



VERITAS

"In the Dominican Tradition"

St. Pius V School, Providence

January 5, 2010

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope that each of you enjoyed a restful and joyful Christmas vacation. Although the students may not admit it, I think that we are all happy to be back in our regular routine!

Looking back on the past year, each of us can see struggles, joys, hopes, and disappointments. If we take time to ponder the events of the past, especially the trials, we can see the ways in which good has come out of our suffering.

I pray that 2010 is a year of grace for each of us, as a school, as a parish, as a community.

Have a blessed week!

In Christ our Hope,

Sister Mary Agnes, O.P.

P.S. As you are aware, my mother has been struggling with brain cancer this past year. After spending a few days at our Motherhouse in Nashville, I did go to visit my family in Michigan over Christmas break. Unfortunately, my mother is not doing well at all, and her condition actually deteriorated even during my week there. The doctors warned us that while her time remaining is uncertain, she most likely has only "weeks to months" of life remaining. I wanted to make you aware of this, since I do anticipate needing to leave and spend time with them in the near future. Thank you in advance for your prayers and understanding.

THANK YOU...

- This is a belated thank you to all the parents who were so helpful and supportive during our all-school evacuation to Providence College on December 9th. Teachers and students truly rose to the occasion and helped the day to be enjoyable despite the

circumstances. In particular, we owe thanks to Providence College for so graciously allowing us to use their facilities and to Father Tom Ertle, O.P. and the Campus Ministry staff for their flexibility in giving of their space. Susana Conklin was a wonderful help in providing Dunkin' Donuts coffee and hot chocolate for the faculty, Patrick and Catherine Breen generously provided water bottles and snacks for the entire student body, and Sister Mary Sabina made a trip to get pizza for the students who remained during lunch.

REMINDERS & INFORMATION

- In today's envelope you will find a packet regarding financial aid application for 2010-2011. It is imperative that you give prompt attention to the contents, since financial aid applications are due to FACTS by February 12, 2010 in order to receive consideration.
- If this is your first year with children enrolled at St. Pius V School, you received a survey in the last brown envelope. Thank you for taking the time to complete this anonymous survey and return it to Sister Mary Agnes' attention.
- **Praise Team practices** will resume Monday, January 11th. **Choir practices** will begin on Tuesday, January 12th, and **Band** will begin next Wednesday, January 13th. All practices will be after school from 2:30 – 3:30.
- **Drama practices** will not be held this week, since Providence College students are on Christmas vacation. Practices will resume next week.
- **Handbell Choir** will resume practices next Tuesday, January 12th from 2:30 – 3:15 p.m. in the Church.
- The fifth grade class is sponsoring a Right to Life baby

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Pius V is a Roman Catholic parish school founded in the Dominican tradition. Members of the school community work together to provide a safe, nurturing, and welcoming environment. We provide challenging academic programs enhanced by cultural arts that educate the whole child. We strive to instill Christian values that will enable our students to be contributing members of society and of God's kingdom.

shower project during the month of January, and will gratefully accept *new* newborn clothes, diapers, and other materials for babies (no toys please) at any time during the month. These will be helpful for women in crisis pregnancy situations.

- All are invited to attend the RI Right to Life Annual Pro-Life rally on Thursday, January 14th at the Rhode Island State House from 2:45 – 3:45 p.m.
- If you need a year-end daycare statement, please call the office. Ms. Verardo is compiling a list, and will send them out by the end of January. *All balances must be paid to date before a receipt will be issued.*
- Our next all-school Mass is next Wednesday, January 13th at 8:30 a.m. Eighth grade is preparing the Mass.
- During the course of the year, please email any digital pictures you take of school events (field trips, Masses, etc.) and these will be considered for publishing in the yearbook. Email pictures to yearbook@saintpiusv.school.org. CDs may also be forwarded to Sister Mary Sabina.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

It is a policy of the Diocese of Providence that any adult who comes in contact with children in a diocesan institution (which would include St. Pius V School!) must have a B.C.I. and Safe Environment Training. *There are still many parents who are not in compliance with this policy.* Remember, parents are not permitted to volunteer or engage in any activities in the school without these two requirements documented in the school office.

We will offer a third and final Safe Environment Training opportunity this Thursday, January 7th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. You must be present during the entire program to receive credit for the training. A notary public will be present to aid in the completion of B.C.I. Please bring a clear photocopy of your driver's license or passport.

Thank you for taking this requirement seriously. Our first priority at St. Pius V School is to ensure the safety of the children you entrust to our care.

CANCELLATION PROCEDURES

Please remember to watch channels 6, 10, and 12 and/or listen to WPRO 630 AM, WPRO 920 AM or LITE ROCK 105 FM for weather closings, delays and early dismissal information. You may also check the web at WPRI.com and TurnTo10.com. St. Pius V School makes every attempt to post information related to weather-related cancellations or delays by 6:00 a.m. of the day in question. We additionally utilize the One Call Now system to send a phone message. *Please refrain from calling the school office for questions regarding delays or cancellations, since*

each family has ample access to this information through the above mentioned means. We understand that cancellations and delays can be difficult for working parents. Please know that in any such events, our primary concern is the safety of your children.

CATHOLIC BOOK FAIR

Next week the PTO will be sponsoring a book fair with books from Pauline Books and Media, a Catholic media publishing company of the Daughters of St. Paul. Enclosed in today's envelope, you will find an order form of items available for purchase. Each class will have the opportunity to visit the fair and see book samples next week, and parents may browse the selections in the lower level of the school on Wednesday and Thursday of next week, between 2:15 and 2:45 p.m. **To make a purchase, simply send the order form and a check payable to St. Pius V School by Friday, January 15th in an envelope marked "Book Fair".** After we place the orders, the books will be sent home with your children. Thank you for your support!

TARDY POLICY

Looking for a new year's resolution for your family? Getting to school on time is an important habit for all children to form. Our *Handbook* (p. 10) states: "Tardiness is a bad habit and is very disruptive to classes already in session. Students must report to the office for a late slip if they arrive after 8:10 a.m. Middle school students (grades 6-8) will be given detention after the third lateness in any trimester. Students in grades 4 and 5 will receive recess detention after the third lateness in any trimester. Pre-K and K students who are tardy must have their PARENTS report to students' respective classrooms to fill out a tardy slip for their child if they arrive after 8:10 a.m."

WITNESSES OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our three recipients of the Witness of the Week award, **Benjamin Smith** (grade 8), **Victoria Gagliardi** (grade 6), and **Kristen Reddy** (grade 3). Ben was nominated by a teacher for an act of kindness. A classmate was sitting alone at lunch, so Ben brought his group of friends over to the table to sit with this student. Victoria was nominated by a teacher for showing strength of character through her honesty regarding points earned on a test, even though it meant that she received a lower grade. Kristen was nominated by a classmate for her unselfishness. The two students were doing group work, and Kristen was sure to make sure that this other student had the opportunity to participate and feel involved. Thank you, Ben, Victoria, and Kristen, for your example of Christian virtue!