

December 1, 2017

From the Desk of Mr. Poole

Dear Parents,

I am hoping everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I was able to attend my nephew's wedding in England with my family and we had a wonderful time, though the weather is a little better here!

The first Sunday of Advent is Dec. 3, and it is a very short season! The Fourth Sunday of Advent is actually Christmas Eve, so I am sure everyone will feel as though the month is flying by.

Please be sure to post the December calendar where you may easily see all of the activities going on this month. The next two and a half weeks will be very busy! During that time, we have a number of important **charity events**:

- On Tuesday, Dec. 5, we will have a **Dress Down Day for Catholic Charities** and each student will be asked to donate a minimum of \$1.00 to participate. Catholic Charities within the Diocese of Arlington supports many social justice programs. You may check them out at www.cdda.net.
- Again this year we are participating in the **Community Christmas Basket**. See below for more information.
- We invite families to decorate the **Hat, Mitten and Sock Tree**. If you have not purchased anything yet, we would like you to know that socks are needed most. The Department of Human Services will pick these up on December 15 to distribute to families in need.

Other important events include:

- The visit from **Bishop Burbidge on Thursday, Dec. 14**. He will celebrate Mass at 9:00, visit with students and have lunch with the faculty and staff. We have a lot to do to get ready, and may need to call on some support from our parents. Will you be able to give a couple of hours to make our school shine?
- **Field Trips** for many of our students, specifically the Ensemble and Schola Primo to provide music for the Women's Club of Culpeper Christmas Party at the Country Club, Grades 4 and 5 going to Culpeper Health and Rehab, and Grade 2 to the Riverside Center for Performing Arts to see the Velveteen Rabbit.
- **Two movie nights**, with one for Preschool, Kindergarten and Grade 1 on Friday, Dec. 8, and a Family Movie Night on Friday, Dec. 15, featuring 'Claymation Christmas'. We hope you will be able to attend.
- **Preschool Christmas Pageant** on Tuesday, Dec. 19, will get everyone in a festive mood!

Of course, we break for Christmas on Wednesday, Dec. 20, with a half day of school. **There will be no afternoon care, so we ask all families to make arrangements to pick students up at dismissal time. The Grades K-8 will dismiss at 11:30 and Preschool at 12:00 noon.**

CHRISTMAS MATCHING PROGRAM

Once again, during this Christmas season, a very generous donor has offered to match donations to Epiphany up to \$15,000.00. Our thanks to those of you that have already donated-your donation will go twice as far! Last year many of our families responded with contributions, knowing that their gift would be matched for the benefit of their children's school and we have so far collected \$3,000.00. We are truly blessed!

When we all work together, we are able to build a shining future for our children and our Church. Thank you for your consideration

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BASKET



The holidays are fast approaching, and that means it is time once again for Epiphany families to support our Culpeper community by participating in the Community Christmas Basket.

We continue to collect non-perishable food items, so as you do your shopping, please don't forget about those in need right here in Culpeper. Last year our school was able to donate over 5000 food items! Can we match that this year?

YES WE CAN! We are Epiphany Catholic School!

EAGLE PROJECT FOR DEVON BUTTENSRAW

Devon Buttenshaw is working towards making the rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts. His Eagle Scout project is to purchase an AED for Epiphany Catholic School. The approximate cost is \$1400 and he is currently fund raising for it. If you can donate to this worthy cause please send your donation to the school in an envelope with Eagle Scout Project written on the front. Any checks can be made payable to the school and please write Eagle Scout Project Devon Buttenshaw on the memo line. These donations are tax deductible. Thank you and we will keep you updated on this much needed project.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Parents, please check to make sure your children are ready for the day as they walk out the door!

- Eat breakfast and have lunch and snack. If they do not have their lunch, a parent will be called to bring it to the lunch room.
- Dress for the weather! Have coat, and gloves and hat if necessary. Classes go outside for recess, walk to lunch, serve as Safety Patrols, and wait in the pick-up line. If it is raining, have an umbrella or hood. Make sure name is in all clothing.
- For PE days, the uniform is sweats. Students may wear shorts and t-shirt underneath.
- Spirit Wear is not considered a uniform item and is only allowed in the classroom on Spirit Wear days. Some of our students are wearing these items in the classrooms. If students are chilly, they may wear long sleeves and/or their cardigan.

Also, if you feel your child may need medication for occasional pain relief, cough, etc., you may send a supply in to the office with a *completed **Authorization to Administer Medication Form***. You will find this in the family folder you received at Orientation. *Please follow all instructions on the reverse side.* Forms are also available in the office.

ALL ARE INVITED TO MEET BISHOP BURBIDGE

◆ Thursday, Dec. 14

Bishop Burbidge celebrates Epiphany Mass (9:00 a.m.),

Parents, please plan to join us as we welcome our Bishop to this beautiful part of his Diocese!

'BOOST' AFTER SCHOOL INSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE

Many students could use just a little extra help, and our teachers will be available to offer instructional assistance on the following days:

- Grade 3 on Monday
- Grades 4th and 5th on **THURSDAY**
- Middle School-**Notify teacher by email 24 hours ahead if attending.**
 - ✓ Ms. Gaffron on Tuesday - Reading/Language Arts
 - ✓ Mrs. Heelen on Wednesday - Science, Gr. 6 Social Studies and Gr. 6 /7 Math
 - ✓ Mr. Saibini on Friday - Religion, Gr. 7/8 Social Studies and Gr. 8 Math/Algebra

***Teachers will bring students to the Main Entrance at 4:15.
Please wait out front, as office is closed at 4:00.***

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

We ask parents to make use of the Parent Portal to monitor student progress and communicate with teachers if there are any concerns. Parents will use the same account login and password that they used last year. Parents of kindergarten students, please note that they are evaluated in January and June.

Copy and paste this address into your browser:

<https://arlingtondiocese.powerschool.com/public/>

PTO NEWS

We thank everyone that attended the PTO Meeting last evening, and thank Maureen Watts, R.D., for an informative presentation about childhood nutrition. We appreciate Maureen taking the time to share her experience and expertise on the importance of instilling the basics of proper nutrition at an early age.

Other items discussed included (that are not on school calendar or in this Newsletter):

- The PTO Secretary opening
- Epiphany Feast and Masses
- Catholic Schools Week (Jan 28 - Feb. 3)
- Mardi Gras Celebration on Feb. 9
- Spirit Wear
 - Delivery scheduled for Dec. 15; Next order: February
- Points for Parents
 - 20 Hours per family or prepay \$10/point = \$200.00 for year
 - Be sure to sign in on your family page in binder in school office
 - Families will receive a 'Balance Sheet' reflecting 1st quarter hours (Oct. 26)

CONTINUOUS FUNDRAISING

Our school needs YOUR support! Parents, please be aware that there are fundraising opportunities that won't cost families a penny. We also ask that you tell your families, neighbors and friends to help us out, too!

Martin's School Rewards

Register your Martin's Bonus Card (and friends and neighbors, too). It is easy!

- Visit www.martinsfoods.com and click on Savings & Rewards.
- Follow the prompts to register your 11 digit card number to our school ID # 22680.
- If you don't know your bonus card number, call 888-814-4268, OPTION #1.
- Use your Bonus Card each time you shop from October 6, 2017 - March 15, 2018 at ANY Martin's store!
- Our school will receive CASH awards check by the end of the school year.
- If you registered your card last year, you may not have to register again. Check, though, to make sure!



Do you shop on Amazon? Who doesn't? What about your family members, neighbors, and friends? They can register to support Epiphany, too! Epiphany receives 0.5% of your eligible purchases because we are registered as one of their charitable organizations! There is no cost to you, the customer, or to Epiphany, the charitable organization. It is truly painless fundraising!

How easy is it to register? Copy and paste this link in to your browser:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1836329> When you have registered, it will say 'Supporting Epiphany Catholic School' under the search bar.

Help out Epiphany and shop AmazonSmile. Each quarter, funds will be transferred directly to our school. Eligible purchases are noted as "Eligible for [amazon smile](#) donation" on the product detail page. (Please note that only the sale price of the item is considered-other costs, such as tax, shipping, fees, service charges, returns, etc., are excluded.)

BOX TOPS!

We see them on everything-not only on food boxes, but cleaning supplies, paper products, school and office supplies, tableware and even trash bags! All you have to do is cut them out! Tape an envelope to the side of your refrigerator, look on packages, cut out the Box Top for Education and, before you know it, you have accumulated quite a few of these things. Give them to your child to drop off in the Box Top container here at school, and start another envelope! Ask your family, friends and neighbors to collect them, too!



Earn Cash for Our School!

If every family participated, we could earn enough money throughout the year to perhaps pay for a bus for a field trip, or sponsor a presentation here at school, or even pay for some awesome activities at Field Day!

Mark Your Calendar

- ◆ **Monday, Dec. 4** - 3rd Grade Boost
- ◆ **Tuesday, Dec. 5:** - \$1.00 (minimum) Dress Down Day for Catholic Charities
- Pizza Tuesday
- Ensemble & Schola Primo Pick up at 4:30
- ◆ **Wednesday, Dec. 6** - Feast of St. Nicholas
- 8th Grade School Store
- Altar Server Meeting-***All Altar Servers should attend***
pick up at 4:30
- ◆ **Thursday, Dec. 7** - Grades 4 & 5 Boost
- Ensemble & Schola Primo Pick up at 4:30
- ◆ **Friday, Dec. 8** - Mass @ 1:30 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- Hot Lunch - Subway
- Preschool/Kindergarten/Grade 1 - Christmas Movie Night
- ◆ **Monday, Dec. 11** - **K-8 EARLY DISMISSAL @ 11:30**
- Cans for Community Christmas Basket due! GOAL: 5000 Cans!
- ◆ **Tuesday, Dec. 12** - Pick Up Community Christmas Basket donations
- Ensemble/Schola Primo at Country Club of Culpeper
- Pizza Tuesday
- ◆ **Wednesday, Dec. 13** - 8th Grade School Store
- ◆ **Thursday, Dec. 14** - Bishop Burbidge visits Epiphany - Mass at 9:00 a.m.
Full Dress Uniforms
- Hats, Mittens and Socks Due
- Ensemble & Schola Primo Pick up at 4:15
- ◆ **Friday, Dec. 15** - Grades 4 & 5 to Culpeper Health and Rehab
- Hot Lunch - Mama Mai
- Family Movie Night @ 6:00 ***'Claymation Christmas'***
- ◆ **Monday, Dec. 18** - Grades 3 BOOST Pick up at 4:15
- ◆ **Tuesday, Dec. 19** - Grades 2 Field Trip to Riverside Theater
- Preschool Christmas parties
- Christmas Carols @ 2:00 - Families Invited!
- Ensemble/Schola Primo Pick up at 4:30
- Preschool Christmas Pageant @ 6:30
- ◆ **Wednesday, Dec. 20** - Dress down in holiday colors
- 11:30 Dismissal for K-8 NO AFTER CARE
- 12:00 noon Dismissal for Preschool NO AFTER CARE
- ◆ **Wednesday, Jan. 3** - Return to School