

K a m R e v i e w

Good Shepherd Catholic School



Principal's Message

Sacrifice



If you are anything like me, each time you hear the birth story of Jesus, something in the story catches your attention differently than it did the year before. This year, I continue to be amazed by the sacrifices that both Mary and Joseph made for a boy they could only trust was the son of God. Both Mary and Joseph were judged for Mary's pregnancy, yet they held their heads high and had faith so strong that they couldn't be touched by those judgments. Even after he was born, they made sacrifices every day to be certain he was safe or that his message was heard.

As parents, we will do anything for our children- from the time they are conceived until they are well into adulthood. Parents throughout the world make sacrifices so that their children will have every opportunity and every chance of survival. Of course, the sacrifices each one makes are relative to where they live and their own personal situations. For some parents it is giving up a meal so that the child can eat, and for others it is standing in the way of violence to protect the child. It is true that this is considered instinct- true for any animal, but for us it goes to something deeper.

We are blessed to live in a country and an area where these relative sacrifices are rarely about hunger or safety. Yet, our sacrifices are no less significant. Education, we know, is our children's greatest hope for a secure job and a bright future. You make the sacrifice through your hard work and commitment both in and out of school to provide a quality education for your child(ren). You could choose a free, public education in your neighborhood that would make the sacrifice more manageable. But you share your financial resources and your time with Good Shepherd in order to make it the best school for your child.

I have said thank you in many different ways, but during this season of Advent I wanted to again appreciate the sacrifices you make daily. Jesus was blessed to be raised by Mary and Joseph who did everything they could to provide for Him. It may take years before your children are able to thank you for what you have provided, but it doesn't go unnoticed. Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Dan

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Kudos.....

... to **Laura Garvin, Dominic Kelso, Angela Henderson, Jack Henderson, Ireland Conti, James and Mary Cunningham, Jacob Shipley, Peg Muller, Mark and Rebecca Liljenstolpe, Alejandro Ruiz, Alex Ruiz-Zamora, Trevor Mishler, Steve and Maria Ramirez, Shawn O'Reilly, April Muzzio, Ethan Muzzio, Elizabeth Buelna, Teomah Buelna, Nate Armstrong, Sue Armstrong, and Steve Knapp** who worked so hard this past weekend (Saturday and Sunday) to shovel and spread the playground bark. There is a little left to do over Christmas break and some final touches on the playground to be ready in the New Year.

... to **all the families from PS through 8th grade** who contributed gifts to our Adopt-A-Family this year. In addition to the gifts, \$1,300 was given in gift cards. Thank you for your generosity!

... to **The Point Chophouse** for participating in our Dining for Dollars program this year. Thanks to parent participation in that evening, the school raised \$162.39 for Parent Club.

Please note that "Kudos" can be written and submitted by any parent, staff, student, or community member to recognize the outstanding service that so many give to our community. If you'd like to submit recognition to be written in the Ram at any time during the year, please send an email to achavarria@gsschool.org and write "Kudos for Ram" in the subject line.

Announcements

***Catholic Schools Week—January 28-February 4, 2012**



Catholic Schools Week is just around the corner. This nationally celebrated week is an important time for us to show our school spirit and also thank everyone in our community for supporting our school. With different events scheduled for every day of Catholic Schools Week, expect to be hearing more about this as it approaches and please set aside time now in your schedules so that you and your children can participate. When we come back from Christmas break, there will be a sign-up sheet in the school office for attendance at one of 11 masses at our 3 different parishes. We would like to have several students in uniform at each mass, and one parent with his/her child to stand up and speak at each Mass about why they chose Catholic education. Our teachers will be in attendance as well. Catholic Schools Week will be a fun time for everyone to get involved to celebrate and promote our school.

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**\*Cutting down on waste from lunches**

For the younger students especially, with lunch boxes, the staff decided that students in grades K-4 will not throw anything away (even their trash). All items should go back in their lunch boxes to go home so that parents can see what was and wasn't eaten. Teachers will have available at each of the tables a basket for uneaten hot lunch items such as fruit and extras. Everything else should go home with the student. Help us to cut down on whole items of food being thrown away. **Clarification: Messy items such as apple cores and yogurt containers do not need to be taken home, just the containers, packaging, and Ziploc bags from the dry food.**





**Hot Lunch Reminder**

January Hot Lunch and Pizza Friday forms are due this week. To avoid accounting confusion, please give all lunch orders to Arefa or Vicki. Please do not place forms/checks in the tuition box. Thank you for your attention to this.



**BOX TOPS COLLECTION TIME!!!**



**WIN A PIZZA PARTY!!!**

It's that time of year again, please start bringing in your box tops. We will be collecting them now through January, giving you time to collect during your holiday baking.

Whichever class collects the most will win a pizza party! Remember Box Tops are on many products and they are each worth 10 cents for our school - it really adds up!

For more info visit

[www.BoxTops4Education.com](http://www.BoxTops4Education.com)

**Parent Service Hours Opportunities**

*The following are some upcoming volunteer service opportunities.*

*Email the office or contact person listed if you are interested.*

Days:

We need a volunteers to affix 200-250 labels to Open House invitations on Thursday, January 5th. If you can help please contact Arefa Chavarria at [achavarria@gsschool.org](mailto:achavarria@gsschool.org).

We need a parent to help coordinate our "Community Volunteer Recognition Assembly" on Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 8:00 am. This is during Catholic Schools Week when each day of the week we give thanks for members of our school and community. The person will be responsible for contacting all service people, grandparents, or any other volunteers that help support Good Shepherd. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Kaia Roman at [kroman@gsschool.org](mailto:kroman@gsschool.org).

50th Anniversary Committee

Calling all alums, teachers past and present, parents, students, grandparents and anyone who loves to plan a really great party... Good Shepherd's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is coming up in 2013 and we are starting the planning now for an entire year of celebration events! If you would like to be on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, please contact Kaia Roman, Development Director, at [kroman@gsschool.org](mailto:kroman@gsschool.org) or call her at (831) 288-5729.

Weekends:

Catholic Schools Sunday is January 29<sup>th</sup>. See "Announcements" to learn how you can help.

**Calendar Items**



**\*Pizza My Heart Fundraiser—Tuesday, December 13th—2pm-9pm**

**\*Christmas Concert- PS- 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm; 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm on Weds, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> in the GS Gym**

**\*December Birthday Free Dress- Thursday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Minimum Day, No SEP- Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Christmas Break- December 19<sup>th</sup> through Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. School resumes on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

## *Counselors Corner*

*By: Dr. Monica Esposito Ed.D*



The holiday season can bring us much joy and much stress, so having a Christmas prayer in your pocket can help remind you that the season is a time of celebration and peace.

*God, thank you for sending your Son to us. I know this time of year we often forget why we celebrate. We tend to be so caught up in planning for parties and gift giving that we forget why we are doing all of these things in the first place. Let me not forget the struggles and strife that Mary and Joseph faced in bringing your son, Jesus, into the world.*

*Yet, Lord, let me not forget the blessings you bestowed on them. You gave them a great gift of a child and you blessed them with shelter in a time when it seemed they might not have anywhere to stay. And then you brought our Savior into this world to two loving parents and believers who awaited his presence.*

*I cannot imagine your sacrifice, Lord, but I know that I am blessed by it. I know that every day I feel your presence and look around the world in wonder at your creation. So, this year as I decorate the tree, this year as I sing Christmas carols, let me not forget that Christmas is so much more than gifts and lights. Provide me with the presence of mind to keep me rooted in faith this season.*

*And let the world find the blessings I have found in you. As cliché as it may sound, let there be peace on earth this season. Let us have the hope and love in our lives that you brought us through the birth of Jesus.*

*Thank you, Lord. Thank you for bringing my Savior into the world, and thank you for your blessings on my life. Amen.*

**Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Peaceful New Year!**

# January 2012

| Su | M                                     | T                                                       | W                                                        | TH                                      | F                                  | Sa |
|----|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----|
| 1  | 2                                     | 3<br>* Classes Resume                                   | 4                                                        | 5                                       | 6                                  | 7  |
| 8  | 9                                     | 10<br>*ACRE Testing<br>5th grade                        | 11<br>*ACRE Testing<br>5th grade<br>*Parent Club Mtg 6pm | 12<br>*ACRE Testing<br>5th grade        | 13<br>*ACRE Testing<br>5th grade   | 14 |
| 15 | 16<br>*MLK Jr Day<br><b>NO SCHOOL</b> | 17                                                      | 18                                                       | 19                                      | 20                                 | 21 |
| 22 | 23                                    | 24                                                      | 25<br>* Mini Day w/ SEP<br>*Deadline for<br>Ram Review   | 26<br>*Jan Birthday's<br>Free Dress Day | 27<br>*Progress Reports<br>Go Home | 28 |
| 29 | 30<br>*Catholic<br>Schools Week       | 31<br>*Catholic<br>Schools Week<br>*Paper Ram goes home |                                                          |                                         |                                    |    |