

January 2012

Dear Parents and Families,

Happy New Year! Welcome back as we enter the second half of the school year. All of our children are to be congratulated for their participation in our Advent activities this past December, whether it was helping with the Giving Tree, writing cards and letters or helping to decorate the school. They really helped make the season joyful.

Everyone in school is gearing up for Catholic Schools Week, January 29 to February 5. The Catholic Schools Week 2012 logo is a rectangle, with the words Catholic Schools in red across the bottom of the rectangle. The “t” in Catholic is a purple cross and from the right top corner of the T/cross is an undulating green banner with words in white lettering that proclaim, “Faith. Academics. Service.”

The theme focuses on three priorities that Catholic schools establish that make them stand out from other educational institutions. Children are taught faith – not just the basics of Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. Academics, which in Catholic schools are held to very high standards, help each child reach his or her potential. Service, the giving of one’s time and effort to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship.

Mother of Divine Grace School has partnered with Villanova University School of Nursing again this year. Several nursing students will be working with the students on healthy eating habits, staying activity and healthy.

Progress reports will be sent home on January 19th. This is the half way point of the trimester and everyone should be settled in. Please remember if you have any questions or concerns about your child’s progress please contact your child’s teacher.

Finally, please keep all Catholic schools in your prayers. As Archbishop Chaput stated in his pastoral letter dated December 8th the Blue Ribbon Commission will provide him with its recommendations on Catholic education in January. The Commission has worked for months on this difficult issue with extraordinary sensitivity and skill. It will likely counsel that some, and perhaps many, schools must close or combine. It will also offer a framework for strengthening our schools going forward.

I hope to see everyone during Catholic Schools week as we celebrate our school community. I would also like to thank all of you on behalf of the faculty, staff, and myself for all of the wonderful outpouring of good wishes, kind words, and gifts that were showered upon all of us in the weeks preceding Christmas. Thank you and God bless you!

