



# VERITAS

*"In the Dominican Tradition"*

St. Pius V School, Providence

December 15, 2009

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

### Dear Parents,

A few years ago I received a Christmas card with a quote from Sigrid Undset (1882-1949), a Norwegian novelist, Catholic convert, and lay Dominican:

*And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans--and all that lives and move upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused--and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself.*

I kept the card; in many ways it captures the Christian message that the apostle John recorded so long ago: "God so loved the world that He send His only Son..." (John 3:16). This is the wonder and beauty of Christmas. God has given us so much that is good, and although we often "quarrel" and "misuse" the gifts given, Jesus came to our world not to condemn it, but to save it (John 3:17). I pray that this truth will penetrate your heart in a new way this Christmas. May He be the Lord of our lives as never before this new year. Merry Christmas!

In Jesus our Savior,

Sister Mary Agnes, O.P.

## THANK YOU...

- The Christmas Concert last Friday was incredible! Special thanks to Mr. Boisvert for his time and efforts that made this Concert a unique success. Thank you also to our students, Dr. Sandra Keating, Mrs. Cohen, Sister Mary Olivia, O.P., Tobi Williams (grade 8), Jonathan Klimala (grade 7), Sarah Chamberlain (grade 6), and Katherine Keating (grade 2) for sharing their musical talents during the program.
- Thank you to all who contributed drinks and baked

- goods for the Christmas Concert reception.
- Beth McGrath donated toys and games to the After School Program. Thank you, Beth!
- Thank you to Cindy Soares, Christopher Nocera, Susan Kehoe, and Christina Pereira for their creativity and supervision with this year's Santa Care babysitting. We were able to raise \$160 for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip—and many parents were able to do Christmas shopping!
- Thank you to the Gasbarro family for their generous donation of books to the Kindergarten library. Kindergarten also wants to thank Mrs. Allaire (Alexander Gasbarro's grandmother) and Mrs. Giammarco for sewing Christmas Concert scarves.
- Diane Brennan, Lisa Superzynski, and Karen Dellasanta were a great help in preparing the mailing of the *St. Pius View* last week.

## REMINDERS & INFORMATION

- This Thursday (12/17) is a dress down day. Each child should bring in \$1 for charity.
- **There will be NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE this Friday (12/18).** Please make alternate arrangements.
- Christmas vacation begins Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have a full day of school on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, including an all-school Mass at 8:30 a.m. to celebrate the anniversary of the Church's approbation of the Dominican Order. School will resume on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- This is the last brown envelope and *Veritas* for the month of December. Two sets of lunch slips are enclosed. Both sets must be filled out and returned by Friday (12/18), in order to receive lunch after vacation.

## 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.*

- December payments for Before and After School Care are due on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please make payments before Christmas vacation; a late fee will be charged beginning January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- If this is your first year with children enrolled at St. Pius V School, you will find a survey enclosed in this week's envelope. Its goal is to discern ways in which St. Pius V School can improve its admissions and welcoming processes. Please take time to fill out this survey and return it to school by next Monday. Your feedback is very helpful to us!
- This past weekend LaSalle Academy Players presented *Hello, Dolly!* Out of a cast of 50 students, four were St. Pius V School graduates: Molly Nocera ('07), Devin Carreiro ('07), Lucio Andreozzi ('08), and Katrina Pavao ('08). Additionally, production staff included Alejandra Sailer ('07), Gabriella Verducci ('07), Shannon Brassil ('07), and Stephen Zukauskas ('04).
- Thank you to the parents who are utilizing their Stop & Shop card to earn money for St. Pius V School. Through the Bonus Bucks program, we have already earned \$192! If you have not registered your card, you may do so by following the link on our school's homepage.

## **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.

We were pleased with the turnout at our two Safe Environment Training sessions in November. However, 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 during the first week after Christmas break, Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

## **GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS**

- Thank you to all who ordered St. Pius V School spirit stocking stuffer gifts! These items will be sent home with your child tomorrow, Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Purchase gift certificates for family or friends through

St. Pius V School! The school receives a portion of the profit. Simply fill out the flyer sent home last week, and pick up your certificates from the school at a time convenient for you.

## **WITNESSES OF THE WEEK**

Congratulations to our two recipients of the Witness of the Week award, **Benjamin Bigelow** (grade 8) and **Alexander Nicolo** (K). Benjamin was nominated by a few classmates when he noticed that another student in Band did not have a reed for his saxophone, so he gave one to him. Alexander was nominated by his teacher for showing maturity and a sense of community when he congratulated a classmate for winning a classroom raffle, even though he wished he had won. Thank you, Ben and Alexander, for your example of Christian virtue!

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL ENRICHMENT**

In today's brown envelope, all families with middle school students will receive an elective sign-up sheet. Beginning the second week in January, the last period every Monday will be set aside for middle school students to participate in an enrichment elective. Our mission statement reminds us that St. Pius V School strives to "*provide challenging academic programs enhanced by cultural arts that educate the whole child.*" This middle school elective period offers opportunity for our students to be exposed to cultural arts and other activities which educate the whole child. Students are asked to select their second trimester elective choice which includes *Italian II*, *Introduction to Calligraphy*, *Introduction to Knitting*, *Caricature/Anime Drawing*, *Biomes*, *Band*, and *Odyssey of the Mind*. These will run through March, with a final set of electives for the third trimester.

## **30 WEEK CLUB**

The 30 Week Club winner for week #12 was ticket #652, Kristen O'Grady. Lisa Manning sold the winning ticket. The winner for week #13 is ticket #352, Floria DiMascio, who purchased the ticket from Roberto DiMascio.

30 Week Club statements will be sent home next month via brown envelopes. For any families choosing a buy-out option, the buy-out payment of \$350 is due by December 31<sup>st</sup>. December 29<sup>th</sup> marks the halfway point, week 15, which means that payments should be at least \$210 (7 tickets, \$60 each = 50% of \$420, \$210).

We are in need of volunteers to help sell tickets for a family in need. Please call Sister Mary Agnes if you are able to help. Thank you!

*Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*