcome our new addition in a couple of weeks. I will see you all soon and will be thinking of you all often in my own prayers.



### WAY TO GO!!

First grader David Parenteau and schoolmates Kyle and Cori Planka (Grades 3 & 1) are members of Mastery Martial Arts. Recently, the three of them participated in an Inter-School Tournament at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. David won First Place in the Little Dragons Division. Kyle and Cori participated in the Intermediate Division of the tournament, where Kyle took first place. David and Kyle are shown in the picture at right.

Congratulations to all of you!



**"LIGHT OF LIFE"**  
**National Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette**  
**Annual Festival of Lights**  
947 Park St. ♦ Rt. 118 ♦ Attleboro, MA  
[www.lasaletteshrine.org](http://www.lasaletteshrine.org)

**Christmas Schedule ~ November 24–January 1**

**Masses**

Monday thru Friday	12:10 & 4:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday	12:10, 4:00, & 6:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve / New Year's Eve	4:00 & 6:30 p.m.
Midnight Mass (concert at 11:30 p.m.)	12:00 a.m.
Christmas Day / New Year's Day	12:10, 4:00, & 6:30 p.m.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Every Day	2:00-8:00 p.m.
<i>(No confession Nov. 24, Dec. 25, &amp; Jan 1, 2012)</i>	
Special hours on Dec. 24 & 31:	2:00-5:00 p.m.

**Opening Ceremony & Blessing**

Every day at 5:00 p.m. at the outdoor manger

**Illuminations**

Every Day	5:00-9:00 p.m.
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**Christmas Concerts with Fr. Pat in the Church**

Tuesday thru Friday	3:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday	3:00 & 7:30 p.m.
<i>(No concerts on Dec. 3 &amp; Dec. 25)</i>	

**International Display of Nativity Sets**

Monday thru Friday	5:00-8:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday	2:00-8:30 p.m.



### THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Our recent Wine, Beer and Food Tasting Event was a tremendous success! Under the direction of Mrs. Danielle Scott and Mrs. Jennifer Belvin, the event was extremely well attended and many people have been commenting about the wonderful transformation of the parish center into a palace of gourmet delight! Even the coat room was beautifully laid out and decorated! Attendees were treated to a veritable feast for the eyes and the palate, and became more acquainted with the many farmers, vineyards, vendors and businesses who give so much to our local communities. Thank you to Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Belvin, and their wonderful team of volunteers! We look forward to next year's big event – please be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, November 3, 2012 from 7:00-10:00 p.m.! We'll see you again then!



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS! UPCOMING ST. PHILIP PARISH FAMILY MINISTRY EVENTS!

January	7	<b>Kings Kids Camp</b>	<b>Preschool-Grade 2</b>	9:00-11:00 a.m. in School Math Room
	15	<b>Family fun Day: Ice Skating at the Bank of America Center</b>	2 Kennedy Drive, Providence, RI 02903	2:00-4:00 p.m. <i>Pre-registration required (349-0428)</i> \$8 Adult (12+) / \$5 Child
	21	<b>Kids 4 Jesus</b>	<b>Grades 3-5</b>	9:00-11:00 a.m. in School Math Room

## **You are Invited to Help Return Christmas to Smith Hill Tuesday Night**

*St. Patrick Parish & Bishop Tobin to Host Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Prayer Service*

(PROVIDENCE, R.I.)-Father James Ruggeri, Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish and Bishop Tobin invite Catholic school staff, students and their families to an Advent Prayer Service and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Tuesday, December 6 at 5:30 p.m. (Music will begin at 5 p.m.) The event was scheduled to provide those Rhode Islanders who wish to maintain the celebration of Christmas rather than secularize the season with the 'holiday' label.

A choir will provide music then following a brief prayer service led by Bishop Thomas J. Tobin and Father Ruggeri, two children of the parish will light the Christmas tree.

"Echoing Bishop Tobin, the decision to avoid the word Christmas at the State House is sad and unfortunate in a state that is overwhelmingly Christian," said Father James Ruggeri. "St. Patrick's Parish is pleased to extend an invitation to anyone who is seeking a deeper understanding of the Advent and Christmas season to join us for the Christmas tree lighting."

"Governor Chafee's decision to avoid the word Christmas at the State House ceremony is most disheartening and divisive," said Bishop Tobin. "It is sad that such a secular spirit has swept over our state. The Governor's decision ignores long held American traditions and is an affront to the faith of many citizens. For the sake of peace and harmony in our state at this special time of the year, I respectfully encourage the Governor to reconsider his decision to use the word Christmas in the state observance."

St. Patrick's Church sponsors 'MaryHouse,' a parish ministry that operates a soup kitchen and food pantry that is open year-round responding to those in the greatest of need throughout the community. The parish also sponsors a unique Catholic high school that serves those who would not otherwise have the opportunity of a Catholic secondary education due to affordability. Through the school and 'MaryHouse,' the parish and volunteers of St. Patrick make a real difference for struggling Rhode Islanders each and every day.