

December 15, 2017

From the Desk of Mr. Poole

Dear Parents,

We have had a very busy but wonderful week here at Epiphany! There are so many great things happening here! Donated canned goods were picked up for the Culpeper Community Christmas Basket on Tuesday. I am happy to let you know that our school was able to donate over 2,650 cans! I thank all of you, parents, for helping us help those in most need in our community.



The Epiphany Ensemble and Schola Primo provided entertainment for the Culpeper Women's Club Christmas Party on Tuesday. Mrs. Watson prepares a wonderful concert for them each year, and again it was enjoyed by all. Thank you, parents, for helping to transport the necessary 'gear' and our students. Your support means more than you know.

We hope many of you were able to join us for Mass yesterday when The Most Reverend Michael Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, visited our school! He is an inspired shepherd of our faith and a proponent of Catholic education. He thoroughly enjoyed visiting the classrooms, visiting with our students, and having lunch with the faculty and staff. Thank you to all of our volunteers that made this possible and to the PTO for providing a delicious lunch. It was a very good day!



**The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge,
Bishop of Arlington,
visits Epiphany on Thursday, December 14**



Whether it is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, or visit the sick, we love to see our students and families bring Christ to others as they put into practice the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Our students will continue to be busy right up until we close on Wednesday. Thank you, parents, for making sure your children are in school so they may experience all of our happenings before we break next week.

- **Family Movie Night TONIGHT** at 6:00, featuring *Claymation Christmas*. We hope everyone will be able to attend.
- **Sacrament of Reconciliation** for students grades 6-8 on Monday, Dec. 18.
- **Christmas Sing-Along** on Tuesday, Dec. 19 @ 2:00. Parents are invited to join us!
- **Field Trip** Grade 2 to the Riverside Center for Performing Arts on Dec. 19 to see the Velveteen Rabbit.
- The **Preschool Christmas Pageant** on Tuesday, Dec. 19 @ 6:30, will get everyone in a festive mood!

PLEASE note our **Early Dismissal** days:

- Please be reminded that **Wednesday, Dec. 20, is 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. Grades K-8 will dismiss at 11:30 and Preschool at 12:00 noon.**

CHRISTMAS MATCHING PROGRAM

As you consider recipients for your end of year giving, why not make your donation go twice as far? Once again, during this Christmas season, a very generous donor has offered to **match donations to Epiphany up to \$15,000.00**. We thank those of you that have already donated. Every little bit helps!

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

Your Help Requested from Dr. Jennifer Bigelow, Superintendent of Schools

I am sure you are aware of the current discussion/debate concerning the tax bill in Congress. We received the following from the Virginia Catholic Conference and we would appreciate your assistance in disseminating this to your parents today so that they can be made aware of the impact of the bill, especially as it relates to Catholic education and to encourage them to contact their Representatives and Senators.

Removal of U.S. Tax Code Provisions Harmful to K-12 Private Education

Take action to prevent the House and Senate from adopting changes to the U.S. Tax Code that would threaten to make K-12 private education less affordable for many American families. Please urge your Representative and Senators now to fight for two important current U.S. Tax Code provisions and safeguard our Catholic schools and their contribution to the common good.

Catholic K-12 education could be directly impacted in the ongoing efforts in Congress to reform the U.S. Tax Code. While Catholic schools do not seem to be the direct target of the legislation, the disruption to innovative schooling models and current benefit structures for staff and their families could be enormous.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is urging members of Congress to maintain the following U.S. Tax Code provisions, and fighting against efforts to have them removed:

- **Exclusion for Qualified Tuition Reduction:** [Section 117](#) of the Tax Code provides an important benefit to our school communities. Under the provision, discounted tuition provided by a school or diocese to dependents of an employee are excluded from income (i.e., treated as an untaxed benefit). As family-oriented institutions, Catholic schools staff are eager and encouraged to have their children attend school where they are employed. This exclusion allows our schools to remain competitive with district schools in the marketplace for teachers and other staff.

- **Exclusion for Educational Assistance:** [Section 127 of the Tax Code](#) has enabled an innovative Catholic education model to help thousands of students from low-income families achieve their academic goals and set themselves on a path to success. For example, The Cristo Rey Network students work one day a week at a business, which in turn pays a portion of their tuition as salary. Section 127 incentivizes companies to participate in this life-changing program.

[Please urge](#) your Representative and Senators to work together to keep these important provisions which greatly impact Catholic education. The goal of the U.S. Catholic Bishops is to educate members of Congress about the unintended consequences of removing these exclusions. Your assistance in this work is critical.

Please spread this alert - every voice matters! Thank you for standing with us.

If you are not a member of the Conference's advocacy network, click [here](#) to receive regular Conference email alerts and updates. Please like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and sign up for our [blog](#).

In prayer and in public, your voices are urgently needed to bring Gospel values to bear on vital decisions being made by those who represent you. [The Virginia Catholic Conference](#) is the public policy agency representing Virginia's Catholic bishops and their two dioceses.

RESPECT FOR LIFE POSTER AND ESSAY CONTESTS

January is Respect for Life Month, and once again Precious Blood Parish would like our students to participate in the annual Poster Contest (grades K-5) and the Essay Contest (grades 6-12). Trophies and ribbons will be presented to the First, Second and Third Place winners in each category. Honorable Mention ribbons will also be awarded. In addition, First, Second and Third Place essay contest winners will also receive cash prizes of \$50.00, \$30.00 and \$20.00 respectively.

Return your entry by January 18 to the school office with the student's name and grade. If a student in K-5 needs poster paper, please have them stop by the school office.

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

Copy and paste this address into your browser: <https://arlingtondiocese.powerschool.com/public/>

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.

EAGLE PROJECT FOR DEVON BUTTENSCHAW

Devon Buttenschaw 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 Buttenschaw on the memo line. These donations are tax deductible. Thank you and we will keep you updated on this much needed project.



'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.***

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 **amazonSmile** 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!



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

- ◆ **Friday, Dec. 15** - 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
 - Epiphany Sing Along @ 2:00 - Families Invited!
 - Esemble/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
- ◆ **Friday, Jan. 5** - Epiphany Feast Day! Including Epiphany FEAST and Dress UP Day
- ◆ **Sunday, Jan. 7** - Epiphany Sunday - Students at 8:30 Mass-Reception Follows
- ◆ **Friday, Jan. 12** - 11:30 Dismissal K-8
- ◆ **Monday, Jan. 15** - Holiday - Rev. Martin Luther King Holiday
- ◆ **Tuesday, Jan. 16** - Student Holiday - Professional Development/Instructional Seminar