



The Reason for the Season

Thank you to staff, students, and families for a wonderful Principal Appreciation celebration!

This time of the year is a very special one for all Christians, especially those at St. Thomas School. We are so fortunate that we can truly and fully celebrate the "Reason for the Season" throughout our school day. As the sights and sounds of the holidays surround us, I ask that we all take the opportunity to share in the treasures of Advent and Christmas through prayer, reflections, and conversation with our loved ones. I hope everyone has a blessed and joyful holiday season!

On the 20th, Bishop Mark will be visiting with the students. Please have your child wear his/her **Mass uniform that Tuesday**. Thank you!

Merry Christmas!
Mrs. Bordi

Our School Family is Growing!

We are thrilled to be able to offer a **3 Year Old Program** starting during the 2012-2013 school year. This program will begin your child's schooling in a setting that goes beyond daycare by introducing him/her to the joy and excitement of learning. Our 3 Year Old Program will address academics in a developmentally appropriate environment providing important social and emotional experiences. Additional information will be available on our website soon!

Dressing for a Cause

It has been a tradition at St. Thomas School for students to collect new mittens, hats and scarves during Advent. These items will be distributed to children who are less fortunate. Our Mitten Tree will be located at the top of the steps by the water fountain. All items need to be at school by **Tuesday, December 12th**.



Calling All Snow Bunnies!

We are forming a St. Thomas School Ski Club this winter. Beginners to advanced skiers are welcome to join! Please keep a lookout out for our Ski Club information sheet that will be sent home as soon as details are finalized with Blue Knob.



Accelerated Reader

Our students will be starting an exciting reading program this month called Accelerated Reader. Students may choose appropriate reading level books from our school, home, and local libraries and accumulate reading points per book read. They may then "cash in" the points for rewards. The AR program encourages independent reading based on individual student interests which cultivate a lifelong love of reading! Please see our website for the Accelerate Reader Q&As and additional information!



Family Advent & Christmas Resources:
<http://catholicmom.com/advent.htm> &
<http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/religion/re0372.html>

Christmas Program

December 16th at 7:00PM

Please closely read the program outline and information included in this month's folders. Mrs. Mickey does an amazing job with the students and we are very excited to see the final results during *A Musical Christmas Card!*



Looking Ahead...

~We will begin Learning Clubs on January 5th. Your child will have the opportunity to sign up for a learning club every 6 weeks. These clubs will be held the last 40 minutes of the school day each Thursday. Sign Ups will be held on December 19th and details of the club your child chooses will be sent home before Christmas Break.

New School Logo

We are excited to share our new St. Thomas School logo with you on the school website (coming soon!). Congratulations to Colby Miller for his winning design. We thank everyone for design submissions and voting participation.

Come Join Us!

- 3rd: Craft Show at the School
- 5-7th: Santa's Workshop
- 10th: DBI Family Fun Day at Noon
*Students meet at the school at 11:45AM
- 12th: Little Tiger Story Time 9:30AM
- 12-14th: Christmas Prep 5-7PM each night
- 14th: Bingo
- 16th: Dressing for a Cause
- 16th: Christmas Program 7PM
- 20th: Bishop Mark visits the school
- 21st: Free Christmas Meal for Students
- 23rd: Caroling & Classroom Celebrations
- 23rd: Early Dismissal (No Aftercare!)
- Jan. 3rd: School Resumes

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is a week long celebration starting on January 30th. This year's theme is: Faith, Academics, and Service. We have begun the service aspect by reaching out to those unable to leave their homes in our parishes and community on a continuing basis. We plan to continue our service projects throughout the year.

"Around the World in 80 Minutes" will begin CSW on Monday and will also wrap up our International Study Unit. **Please mark your calendars now for January 30th at 12:30 PM!** Each classroom will be showcasing the continent they have been studying for the last 9 weeks.

The rest of the week holds fun themes, activities, and learning! We will share those details in the January newsletter.

International Study Unit

Our school wide International study is well underway. Each classroom is starting to learn and experience new cultures, geography, foods, and more. Father Dusza is teaching the students Spanish as a Foreign Language as part of our curriculum. We are *muy agradecido* for his assistance!

Mass

Mass is Wednesdays at 8:30. This is a focus of our school- religious education and the worship of God. We welcome everyone to participate and celebrate with us!

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

(Isaiah 7:14)

