



Dear Prince of Peace Families,

Christmas time is upon us. What a wonderful time of the year as many of us are blessed with spending time with our families and friends. There are most precious teachable moments with our children to help them understand what is truly celebrated during Advent and at Christmas. Please review the Partners in Faith page for some great family ideas and "talking points."

Our **Advent prayer services** have begun this past Monday morning for our 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and right before dismissal for K-5<sup>th</sup> graders. To support our efforts in faith development, ask your children about the content of the prayers and readings. You may be surprised at their response!

If you stop into the school for SCRIP or other business, please view the **Christmas decorations** created by the middle school students. They are delightful and certainly brighten our lobby. Our music programs begin on December 1<sup>st</sup> with MS/HS band and chorus and our elementary students perform next Monday morning and evening. I am sure these performances will brighten your Christmas spirit.

Thanks to all for attending **parent-teacher conferences** as these are valuable moments between two sets of adults that care very much about the success of your children, the teachers and YOU! I know that our faculty appreciates these few minutes to share the good news and their concerns. Also, a BIG thank you to those families who contributed food, beverages and table ware for a faculty meal during conferences. We all appreciated your efforts in taking care of us.

Congratulations to our students who are taking advanced placement classes. Prince of Peace Catholic School is ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in the state for students taking the advanced placement exams. We are the smallest school in the **AP Index** but we are the Mighty Irish!

A couple of reminders:

Our **school policy** states that if a student goes home ill during the school day, the student

may not participate or attend any practice or event. This also applies to students who are involved in shared sports.

If you are **picking up an elementary student** after school, please do not park in the pick-up lane until after our preschool students have gotten on their bus at around 2:40 p.m. Preschool parents picking up their children also need to be able to form their line so teachers can put these students in cars just as your children are escorted to family vehicles. Please do not come too soon to pick up your child unless you intend to park in a parking space. Your courteous behavior is appreciated.

If you are picking up a student early for an appointment, please find a parking space and then come into the building to pick up your child.

Your cooperation in the **parking lot** will ensure student **safety**. Please obey the parking signs and the exit directions which can be found in the family handbook. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Don't forget to support our students in their participation in extracurricular activities. They appreciate your presence.

Your family will be receiving a wild life calendar entitled **Our Fabulous Fauna**. This calendar will be sent home with your youngest child. This free calendar is sponsored by WQPT Quad Cities. On the inside cover you will see one page of information regarding the great programming and membership information as well. The pictures were taken by local photographers in the Clinton and Quad City area and the graphics were created by students from Clinton Community College. The photos are awesome! Enjoy the wildlife.

From all of us to all of you, we wish you a very happy and holy Christmas.

In Christ,  
Nancy L. Peart

## Campus Ministry

The season of Advent is here! Each Monday our students will attend the Advent prayer service held in the main lobby of the school. The service for grades 6-12 starts at 7:50 a.m. and the K-5 service begins at 2:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us at either time.

On December 8<sup>th</sup> we will be having an all school Mass to celebrate the Feast

of the Immaculate Conception. This Mass will be our first school Mass using the new translation of the Roman Missal. Please join us at 8:30 a.m. in the school gym.

On early dismissal days the 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students will spend their religion class period at Sacred Heart Chapel in adoration. During this time

of adoration there is mostly silence. It gives the students time to pray on their own and develop a personal relationship with our Lord. What a wonderful way to use our time! Please consider joining us at any time throughout the day. Simply come into the church and stay as long as you like. What a beautiful example this would set for your child(ren).

## Development Director News

### Irish Dinner Auction

It is all about the Irish Dinner Auction. There are many school parents putting in a lot of hours preparing for this event. Please plan to attend and bring friends and families. It is a wonderful evening. The Irish Dinner Auction will take place on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at the Wild Rose Casino & Resort.

You can also help by purchasing an item for your child(ren)'s class basket. This is voluntary, but the baskets are always popular. Class basket information and themes are included in this newsletter.

### Irish Auction Bus Trip

It may sound weird to have a fundraiser for a fundraiser. That is exactly what our annual Irish Auction Bus Trip is. Money raised through this and a few other fundraisers is used to put together our silent and live auction items. It helps to make our auction packages more complete and attractive to bidders.

This year's bus trip took place on November 19<sup>th</sup> and the group went to Fox Valley Mall in Naperville. The bus was full! As is our tradition, several raffles for baskets of goodies took place on the trip to the mall. This year's bus trip raised over \$1750. Thank you to those who donated bas-

kets to raffle and/or went on the trip. A special thanks to Mary Jo Dopson and Gateway Travel & Cruise who took care of all the arrangements for the trip.

### Wendy's Night

There will be no Wendy's Night in December due to the construction of their new restaurant. Our next Wendy's Night will be Monday, January 9, 2012. Please note it is not our normal 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month. For January ONLY, we will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday. Plan to eat in or drive thru between 5pm and 7pm. Proceeds will benefit our Campus Ministry Program.

### Jeans Day

Jeans day is a wonderful opportunity to talk with your children about giving and learning more about the specific charity that will receive the donations. Ideally, the contribution given by the student would come from the student and not the parent. If you need to help your child, you could give them a chore to earn the money that they will contribute for jeans day.

Our December jeans day is Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Our junior class chose Habitat for Humanity as the charity that will receive the donations collected. Students in grades K-5, choosing to wear jeans, should donate \$.50 and students in grades 6-12, choosing

to wear jeans, should donate \$1.00.

### SCRIP

More and more of our families are purchasing SCRIP (gifts cards) for their grocery, gas, and gift needs. SCRIP is perfect to use as Christmas gifts and to purchase Christmas gifts. If we don't carry a store you are interested in, call the school office and we can let you know if we can order it. There are hundreds of stores and establishments that participate. You can also go online and check out the stores at [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com). Prepaid order forms are available at the SCRIP table after all weekend Masses and in the school office.

We have added new SCRIP to our inventory. You can now purchase SCRIP for Deanna's Java Station, located in Paul's Discount parking lot. Cards come in \$10 denominations and make a great holiday gift/stocking stuffer. We also have HyVee and Fareway in \$25 cards.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents and Students

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade brunch will be held on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Plan to attend and learn about the opportunities, benefits, and challenges of high school. More information to come.

## Counselor's Corner

**Happy Holidays! Give your child the gift of learning the value of hard work...**

Some people think being "smart" or "intelligent" is something you are born with. Others believe you can "get smart" by working hard. With all of the gray area between genetic versus environmental determinants of intelligence, we have to ask ourselves "Do those beliefs matter?" Studies show they do. Authors Deborah Stipak & Kathy Seal (*Motivated Minds: Raising Children to Love Learning*) point out that people who believe

they have the ability "get smart" are able to face a challenge and persevere. If these people come up against a problem they cannot solve, more often than not, they do not give up. They do not say, "I was never any good at math anyway." Instead, they decide that they may just need to work a little longer, or try a different approach. In contrast, people who do not value hard work are likely to give up. If they run into trouble, they give themselves all sorts of reasons why it is not their fault. "I was never very smart in math anyway." How can par-

ents give their children the "get smart" messages? Try these:

- "I know you can do it if you keep trying."
- "You've worked really hard on your spelling. Before you know it, you'll learn those words."
- You're not going to give up until you get it, are you/ I'm impressed with your hard work."

If you work hard on your science fair project every day this week, you're sure to be proud of the result."

## Irish Booster Club

Thank you to all who sold and purchased a Christmas wreaths. Money raised will support the Prince of Peace athletic program.

Thank you to all who ordered Irish Booster clothing. The orders will be in before Christmas. Check our website for the announcement.

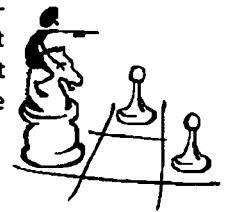
**Booster Raffle – You may win a 51 inch TV!**

Purchase a chance to win a Samsung 51 inch plasma TV donated by Clover Hills Appliances. Raffle tickets will be sold at all varsity home games and are also available in the school office. Purchase 1 ticket for \$5 or 5 for \$20. Raffle drawing will take place on January 31, 2012 at the Prince of Peace Irish vs. Preston Trojans basketball game.

## Chess Tournament

The Advent Gambit Chess Tournament is Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Visit the website at <http://classjump.com/chestournaments> for more information and to register for the tournament. Then start practicing and get ready for some great games!



2011-2012 Prince of Peace basketball teams.

## 2nd Grade Reconciliation

The following 2nd grade students will be receiving the sacrament of reconciliation on December 17th at Prince of Peace Church: Karly Detterman, Tucker Dickherber, Brendan Dolan, Eli Eggers, Noah Eggers, Hannah Eshelman, Mason French, Lilly Isenhour, Kamilla Jacobo, Kyle Kitteringham, Lena Litherland, Logan Mulholland, Lucas Raab, Nick Sisneros and Kaylee Wilkens. Congratulations on this special sacrament.

**Don't forget to collect tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.**

Drink tabs, pet food tabs and soup tabs can all be donated to the school office.

Thanks in advance for your donations!

Tina Juhala: Lisa Agel  
Kay Schwabing

Mary G Schreiber Karen Witt  
Mary Leart Mitchell Helder

Heather Carlson Allison Schultz  
Zoe Nelson  
Dawn

Somewhere in the flurry of the season,  
May we find time to dream  
About that blessed holy night  
That changed the world...



Time to remember the truths He taught  
And everything He has done for us...

Time to give thanks with all our hearts  
That God so loved the world.

We wish you a very happy and holy Christmas.

Cheryl Miller  
Elise Croner  
Erin Groszold

"Merry" Jensen + The North Elms  
Katie Smith - Nicole Kershner. Renee Merdion  
Joy Evans. Meghan Peters - Shannon McKinney  
Megan Vicks - Tammy Isenhour, Richelle Anderson

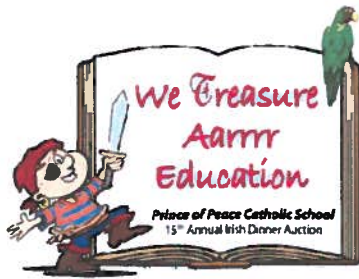
Kiri Davis call  
Kulene Halk  
Henry Schermer  
Matthew By  
Cameron Roth

Dana Sparks Kayla Dimmer  
Nathan Dehner  
Christi Blalock  
Tamy Kalar

Jane Noecker  
Gary Anderson  
Kathy Andrews

Abby Koch-Hirzy  
Betty Mantack  
Jill Krog  
Janelle Kross

Tami Keegan



## IRISH DINNER AUCTION AND CLASSROOM BASKETS!!

The annual Irish Dinner Auction will be held on **Saturday, January 21, 2012** and will again feature the very popular classroom baskets.

As a refresher and for all of our new Prince of Peace families...below you will find a list of the grades and the basket themes that were chosen. Please consider donating an item or two to put in your class basket. Thank you to those that have already made donations!! Send your donation to school with your child. Your child should give your donation to their teacher. The completed auction baskets will be beautiful and will hopefully raise many \$\$\$ on the silent auction tables. **THIS PROJECT IS COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY!!** The value of your donation is up to you. We do ask that if you are donating anything fragile or any alcoholic beverages that you bring those items to the office instead of sending them with your child.

Last year we began to try to make the sizes of the baskets smaller and more manageable. Please think of this as you make your donation choice. If you want to get together with other class families to purchase a more expensive item, please feel free to visit and brainstorm some great ideas.

The items listed below are suggestions only. **Please be creative!** If you can think of a themed container that can hold all of the donations, this could be your donation. If you have any medium to large-sized baskets (in excellent condition) that are cluttering your basement, we could probably use them! Please call me at the number listed below if you have questions or concerns. Remember to use SCRIP when possible!

<b>KINDERGARTEN:</b>	<b>KINDERGARTEN QUILT</b>
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE:</b>	<b>ITEMS FROM A TO Z</b>
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE:</b>	<b>FAMILY FUN (GAMES, SNACKS, GIFT CARDS)</b>
<b>3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE:</b>	<b>IOWA HAWKEYES</b>
<b>4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:</b>	<b>A MEXICAN FIESTA</b>
<b>5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:</b>	<b>PLEASE PERK ME UP! (COFFEE ITEMS)</b>
<b>6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:</b>	<b>THE ANSWER IS CHOCOLATE</b>
<b>7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:</b>	<b>SPORTS APPAREL AND GEAR</b>
<b>8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:</b>	<b>CUT IT OUT...LET'S SCRAPBOOK!</b>
<b>9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:</b>	<b>THE GREAT OUTDOORS (CAMPING, SPORTS, GARDENING)</b>
<b>10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:</b>	<b>IT'S A SPA DAY</b>
<b>11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:</b>	<b>SCENTSATIONAL</b>
<b>12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:</b>	<b>OFF TO COLLEGE</b>
<b>FACULTY/STAFF:</b>	<b>SHOPPING WITH SCRIP</b>

Items for Class Baskets should be brought to school by Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, but for planning purposes...the sooner the better.

Thanks, Maureen Vander Bleek 242-7139

# Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

December 2011

Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace

Nancy Peart, Principal    Brenda Bertram, DRE



## Thoughtful Moments

### Mass Changes

As of November 27th, you will have noticed that some of the prayers and responses we say at Mass are different than those to which we have been accustomed. Many of the changes use more poetic and reverential language. This is an opportunity to look at the familiar Mass with new eyes and a new appreciation.



### A lived faith

Enrolling children in Catholic school or sending them to parish religious education is an important first step toward raising them in the Catholic faith. But it is only the beginning. The most important part is showing children how to live their faith each and every day. That kind of education can only come from a Catholic parent.

### God came

The miracle of Christmas is that the God of love came to us. Isn't that amazing? Even more incredible, he hasn't left. Look for ways you and your family can find Jesus in the world this Christmas.



## Put Christ's love back into your family's Christmas

Shop the malls in October and you may see Christmas decorations. Even grocery stores play carols before Thanksgiving. Don't let the barrage of holiday selling rob you and your family of a truly joyful season. Try these suggestions for reducing stress, boosting joy, and putting Christ's love back into Christmas.

**Avoid Christmas commercials.** Nothing kills the spirit of Christmas like children pleading for over-priced, poorly made toys they just saw in the parade of holiday commercials. Instead, record the good Christmas shows and fast-forward through the commercials. Or, turn off commercial television and rent Christmas movies or

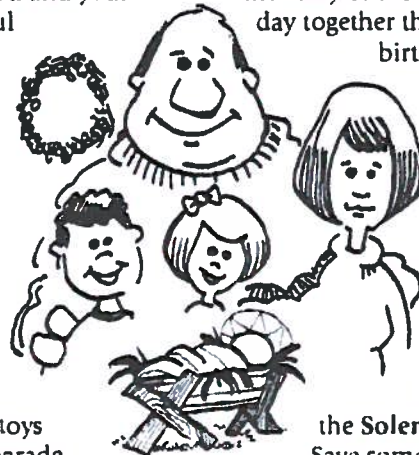
check them out of the library.

**Separate your Christmas celebrations.** Reserve December 25th for Christ's birth. Attend Mass, read the story of the Nativity, spend the day together throwing Jesus a happy birthday celebration. Let the 26th be the day for the secular celebration.

**Make it last.**

Celebrate each day of the whole Catholic Christmas Season. Gather family close for a special meal on the Feast of the Holy Family (Dec. 30).

Pray for world peace on the Solemnity of Mary (Jan. 1). Save some Christmas gifts to give on the Epiphany (Jan. 8) to honor the Magi's gifts. Renew your Baptismal promises on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Jan. 9), the last official day of the Christmas Season.



## Why Do Catholics Do That ?

## Why did the Magi give gifts to Jesus?

The Magi knew that they were traveling to greet a new king and brought gifts that were appropriate at the time for a king. Over the years, the Church has reinterpreted the gifts in terms of Jesus' life.

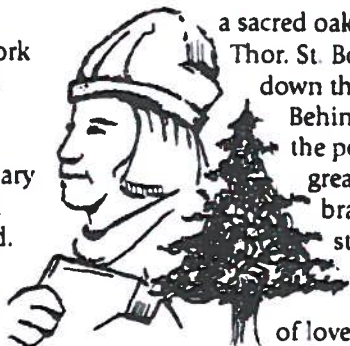


They gave him gold to recognize his royalty. The expensive gift of Frankincense, often burned to carry prayers to Heaven, was a symbol of Jesus' priesthood. His last gift, Myrrh, was used in burial preparations, a sign that Jesus would suffer and die for us.

# The Christmas Tree teaches about love

Like many of our Christmas traditions, the background of the Christmas tree is a patchwork quilt of many cultures. One piece concerns St. Boniface, a missionary in the time of Pope St. Gregory II.

St. Boniface's greatest challenge as a missionary was to eliminate pagan superstitions that kept people from accepting the Gospel he preached. One Christmas Eve, St. Boniface was traveling through the woods with his companions and came upon the townspeople gathered around



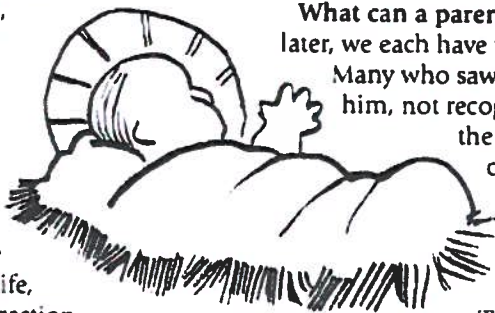
a sacred oak about to offer a human sacrifice to their god, Thor. St. Boniface stopped the sacrifice and chopped down the oak.

Behind the oak stood a fir tree. St. Boniface asked the people to bring it into town and set up in the great hall of the duke. They placed candles on its branches and listened while St. Boniface told the story of the Nativity and the Baby who would grow up to be the Savior and sacrifice himself for all of us. Many were captivated by the story of love and were converted.

## Scripture LESSON

### John 1:1-18 Who Is Jesus?

This month we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity. By coming to Earth, living among us and teaching us, he taught us about God and his nature. We are able to share in God's divine life through Jesus's life, death and Resurrection.



In this gospel, St. John explained that Jesus took on our humanity because he loves us and wanted to share our experience. He chose to live as we live. He experienced what we experience.

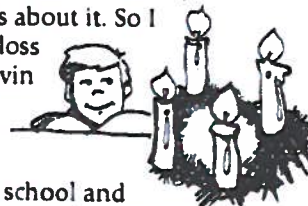
Remembering that, we can also know with confidence that Jesus understands us.

What can a parent do? Sooner or later, we each have to make a choice. Many who saw Jesus rejected him, not recognizing him as the Messiah. Help children to make a deliberate choice to recognize Jesus as their own personal Savior.

Teach them to ask, "Do I live my life as if I'm a child of God?" Tell them what it means to live as a child of God and to follow Jesus. Jesus is our friend and brother.

## Parent TALK

Growing up, my family didn't practice many Catholic devotions. I mean, we went to church, but that's about it. So I was at a loss when Kevin came home from



Catholic school and asked if we could light an Advent wreath. I had seen them in church, but we didn't own one.

I went online and read that an Advent wreath is a symbol of the four-week season before Christmas when we await the coming of the Savior. We could make our own using a Styrofoam ring, three purple candles, a pink one, and some greenery. So I got the supplies and we made a family Advent wreath.

During the busy season it was nice to take a few quiet moments to turn off the lights, light our Advent candles and say our Advent prayers.

Something else that has meant a lot to me is knowing that we joined millions of families all over the world in this beloved ancient tradition.

## Feasts & Celebrations

Dec. 6 - St. Nicholas (350). St. Nicholas gave away most of his fortune and is credited with saving three girls from being sold into slavery to pay their father's debt. His anonymous acts of generosity helped him become the patron saint of children.

Dec. 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The day we celebrate Mary's conception in St. Ann's womb, free from Original Sin. A Holy Day of Obligation.

Dec. 14 - St. John of the Cross

(1591). As a Carmelite, St. John led a reform in the Order to encourage more prayer and simplicity. Some of his most beautiful spiritual writing came while in prison. His mystical-poetical reflections showed his love of prayer.

Dec. 27 - St. John (1st century). An apostle, St. John was known for his fiery temper. He once asked Jesus if he could rain fire from heaven on an inhospitable town. Later, he and St. Peter asked the Holy Spirit to descend upon the Samaritans. Friendship with Jesus really changes a person.



### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
Success Publishing & Media, LLC  
Publishers of *Growing in Faith* and *Partners in Faith*  
(540) 662-7844 (540) 662-7847 fax  
www.partnersinfaith.com  
(Unless noted, Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and New American Bible.)

# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 MS/HS Christmas Concert 7 p.m. School Gym CCC Quiz Bowl	2 River City Classic VB BB vs Fulton 6 p.m. CHS	3 River City Classic JVB BB vs Fulton 9 a.m. CHS JVB BB vs TBA 11 a.m. CHS  River City Classic VB BB TBA CHS
4	5 Advent Prayer Service 7:50 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. K-5 Christmas Concert 8:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. MSG BB @ Northeast 3:45 p.m. Northeast JVG/B BB @ Marquette 6:15 p.m. Marquette	6 VG/B BB vs Marquette 6:15 p.m. CCA	7 EARLY DISMISSAL Market Day Pick Up 4:30-5:30 p.m. School Gym Irish Booster Meeting 6 p.m. Rastrelli's	8 All School Mass 8:30 a.m. School Gym MSG BB @ Bellevue 4 p.m. Bellevue JVG/B BB vs Bellevue 6:15 p.m. CCA	9 Jeans Day Proceeds to Habitat for Humanity MSG BB vs Cal-Wheat 4 p.m. CCA VG/B BB @ Bellevue 6:15 p.m. Bellevue	10 JVG/B BB vs Northeast 3:45 p.m. CCA VG/B BB vs Northeast 6:15 p.m. CCA
11	12 Advent Prayer Service 7:50 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. MSG BB vs Midland 4 p.m. CCA	13 JVG/B BB @ Cal-Wheat 3:45 p.m. Wheatland VG/B BB vs Cal-Wheat 6:15 p.m. Wheatland	14	15	16	17 JVG/B BB vs Wilton 3 p.m. CCA VG/B BB vs Wilton 6 p.m. CCA
18	19 Advent Prayer Service 7:50 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. JVG/B BB vs Preston 6:15 p.m. CCA	20 HS FINAL EXAMS 8th Grade Ski Trip VG/B BB @ Preston 6:15 p.m. Preston	21 HS FINAL EXAMS	22 EARLY DISMISSAL HS FINAL EXAMS END OF 2ND QUARTER	23 NO CLASSES	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 CLASSES RESUME ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3RD

NO CLASSES - CHRISTMAS BREAK