



The Principal's Page

January 11, 2012

St. Katharine Drexel School

“Make the most of yourself for that is all there is to you.”—Ralph Waldo Emerson

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SKDS

- January 12** **Family Fun Night for Preschool – 4th grade**
- January 13** **Student Leaders Dress Down for JA Day--\$1.00 donation**
- January 16** **Martin Luther King Jr. Day—NO SCHOOL**
Market Day online orders due
- January 18** **9 AM Mass—3rd grade prepares**
Pretzel Orders due
- January 19** **Penguins tops**
- January 20** **End of Quarter**
Pretzel Day
7 PM – 9 PM Student Leaders Dance at Nativity
- January 21** **Noon Market Day pick-up**

Registration Forms

Registration forms were sent home in the family folders last week. The registration fee this year is \$100. However, if you register and pay your registration fee by Tuesday, January 31, 2012, the \$100 will be deducted from your first tuition payment in September of 2012. Pastor Verification Forms have been placed in your Family Folder if you are required to submit one. Please have your Pastor fill out the form and return it to the school office before the first day of school in August so you will get the reduced Catholic tuition rate.

Financial Aid Applications

Private School Aid Service (PSAS) applications have been sent to all families in the Family Folder today. There is a \$24 application fee and applications must be **postmarked by March 15, 2012.** The application is also available on our web site under Admissions tab.

Pastor Verification Forms

Pastor Verification Forms have been placed in your Family Folder if you are required to submit one for the 2112-13 school year. Please have your Pastor fill out the form and return it to the school office **before the first day of school** in August. This makes you eligible for the reduced Catholic tuition rate. This form is also available on our web site under Forms and Applications.

Catholic Schools Week



Can you believe it is time to celebrate Catholic Schools Week again? In your family folders today you will find a schedule for the activities for this year (it is also available on our web site). We have changed things around a little this year.

Last year we did the International Food Day on Friday and this year we will be having that on Wednesday. There was so much food left over last year that a lot of it had to be thrown away. This year the leftovers can be eaten by the teachers on Thursday and Friday. Again parents are invited to attend and help out as they did last year. The classroom teachers will let you know what country your child's class has chosen. If you have more than one child in the school please do not think that you have to make something for each class, unless you want to. Think about the number of children in the class and maybe make for the class with the smaller number of students. For the other classes, you might send in eating utensils, plates, cups, napkins, etc. without having to make more than one dish.

For Service projects on Monday, the primary grades will be making prayer rocks. We need some help here. If anyone sews and has scrap fabric they can donate, we need the fabric cut, with pinking shears, into 9 inch squares. These will be tied around rocks with ribbon, so if you have ribbon left from Christmas, please consider donating that. If we could have the fabric squares by Wednesday, Jan. 25th, we will know if we need to go out and purchase anything additional.

We have one last request. We need 2 banners made for Catholic Schools week with the above logo on them. In the past Mrs. Stumpf has taken care of this, but she just does not have the time. We will provide the materials, we just need your hands to cut out and put together.

If you can help in any of these endeavors, please contact either Mrs. Stumpf or me. We would really appreciate your help.

International Food Day Countries

Below you will find the countries that will be represented on International Food Day:

Kindergarten: Germany

1st Grade: China

2nd Grade: Ireland

3rd Grade: Italy

4th Grade: Japan

5th Grade: France

6th Grade: USA

7th Grade: Mexico

8th Grade: Greece

We are thinking about putting together a cookbook and thought our international foods might make a great section. We are asking that each recipe you prepare be emailed to us (that way we can cut and paste and not have to retype everything). You can send it to my email at bechtolskds@gmail.com. In addition, we would like you to email your favorite family recipe or recipes. Hopefully we will get a great response for this and be able to put together a nice cookbook. Some categories might include appetizers, entrees, soups, salads, deserts, and those that can be done by children themselves. If you would be so kind as to mark the category into which you feel your family recipe fits, we would greatly appreciate it. We will have the children do the artwork for the book.



Lottery Calendar Winners

The Lottery Calendar Winners for December are: Janet Brooks, Tracey Somma, Darlene L. Buczynski, Joan Atkinson, Chris Kasyan, Marlene Petrovich, Dale Taylor, Christian Abbott, Rose Burry, Pete Taucher, Gina Koenig, Alisha Zeiler, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Luksik, R.J. Toth, Maria Connell, Becky Cardone, Mary Ann Rodaitis, Jack Jonas, Cecelia Coll, Pauline Pahler, Paul Nedzesky, and Deborah Spisak. Congratulations to the winners.

You should have turned in all Lottery Calendar stubs and money for the 2012 calendars by now. If not, please do so this week or the winning numbers might not be honored.

Wine and Beer Tasting

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Wine & Beer Tasting and Silent Auction on February 25. We need volunteers to assist with greeting/check-in, Chinese auction, silent auction tables, beer pouring, and checkout. If you are planning to attend and would like to make this fundraiser successful by volunteering, please contact Glenn Huetter (glemarxav@yahoo.com or (724) 745-4084). This is also a reminder that discounted tickets will be available until January 25 (\$45 per person or \$85.50 per couple). After January 25, the ticket prices will be \$50 per person or \$95 per couple. Order forms are available on the school website.

February Lunch Menu

The February lunch menu is in your family folder today. Please note that the menu is due back on the 18th. Even if you are not paying at this time, please fill out the menu and return it by the 18th so that Mrs. Dixon can place her order for food.

Did You Know...?

This section will be to inform new families about the way things work or what we have to offer AND to remind returning families about the same things.

Did you know that St. Katharine Drexel School has a homework policy? A reasonable amount of homework, according to grade level, is of great educational value and is assigned every day. Assignments are not always written. Study and memory work are frequently assigned. Homework is assigned on a regular basis to: enrich school experiences, provide practice and review, develop good study habits, teach responsibility, and foster originality.

If for some reason the child cannot complete an assignment, the parents should inform the teacher by written note stating the reason. Arrangements should be made as soon as possible to make up incomplete assignments. The Diocese recommends the following time schedule for home study:

- Primary (levels 1-3) 30 minutes
- Intermediate (levels 4-5) 45 minutes
- Upper Elementary (6-8) 1 – 1 ½ hours

In case of a student's absence, homework will only be available for pick-up in the office following the second day of the absence, or given to the student upon their return. Individual arrangements will be made with particular teachers during a lengthy illness.

Parents can assist students with home assignments in the following ways:

1. Provide a quiet spot away from the television, telephone, or other distracting elements;
2. Check to see what was accomplished during the designated study time regarding completeness, neatness, and correctness;
3. Be willing to listen to reading, spelling, and math facts and to explain procedures, but never do the assignment;
4. Consult the teacher if the child uses the excuse of "there's no homework" too often.