



THE MUSTANG *messenger*



Where Faith and Knowledge Meet
www.stmichaelsharonville.org



Dear St. Michael Families and Friends,

December 6, 2017

It seems the weather has officially turned to winter. I heard on the news it is going to continue to get colder! Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately each day (coat, hat, gloves, etc.) as we will continue to be outside. I will keep my eye on the weather and make a decision daily.

This past Sunday began the season of Advent. Our theme at school is "Waiting With Joyful Expectation". On Monday, we had a beautiful prayer service. In each building, there is a large paper advent wreath along with a manger. As the students do something extra or as a sacrifice, they put hay in the manger. The goal is to make a warm and cozy bed for baby Jesus. Each classroom has a Jesse Tree they are putting ornaments on each day. On Tuesday, December 12th, we are collecting gently-used clothes for MADHATTER'S Closet.

Congratulations to our second graders! They celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time yesterday. I enjoyed listening to Fr. Tom and the children talk about being a light of Christ. He talked to them about making a mistake or doing something wrong is the same as covering up our light and when we say we are sorry our light shines bright again. I saw the students light shining brighter in their eyes and smiles after they were forgiven by Jesus.

I want to wish good luck to our 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders who will compete tomorrow evening in a Math Counts Competition at Cincinnati Country Day School. Our Mathletes are Kat B., Maelynn G., Kira W., Camron C., Jacqueline C., Parker J., Emily D., William S., Brennen H., Ben J., Jonathan B., John P., Ethan H., Gino D., Joey H., Megan C., Joseph R., Carrson S., AJ K., and Daniel S. They are coached by Ms. Riegler.

This is just a reminder that our school Christmas program is next Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. in church. As with other years, this performance has become very special to Mrs. Dabbelt. Watching the children celebrate the birth of Jesus is always a highlight for me.

I hope you have a wonderful week.

Yours in Christ,

Carolyn Murphy

Principal

School News

Advent Project

Madhatter's Closet collects clothing for students in grades K-12 in lower Price Hill. The students of Oyler Community Learning Center come to "shop" at the facility twice a year or more often if needed. Items are collected and sorted by volunteers who also help the children shop for their free, "new" clothes.

We are collecting GENTLY-used clothing for this very worthy charity on Tuesday, December 12. If you have any children's size clothing that is in good condition that you would like to donate, please place it in a garbage bag marked Madhatter's and bring/send it to school on December 12. The clothing will be picked up that morning by one of the facility's volunteers. NO SCHOOL NAMES MAY BE ON THE CLOTHING. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

The Advent Committee

Catholic Education Foundation Scholarships

The Catholic Education Foundation is currently accepting applications for 2018-2019 elementary school tuition assistance scholarships. All scholarships are needs-based and can be used at any Catholic elementary school within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Awards range from \$250 to \$1,000 per student.

How to apply: www.catholicbestchoice.org

Deadline: January 31, 2018

Amount: Up to \$1,000 per child

The Catholic Education Foundation scholarship program became a reality in 2017-2018 through the One Faith, One Hope, One Love Capital Campaign. Due to the generosity of parishioners, the Catholic Education Foundation will again be able to offer over \$2,000,000 in financial aid! For more details and to apply visit: www.catholicbestchoice.org.

Important Dates to Remember

Dec. 7/8 - Christmas Village

Dec. 8 - The Immaculate Conception—Mass at 8:15 a.m.

Dec. 14 - Christmas Program

Dec. 19 - School Reconciliation Service

Dec. 20 - Last Day of School

Jan. 3 - School Resumes

PTO News

Used Uniform Sale

Parents, if your children's outgrown uniforms are looking for new homes, we will take them for our Used Uniform Sale. You don't have to wait until the summer to send them in. We can take uniforms and spirit wear that no longer fits! All items can be sent to or dropped off at the school office. Questions? Contact Julie Aluotto at julie.aluotto@gmail.com.

LaRosa's Buddy Cards

LaRosa's Buddy Cards are available! They are only \$10.00 per card, and good for a free Large Cheese Pizza when you purchase any large pizza (up to 14 Free Large Cheese Pizzas). If you would like to order a Buddy Card, please contact Julie Aluotto at julie.aluotto@gmail.com or text/call at 513.673.1727.

Mustangs Serve News

December Volunteering Opportunities

By Wendy Sauer, wendy.sauer@outlook.com

The Healing Center “Christmas Parties”

The Healing Center: The Healing Center provides help to residents of Greater Cincinnati when challenges invade their lives by offering practical (food pantry and clothing/household items), social, and spiritual support to over 3,000 guests per month. The majority of the guests are families with young children.

Website: <https://www.healingcentercincinnati.org/>

When: The first two weeks of December. Various dates and shifts available.

Where: The Healing Center, 11345 Century Circle West, Springdale, OH, 346-4080. Located behind Best Buy in Tri County.

Volunteer Description: The Healing Center will be transformed into a beautiful winter wonderland in December to provide the guests with an amazing Christmas experience. There are a lot of great volunteer opportunities from serving and/or providing homemade Christmas cookies, volunteering at the arts and crafts table, helping Santa, distributing gifts, and helping with games. These are very family-friendly serving roles!

Sign Up Here: <https://www.vineyardcincinnati.com/serve-at-event> and click on “Christmas Parties at the Healing Center”

Can't attend?: I am a regular volunteer at The Healing Center so you can drop off any homemade cookies at my house any-time during the first two weeks in December and I will deliver them for you...I promise I won't eat the cookies! You can also consider volunteering at The Healing Center after the holidays.

Operation Give Back “Holiday Store”

Hidden suburban poverty in our own backyard

Operation Give Back: This non-profit, located in Blue Ash, serves about 35 students daily in a warm and friendly facility. OGB also sponsors Whiz Kids weekly literacy hour, weekend movie nights, summer tutoring, weekly food pantry, training and coaching for parents, Back to School supplies for 300 children, and a Holiday Store, which provides presents to 1,500 children. OGB reaches economically disadvantaged kids in the Sycamore School District as well as Stewart Elementary School. This past fall, Mustangs Serve partnered with OGB for their Back to School supply event and it was a huge success!

Website: <http://www.ogiveback.com/>

When: The first two weeks of December. Various dates and shifts available.

Where: Either at their Holiday Store location (6245 Creek Rd., Blue Ash) or at Operation Give Back (10891 Millington Ct., Blue Ash).

Volunteer Description: Volunteers are needed to partner with shoppers, greet families, help with prayer, registration, and clean up. Unfortunately, OGB got this sign up to me late, so the kid-friendly roles were already taken. The majority of the spots left are for adults and kids ages 15+.

Sign Up Here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044ba9ae22a0fe3-ogbholiday>

News to Share?

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If you have any news that you would like to share with our St. Michael Parish School community, please email Kaylene Schwab at kaylene@saintmichaelchurch.net.