



Dear Prince of Peace Families,

A very happy and blessed New Year to you all! As so many of us do, we make resolutions that are too soon broken. There are some resolutions however that we should always try to make a way of life and not just a promise for a moment. There are some non-negotiables in life. To be faithful to God, our families and each other as the Body of Christ are some of those.

In the New Year it is also a great time to reflect and review some of the past. One topic that fits into this idea is our dress code rules. You will find these in the Parent-Student Handbook. We have seen an increase in our young girls and young women wearing leggings and yoga pants respectively. These two items are not considered part of our dress code. The younger students certainly need mom and dad's blessing in setting out clothes the night before or in the morning when students are getting ready for school. The older students would at times benefit from mom or dad's scrutiny periodically as well. Students may also wear Booster Club attire that is in compliance with dress code. This means that hooded sweatshirts are not allowed in the classrooms even though they are purchased through our Booster Club. Students may wear hooded sweatshirts to and from school as a coat or part of outerwear, but not in the classroom. Coats are not to be worn in the classrooms either. Please help your kids dress in layers using sweatshirts, sweaters or fleece jackets if they get cold during the school day. Outerwear such as coats or jackets are not appropriate for the classroom. Having an item handy in a student's backpack or locker can easily solve this problem.

Even though at the time of this writing, no snow has yet arrived, helping your young child be prepared to play outside for recess would be much appreciated by the classroom teachers. A second pair of gloves and sometimes even socks can make the day much more comfortable for your child. Ask any elementary student what the favorite part of the day is and the answer will mostly likely be recess followed by lunch. This important part of the day for your child can be made even more enjoyable by making sure he or she is dressed for the cold weather. Also remember that we will put any school closings on the television and radio stations. You will also be able to receive the closing on the Alert system through an email or text message by registering at <https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov/>. If the public schools are closed we are closed because our students use the busing provided to us through state funding. Also if school is closed, all after school activities are cancelled. We also would appreciate it if you use our preschool childcare program or our after school program that you would pick up your children as soon as possible. We want our employees to be able to get home safely along with our students. If

this situation should arise, communication with the supervisor of the program would be most welcomed.

Another policy that should be reviewed with you since "flu" season hasn't quite hit even though many other ailments have been lurking, is that if a student does not attend school due to illness or leaves school during the day because of illness the student is not to attend any school functions, programs or athletic events that are held on the day of the absence or absences. Please make sure your child understands that if he or she is ill enough to stay home from school, he or she will not be going out to fun activities in the evening. Your support on this is most appreciated. A good rule of thumb is that if children don't have a fever, vomiting or diarrhea they should likely be in school. This can help build that life-long skill of faithful attendance in one's job and the personal responsibility of showing up when scheduled. Many, many employers identify absence of employees as the number one problem in their businesses. Sometimes as adults we don't always want to go to work, but we know that we must. Reminding your children that you must do things that you don't always want when you are tired or cranky can set an excellent example for them.

We are gearing up for our annual dinner auction to be held on January 21<sup>st</sup>. This event is critical to us in the financial support for our school. Join us for a wonderful meal, fun auction action and excellent fellowship! Thanks in advance for attending.

Congratulations to Sarah Moeller who earned 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Catholic Messenger Christmas Card Contest and Nathan Vander Bleek who earned Honorable Mention in the Christmas Essay Contest. Way to go Irish!

As the New Year is welcomed in, we also want to welcome a new face in the office. Mrs. Janelle Kitteringham is taking on the role of part time school secretary in the front office. Janelle has three children in our school, Kyle in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Emma in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Caleb in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Janelle has volunteered many, many hours in our school not only supporting our fundraisers but also served on our School Board for one term. Please welcome the newest member of our office staff when you see her.

Please read the information about how you can help our community be chosen as part of the Blue Zone Project. Your vote can make a difference!

In Christ,  
Nancy L. Peart

## Development Director News

### Wendy's Night

The first Wendy's Night of the year is Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Stop by for dinner between 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. and ten percent of your purchase will support our Campus Ministry programs. If you can't eat in, use the drive-thru – That counts too!

### Jeans Day

The January jeans day is scheduled for Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Students in grades K-5 donate a minimum of \$.50 and grades 6-12 donate a minimum of \$1.00 if they choose to wear jeans on this day. Contributions will benefit our Counseling Dept/Campus Ministry programs.

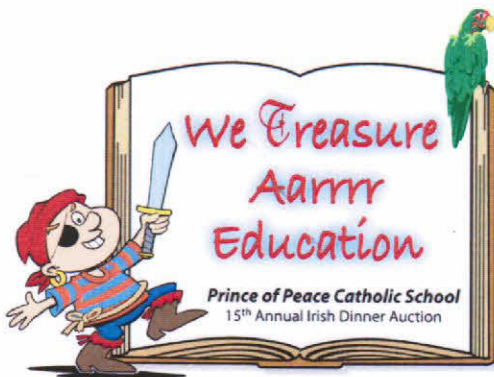
### Buy a Chance to Win a TV

Last chance to purchase a raffle ticket (s) to win a 51" flat screen, Samsung, plasma TV donated by Clover Hills Appliance Center. You can buy a ticket at any of our home varsity basketball games or in the school office. Ticket price is: 1 ticket for \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held on Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Prince of Peace Irish vs. Preston Trojans basketball game.

**SCRIP** - We have had an amazing month for SCRIP. We are seeing new school families starting to use it on a regular basis and many of you pur-

chased SCRIP for your holiday shopping. We sold over \$10,000 of SCRIP for each of the last 4 weeks. If we conservatively use 3% as our average profit, we are raising \$300 per week to offset operating expenses for our school. We all benefit from this. Imagine doing that each week throughout the year. We would raise over \$15,000 and all we do is purchase gift cards for items we already are planning to buy. Cost to you? Nothing extra.

Thank you to all who use SCRIP. Please continue to use it and talk with others about using it.



## 2012 Irish Dinner Auction

This event is the largest fundraiser for Prince of Peace Catholic School. The monies raised are used towards operating expenses for the current school year. This fundraiser, as well as the Pot O' Blue & Gold Raffle, and SCRIP, help keep our tuition affordable. Everyone benefits from this and everyone should participate to the best of their ability.

A big thank you to those who already are helping and for those who haven't, it is not too late. Here's how you can help make this event a success: 1)volunteer – there are still volunteer positions to fill for immediately before auction, during auction and immediately after auction; 2)make a reservation and attend the auction – it is a great evening; 3)fill your table with friends and family – more people, more fun, more money. Call the school office (Karen), if you would like to volunteer.

Invitations have been sent to all school families. If you have not received yours, it is an oversight and please let the school office know. You can download a reservation card from our website: [www.prince.pvt.k12.ia.us](http://www.prince.pvt.k12.ia.us)

**2012 Irish Dinner Auction**  
**Saturday, January 21, 2012**  
**Wild Rose Casino & Resort**  
**Cocktails & Silent Auction Begin at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**

## Counselor's Corner

Hello all! I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season! For the New Year and commencement of a new semester, we've made a few changes to the way that middle school guidance classes will look. In an effort to keep our students future-oriented, I will be spending about a week out of every month visiting the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills class in collaboration with Mrs. Michelle Halac and implement the "Roads to Success Program." This is a new program designed to help our students prepare for their future plans. Some of the

topics we will be covering: Setting Goals, Study Skills, and Careers.

The first topic we will cover is Goal-Setting. Olympic athletes do it. So do restaurant managers and weight watchers. Successful people set goals, whether it's gold medals won, burgers sold, or pounds lost. Goal-setting is a skill that's at the heart of the Roads to Success program. It's the reason we will encourage students to explore careers, consider their options after high school, and describe their future plans. You can help your

kids learn to set goals by showing them how you do it—from daily chores (like bill-paying and house cleaning) to long-term projects (like saving for a big purchase or planning a family vacation.) Here are some goal-setting tips to share with your kids:

- **Write your goal down**
- **Be positive**
- **Be specific**
- **Give yourself a deadline**
- **Get help**
- **Make smaller goals to stay focused.**
- **Track your progress.**

## Speech Contest

Speech contest will be coming soon. Twenty students will be participating in large group district contest in Monticello on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. A letter has been sent home with those students letting parents know what to expect. We will need to do some car-pooling, so if anyone can take someone who does not have a ride, please let Mrs. Andrew's know as soon as possible.

There will be a dress rehearsal for all groups on Saturday morning, January 14<sup>th</sup> in the gymnasium here at the school (not CCA). It will be from 9:00

a.m. until approximately 11:00 a.m. Donuts and juice will be provided. One act play members should come with costumes and props. This is an important rehearsal, because all groups have a chance to critique on another and do some last minute planning for the performances.

Any group receiving a rating of I at district contest will be headed to state contest two weeks later, on February 4<sup>th</sup>, at Washington School in Cedar Rapids. We wish everyone great success at contest.

## Chess Tournament

The Mardi Grad Gambit Chess Tournament is Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

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



## Music News

Thank you to all students who participated in a music concert. Great work! Keep it up for your performances second semester.

Solo/ensemble contest this year is April 14<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars, high school students. Keep in mind this is over spring break.

Happy New Year  
Miss Croner

## Important Notice: Name Change

After many months of serious deliberation and considerable input the school board has decided to change the name of our parish school to:

**Prince of Peace Catholic School**

This name binds the school more closely to our parish, Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace Catholic Church, and to our Catholic faith.

The name change will be transitioned into use over the course of the 2011-2012 school year and should be completely implemented by the Fall of 2012. The graduating class of 2012 will graduate with our current name on their diplomas.

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.

Our school donated 133lbs of tabs in December!

Way to go. Keep collecting those tabs!

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

January 2012

Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace

Nancy Peart, Principal

Brenda Bertram, DRE



## Thoughtful Moments

### Resolutions

The New Year is a good time to set resolutions that will help us grow in character. Even young children can form resolutions that will help them improve. The key is to pick age-appropriate resolutions they can actually accomplish. A good rule of thumb is, the younger the child the fewer the resolutions.



### Make it last

Don't take the Christmas tree down just yet. The retail Christmas season starts so early that by the time December 25th comes, we are ready to stuff the decorations away for another year. But for the Church, the Christmas season starts on the 25th and goes until January 9th, the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, the true end of the Christmas Season.

### Parents' advice

*"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and reject not your mother's teaching; graceful diadem will they be for your head; a pendant for your neck" (Proverbs 1:8-9).*



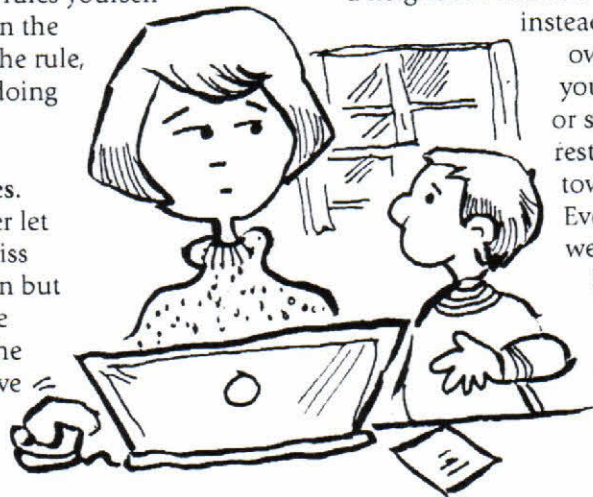
## Are you teaching your children to sin?

Sounds like a silly question, doesn't it? No Christian parent would teach a child to sin. But, if whether or not you follow God's rules yourself

depends upon the situation or the rule, you may be doing just that. For example:

"White" lies.

Have you ever let your child miss school for fun but sent in a note saying that she was sick? Have you dodged a phone call by saying, "tell him I'm not home!"? Have you snuck extra items on the express grocery line? If so, you demonstrated that it's okay to break God's law about telling the truth. How can children tell when to stop?



"Thou shall steal?" Do you download copyrighted movies and music without paying? Do you tap into a neighbor's internet or cable service

instead of buying your own? Do you help yourself to napkins or silverware from restaurants or take towels from hotels? Even if the victim is wealthy, you are breaking God's law against stealing.

Do as I

do. To our children, what we do is more

powerful than what

we say. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18:6).

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why are there statues and images in our churches?

In the early days of the Church, many of the faithful couldn't read or write. Images, icons, and statues in our churches served as teaching tools and spiritual aids.

Today, images of the Crucifix remind us of Jesus' sacrifice and



Resurrection. Statues of Mary and the saints recall their heroism and remind us of what we can become. These tools call us to better efforts at holiness, and urge us to ask God for the grace to keep trying for saintliness.

