

PCRS WEEKLY PRESS

DECEMBER 1, 2011

www.portsmouthcatholic.net



Dear Portsmouth Catholic Regional Families,

I drove home from school last night thinking about what makes Portsmouth Catholic Regional School stand out as different from other educational institutions. And my thoughts kept coming back to our three priorities. Faith. Academics. Service. At Portsmouth Catholic, our children learn the Catholic Faith, not just the basics of Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. They benefit from high academic standards, which help each student reach his or her potential. They also learn the importance of service, both as an expression of faith and a manifestation of good citizenship. This focus on faith, academics and service prepares students for meaningful lives in their families, communities and the Catholic Church.

I am proud in thinking we do not just do lip service to these priorities. In thinking back over this week there have been several examples of our PCRS faith community living the three priorities of faith, academics and service.

FAITH: * We begin each Monday of Advent gathered together in prayer as a whole school centered as a school lighting the candles of our Advent wreath in our main hallway. We are focused on praying and preparing our hearts for the birth of our Savior.

* We begin and end each school day joined in school-wide prayer led by our eighth graders and our Principal. During Advent we include daily reminders of keeping our focus on Advent, sharing God's love, and living our call to holiness by respecting all as Jesus did.

* Today, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation Mass was celebrated at our school. We are very grateful Fr. Jim Connolly, a Chaplain from Yorktown Naval Weapons Station made time in his busy schedule to come to PCRS.

ACADEMICS: *Progress Reports were sent home last week, midway through our second quarter. All students receive Progress Reports in Grades 1-8. Progress Reports enable students, families and teachers celebrate our student's hard work and develop plans for success in completing the quarter.

*Our classes are reaching Math Milestones through IXL Math practice. Our Third Grade Class shared their IXL Math Certificate of Achievement with me and has reached a Math Milestone. I am so proud to tell you that our "Thinking Third Graders" have answered 10,000 math problems through IXL Math as a class! Yes, you did read that correctly – completed 10,000 problems. Our "Super Second Graders" have spent 50 hours practicing Math through IXL Math! They have completed over 13,496 problems, and have also received a Certificate of Achievement as a class. Rumor has it that several other classes have earned Certificates of Achievement. I will keep you posted. A round of applause for all our developing Magnificent Math Minds!

SERVICE: *As a faith community we began our December Outreach Service Project of "Bibs, Bottles, and Booties" last week in honor and in remembrance of the birthday of the Christ Child. Our Advent Baby Shower is supporting Catholic Charities. The wonderful donations of baby items are decorating our Christmas tree in our hall way. Every time I look at the amazing donations it makes my heart smile. Thank you families, for your generosity and for making a difference. Our Advent Outreach of providing items for newborns enables us to focus on JOY this Advent season – **J**esus, **O**thers and **Y**ourself.

*Our PTO sponsored a free Parents Night Out last week in service and support of our PCRS families. It was a great night with 22 students participating enjoying making crafts, snacks and dance entertainment!

*Many of our marvelous Middle School students came out last Friday night to assist and help our PTO.

*Our students and families are assisting the Ladies of St. Therese (LOST) by singing at the annual Christmas Party at Bon Secours Maryview Nursing Care Center in Suffolk this Saturday to 10:00a.m. (It's not too late to join in making a joyful noise!) And they will also sing carols at our Christmas Craft and Gift Show this Saturday in our gym.

*Our School Advisory Board (SAB) and PCRS families/friends are working hard in serving PCRS and working for the success of our 1st Annual Christmas Craft and Gift Show on Friday and Saturday. (We can use more assistance. Please see flyer in today's envelope.)

This is just a snapshot of how Portsmouth Catholic Regional School is living out our three priorities of faith, academics, and service this week. Advent blessings!

In Christ, Mrs. Mary Ellen Paul

Put a Song in Your Heart and Find that Christmas Spirit!

Families and students are invited to participate at

The Ladies of St. Therese annual Christmas Party

at Bon Secours Maryview Nursing Care Center in Suffolk on Saturday, December 10th at 10:00am.

Please plan to participate and give the gift of love, happiness and music to those residents.

Please see flyer in today's envelope with all the details.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN AND MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Scrip Tip # 11

Only 17 Shopping Days Until Christmas!!!!

The SCRIP volunteers are available EVERY morning (7:45-8:30) from now until Christmas Break to handle your SCRIP order. Our Cash and Carry Inventory will be fully stocked through the last week of school before the Christmas Break. Buy SCRIP Cards at PCRS and avoid the crowds at the malls while helping raise money for our tuition fund!!!!

Are you wondering what to get your child's teacher for Christmas? PCRS SCRIP now has PCRS SCRIP Gift Certificates available for sale. Buy a SCRIP Gift Certificate for any teacher or staff member at PCRS and then decide which SCRIP card they'd like. When our families buy a \$5, \$10, or \$25 SCRIP Gift Certificate for one of our teachers, the teacher can come to the Cash and Carry Inventory and shop for that perfect gift!!! Any questions please call Diane Bailey at 538-3245.

Milk Orders

Milk orders for the January to June semester were sent out in the Thursday envelope on Dec. 8, 2011. Please complete and return by December 16 if you want your child to have milk. Milk service will begin on January 2, 2012.

Lunch Orders

Lunch orders for January 3, 4, 5 will be accepted on January 2, 2012.
Hot lunch service will resume January 3, 2012.

SAC Sponsored Skating Party

Come join the fun on Saturday, Dec. 10th from 5:15p.m. to 7:15p.m. at Smithfield Skating Rink. Tickets must be purchased in advance through PCRS. Tickets are \$5 per skater.

No tickets will be available at the skating rink on the night of the party.

PCRS Christmas Craft Fair

**This Saturday, December 10th
from 9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.
in our gym.**

**Great gifts, crafts, food!
Santa and pictures from 11-12:30**

3rd Annual School-Wide Christmas Program - Thursday Evening December 15th at 7:00pm.

All students in PK-3 through 8th grade need to arrive in their classrooms at 6:40p.m., please.

PreK-3 through 8th grade students are requested to wear Church Christmas dress up clothes for our program. All boys should wear red, white, or green shirts and dark pants (black or navy). All girls should wear holiday, red, or green dresses, or red, white or green shirts with dark skirts or pants. Boys and girls who are shepherds will be wearing shepherd costumes. We are requesting no jeans, no sweat pants and no sneakers.

Please do not feel you must purchase new clothes for our program.

Students may wear their school uniform navy blue pants if you do not have black pants/skirt already.

Following our program we will share cookies and punch.

Our PAT (Parent Advisory Team) will provide the punch.

We are asking all PCRS families to bring one dozen delicious cookies.

A Standing Ovation to our 1st Annual Oink and Oyster Roast Committee

Great job, Heather Bass, Jenny Lutz, Christa Ponce, and Angel Randall!

Special Thanks to Our Event Sponsors: Hatcher Orthodontics, Libeler Group, McDonald Garden Center, Mary Jean Stack D.D.S., Special Events Entertainment, Spivey Rentals, and William F. Nagle Accounting

.....And the Help Of:

Baron's Pub, Boy Scout Troop 259, Art Brandriff, Cock Island Grill, Church of St. Therese, Daniel Cloudsley, Griff's, Boo McGhee, and Hank Sapp

Upcoming Happenings and Events

Dec. 9 - *Set up Gym for Christmas Craft and Gift Show 8:00a.m.-8:00p.m.

Dec. 10 - *1st Annual Christmas Craft and Gift Show 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

*SAC Sponsored Skating Party at Smithfield Skating Center 5:15-7:15p.m.

Dec. 12 - *PTO Executive Board Meeting at 6:00p.m.

Dec. 13 - *QSP Magazine and Cookie Dough Drive Student Party from 1:45p.m.-2:45p.m.

*Delivery of Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough Orders to PCRS families at dismissal

*SAB (School Advisory Board Meeting) 6:00p.m.

Dec. 15 - *7:00p.m. Annual School-Wide Christmas Program

Dec. 16 - *Christmas Tag Day (FREE, please dress in red and green)

*Regular Brown Bag Friday Lunch brought from home

*Christmas Party in each Homeroom 1:45-2:30p.m.

*2:30p.m. School-wide Advent Prayer Service – all families/friends invited to join us

*Extended Care available until 6:00p.m.

Dec. 19 –*January 1, 2012 – Christmas Break Blessings

Jan. 2 - *Classes resume at PCRS

Trash To Treasure Turn In

This month at Kroger, buy any 3 participating Pillsbury products and earn 10 bonus box tops! Did you know that if you buy the following magazines and send in the UPC code it counts as points for our Labels For Education.

(People, Real Simple, Time, All You, Cooking Light, Southern Living and Health)

Simple ways to help PCRS!

Next Trash To Treasure Turn In is next Friday, Dec. 16th for Farm Fresh receipts, Box Tops, Labels for Education and Tyson A+ Labels. Thanks for your support!