

December 12, 2011

This will be my final newsletter prior to the Christmas holiday. I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very merry Christmas and many blessings on the New Year. Each of your wonderful children provide me with such a blessing, I hope you know how special each of them is to me. These are not merely words to me. Thank you for giving me the gift of your children.

On another note, please remember our commitment to the Guatemala mission project.

I hope to see you all at the Christmas program on Thursday. The program will begin at 6:30 in the church. It promises to be another wonderful show.

Remember "See's" chocolates are available for sale by the eighth grade. We sold boxes at the past weekend's Masses. We will be doing so again this week. You may contact Mary Bacon about buying some at any time this week and you may sign up to sell at the Masses this coming weekend. They do make lovely Christmas gifts.

### **Christmas Collection:**

This year as part of our service to others, the school will be supporting the mission in Guatemala. The Diocese of Spokane and our church have been helping this parish in Guatemala for over 50 years. The parish and school are located in the highlands in the Solada area. This has been an especially hard year. Heavy rains and mudslides have had a devastating effect. Many crops and homes have been destroyed. A parishioner from St. Mary's will be traveling to Solada at the end of the month. She will be taking the items we collect with her. The upper unit students have been encouraged to offer some cash. They are more able to sacrificially give things up to offer to these people. We have suggested giving up drinking soda when you go out, and giving the money saved to this fund. If each student brought in a couple of dollars, we would have a nice chunk of money to give to these people. The other items needed are as follows:

- Vitamins without iron
- Antibacterial ointment
- Hot Wheel/ Matchbox cars/ small toys
- Coloring books/ supplies
- Cash

These items need to be brought to the school no later than Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> Thank you for helping out with this important need.

### **New Fundraiser:**

We will be selling See's Candy at the church after Mass on the next two weekends. These are high profit items for the students. Please encourage your sons and daughters to sign up for a Mass. These make great Christmas gifts. what I have so far and this will be adequate. We did not get anyone interested in doing Santa pictures, which is unfortunate, but I understand this is a busy season.

### **CAR WASH FUNDRAISING:**

I have received car wash booklets for Mega Wash this week. The tickets sell for \$25. Each booklet sold will generate \$10 in profit for the individual selling it. I will hand out tickets to each person desiring them. Remember you are responsible for each booklet you take.

### **OPI News:**

Please continue to raise funds. You will be responsible for the full amount of \$415 on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mrs. Greany would gladly take payments prior to this should you feel your fundraising is not going to be adequate.

### **Some Dates:**

12/14: Day of Giving Christmas program/dress rehearsal 10:00am

12/15: Christmas Program

12/16: Items for Guatemala due today

12/18-19: See's Candy Sales at the Masses this weekend Sign up for your time

### **Religion:**

We are doing our chapter on the Holy Spirit. We are also reviewing the spiritual fruit for the month: generosity.

This year in religion, I will be sharing each Sunday's readings with the students on Fridays. This will be a much more powerful lesson if you could please make an effort to take your sons and daughters to Mass on Saturday night or Sunday. I know how busy weekends can get, but as Catholics, the Liturgy is such an important part of who we are as people. We need to give this love of the Eucharist to our children.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade History**

We are studying the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence this week.

### **8th Grade Algebra**

Working with functions this week, there will be lots of confusion in the afternoons however, with the Christmas program practices.

Please encourage students to take their time and work on understanding as they practice at home.

Algebra class will require daily attention at home. Our students have been very successful on the Prep placement exams because of the willingness of our students and their families to work so hard at their studies. Algebra will be challenging, but I am committed assist each student in reaching her or his goals.

Have a great week!

Mr. Schultz