



SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Rosary School Family Communication Newsletter

December 1, 2011

Dear Families,

I hope that you had a nice Thanksgiving break and that as we approach Christmas in this Advent season, that you fully enjoy this wonderful time of year. In today's newsletter, I would like to share some updates on a few topics.

The Art literacy program will launch in the next few weeks. The program utilizes kits provided by the Seattle Art Museum and we should be receiving our kits in early December. We will then gather together as a faculty and with the parent volunteers who will teach the lessons and schedule these lessons. Ms. Boys will guide the process.

The Lego Robotics program is still in the planning stages but we should have it ready to begin in the spring. Depending upon interest and volunteers we may have up to two junior teams and two middle school teams. If all goes as planned, we would be ready for competition next year.

The National Geographic Geography Bee will take place in the winter months and will be principally guided by Mr. Mohrbacher together with the classroom teachers. It is a great series of activities leading up to the whole school competition that parents and family are invited to attend. (Date to be announced)

The first steps have been taken in the budget planning process. This process will include an opportunity for parent input in an upcoming parent survey. I have started working with members of the school community to put this together and will work in conjunction with the school commission.

As you may remember, the last parent survey took place in 2009. Going forward, I would like to provide for parent survey input every year. We will probably be using the survey monkey format and this survey will be conducted in January 2012.

There are many sub-committees hard at work. The School Commission committee to utilize the auction funds raised last year, is moving forward with plans to beautify the front entrance of the school hall. The finance committee is starting to put together some long-term strategic plans working in conjunction with the Parish Administration Council. Interviews have been taking place to fill our Development Director position. The school office is hard at work to prepare for Open House and all that goes with it. I hope that this information is helpful to you so that you can better understand some behind the scenes developments.

Sincerely,

Michael Cantu,
Principal

COMFORT, GIVE COMFORT TO MY PEOPLE,
SAYS YOUR GOD.
SPEAK TENDERLY TO JERUSALEM

The Advent season that we have now begun has many beautiful readings speaking of God's wonderful love for his people --- then and now. One of the most beautiful from the prophet Isaiah that I reference at the introduction to this column provides the opening words from this Sunday's first reading.

The people of God at that time had everything taken from them that they treasured as his people and it left them traumatized, distressed and despairing. In this very sad and bleak situation God told the prophet to speak words of comfort and tenderness to his people.

Like the Israelites we all need comfort from God. None of us is free from

the sadness that can come from life in this world. It could be the pain of illness, the wound from a broken relationship or the challenge of unemployment or financial stress. For some of us, myself included, it is the concern over the distance from home as my Mom appears to be on the decline towards death. I was checking flight this week to prepare to fly if it seemed like she was getting worse. As of today, Tuesday, she seems to be recovering and doing somewhat better. I am hopeful that she will continue this improvement until I can more easily leave right after Christmas.

No matter what we are facing, God wants to comfort us. He wants to speak tenderly to our hearts and tell us that he is with us. And, more than anything he wants to tell us that Jesus, whose birth we celebrate on December 25 is “God with us” and all we have to do is open our hearts to him; make space for him and allow him to come into our hearts and speak tenderly to our hearts about God’s love for us. We do not have to carry our heavy burdens and dark secrets alone and unaided.

Where do you need to hear the comforting words of Jesus in your life? What event or situation needs his healing words?

Lord, we need your comfort. Fill us with your joy and peace. Teach us how to open our hearts to you that we may know your love for us and love you in return.

Some of the above is taken from a little Advent booklet called
“Five minutes with the Word”

You can find a copy on the counter in the school office.

Fr. John.

The application for tuition assistance for the 2012 -2013 school year is now available on-line at

<http://fulcrumfoundation.org/tuition> (A link to the application is on the school website under ‘School Forms & Other Downloads’.)

Please follow these instructions and note that in addition to submitting an application on-line to Fulcrum, paper copies of the completed application must be delivered to Jennifer at Holy Rosary School by February 6th: Make a copy of your 2009 Federal Income Tax Form(s), IRS 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ, or E-file printout for the financially responsible parent(s) or guardian(s). Note: W-2 forms are not acceptable. Do not

send originals.

Make a copy of any documents related to Non-Taxable income (Part C-3) such as 1099, federal or state aid, alimony or child support.

Submit your application form *online at

<http://fulcrumfoundation.org/tuition> At the end of the submission process a printout will be produced. If you have made a mistake, submit a new application and destroy the incorrect printout. When entering names, please do not use ALL CAPS.

Print two copies of the completed form. This can be done immediately after submitting the form. Be sure to sign your tax forms. This is often overlooked, especially with E-filing. Fulcrum will not accept un-signed forms.

Sign the form in Part E.

Staple the signed application in front of copies of the financial documents from steps 1 and 2.

Deliver or mail the complete application package to Jennifer at Holy Rosary by February 4th. Copies will not be returned.

*Fulcrum will not be accepting handwritten applications. If you would like to submit a handwritten application, please ask Thea De Francesco to assist you. She may be contacted at (206) 937-1488, ext. 211 or email: tdefrancesco@holyroaryseattle.org

Thank you.

Technology News: Did you know...

- That our prayer services are streamed live? Visit our UStream Channel at: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/holy-rosary-west-seattle> to view live and previous events.
- That we have a Facebook page? Receive reminder updates on events by Liking us at: <https://www.facebook.com/HolyRosarySchool>
- That we have a Twitter feed? We currently have 96 followers. Updates to Facebook are automatically posted to Twitter. Did you know that we'll post school closures or late starts on Facebook and Twitter? Have Twitter updates sent directly to your phone via text to receive the quickest possible news on whether school will be open, late start or closed.
- If you have a child/ren in K-2, they can keep their math and thinking skills strong by using Dreambox Learning at: <https://play.dreambox.com/login/hgq8/holyrs>. Contact Mr. Barker for

information on how to stay current on your child/ren's progress.

- If you have a child/ren in grades 5-8, you can receive daily, weekly, or monthly updates on their progress through PowerSchool? If you've set up an account in PowerSchool, you can set these options in the Parent Portal options.

- That the Technology Lab has it's own webpage where these links and resources are posted? Visit at: <http://gator.holyrosaryws.org/tech> to find other links and software that we're using.

Yearbook Orders: Last call for Yearbook order forms! They were due on November 23rd, but we'll accept them until tomorrow, December 2nd so please get the forms in. We sometimes have a very limited number at the end of the year, but don't take that chance; order now!

CYO Update: We are pleased to announce that Lisa Quinn has accepted the position of CYO Athletic Director for Holy Rosary. Lisa replaces Albert Rangel, who has served as interim director since early last spring. Thank you, Albert! Lisa comes with impressive credentials: I have been involved in sports since age 6 when I started soccer. I played fast pitch at the University of Puget Sound and worked in the Athletic Department for the Sports Information Director. Since graduating, I have coached at Woodinville High School and for the Capitol Hill Soccer Club. I have played competitive women's soccer and managed several adult teams. I was a board member for the Washington State Women's Soccer Association where I developed their annual winter tournament and open player and team assignments. Patrick and I met playing soccer over 15 years ago and our son is in Mrs. Blanco's class. Our two-year-old daughter can't wait to go to "big girl school" in a few years.

I am so excited to continue the great work that the current board and Athletic Director has started. We are looking for some outstanding individuals to join the board in some great roles, please contact me if you are interested. Lisa Quinn, lp_quinn@comcast.net.

Bake sale for Homeless kids

Thank you everyone for the wonderful donations to our first bake sale for the homeless children of Nicklesville. We are a group of four Holy Rosary 7th grade girls, who choose as our service project to sell baked items that we make at the home games of the Holy Rosary basketball games.

We are going to use the money earned to purchase items for the children living at the "Nicklesville" tent city.

Our next bake sales will be December 4th from 12:30-4:00, and December 11th from 12:30-4:00 please stop by for some delicious treats and help support the children of "Nicklesville"

Thank You,
Isabella S., Olivia D. Marla Mann, Rachel S.

Coat Drive

Claire and Kirsten from the 8th grade are having a coat drive at Holy Rosary from November 22nd-December 15th. This time of year gets really cold and West Seattle's Clothesline is in desperate need for clean, gently used jackets of all sizes. If you have any jackets you would like to donate, please bring them to the big box right outside the teachers' lounge. Thanks and have a warm holiday!

From,
Claire and Kirsten 8B

Matching Gift Programs

There are many corporations that offer gift Matching Grant Programs. Gift matching grant programs often aim to recognize and motivate employees, to engage in outreach and volunteerism to make our communities a better place to live, work, and play. They will often support employees' giving their time and talent to qualified non-profits and non-governmental organizations, in addition to schools. Some of these programs will also recognize employees who give of their time and give them the opportunity to earn money for organizations that are meaningful to them.

Thank you to all of our school families that request matching funds from their place of work. Here are some of the local businesses that offer grant matching programs:

Boeing

Microsoft

Nintendo

Chase

Starbucks

Alaska Airline

Russel Investments

Symetra

There are others – so ask your company if they offer a matching program. Most companies will match donation to the Holy Rosary School Annual Fund and to the HEART Auction for Fund-an-item and Dessert (Scholarship) Auction.

Parents' Club Corner

*** No Parents' Club meeting on Thursday, December 1st ***

Events

The Christmas Tree Lot is open now through December 18th 3:30-9:00pm weekdays and 9am - 9pm Saturday and Sunday. Please consider buying your tree, wreath and garlands at the Holy Rosary Christmas Tree Lot. We have hot chocolate for while you view the trees and a free dress pass earned with every purchase.

There are still shifts available to help at the Tree Lot. Please go to the volunteer link and sign up

Pancake Breakfast

On Sunday December 4th there will be a Pancake Breakfast in the School Hall from 9am until 11:30am. Please join us after mass for a Pancake Breakfast and then stroll outside and buy your Christmas Tree from the Holy Rosary Tree Lot.

If you would like to help at the Pancake Breakfast, you can sign-up on-

line at the Christmas Tree Lot volunteer page for a coffee & donuts shift on December 4th or contact Jerry & Sara Velling at jerry@vellings.com or sara@vellings.com

Santa Claus is coming to the Holy Rosary Tree Lot! Formerly found bringing joy to little ones at Westwood Village during the holidays, Santa has agreed to visit Holy Rosary on Saturday morning, Dec. 10th from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon. Children of all ages are welcome to come take a picture with Santa inside the school hall (bring your own camera and a canned good to donate). Then, step outside to carefully choose your specially blessed Christmas tree or lovely wreath to take home & decorate, completing the jolly outing!

Community Meal

Holy Rosary Church is sponsoring the December 18th Community Meal. The meal is served from 1-3PM at Our Lady of Guadalupe's Parish Hall.

We will need volunteers to help set up and decorate, serve the meal and clean up afterwards. In addition, we need desserts to serve the 125 to 150 people who attend. Desserts can be dropped off at OLG's parish hall the day of the event after 9:30AM. If you are interested in volunteering please send an email to Renee Harn. (rharnfamily@comcast.net)

Something New for Christmas Eve!

For the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass, we will try to have the Gospel acted out. To pull this together, we need a few adults who can help with directing the kids who will be a part of the Christmas Eve Mass. If you'd like to help start something new, please contact Patrick Barredo (pbarredo@holyroaryseattle.org; 937.1488 x204) in the Parish Office.

Give the Gift of Safe Shelter - Noel House Programs' 2011 Holiday Card

Holy Rosary Women's Shelter's host program Noel House sells holiday cards every year to raise funds for their Women's Referral Center, 4 off-

site volunteer run shelters (Holy Rosary being one of them), St. Mark's Shelter, and Noel House Enhanced Shelter. Every night, Noel House Programs provides shelter and food for 250 homeless women in our community.

For a suggested minimum donation of \$10.00, each
5" x 7" Holiday Card you purchase provides for a safe place to sleep and a nutritious meal for the women we serve.

Cards will be sold after the 5 p.m. Saturday/Sunday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday Masses on December 10th/11th and December 17/18!

Contact Nancy Stillger at nstillger@gmail.com for more information or to arrange for purchase at another time.

NOEL HOUSE PROGRAMS PROVIDES SAFE, COMFORTABLE SHELTER FOR A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF WOMEN, PARTICULARLY THOSE MOST VULNERABLE. THEY STRIVE TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT OF DIGNITY, RESPECT AND COMPASSION. THEY RECOGNIZE THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF EACH PERSON AND HONOR HER UNIQUE EXPERIENCE.

Mustard Seed Corner

Nov 17, 2011/Nov 24, 2011

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception – December 8, 2011
On this day we celebrate and honor the holiness and innocence of Mary. As Catholics we believe that Mary was at her conception free of sin. She was free of original sin and is pure enough to be mother of Jesus. The feast of the Immaculate Conception is a holy day of obligation.

Prayer to Mary

Holy Mary, Mother of Jesus, we honor you on this special day. You were born to grow up to be mother of Jesus. As we remember you today, we ask that you help us to love God with all of our hearts. You accepted God's plan for you without hesitation and we ask that we too will be able to accept God's plan for our lives. Amen.

Blessings to you and yours this Holiday Season!

Community Postings

***Happy 20th Anniversary Belli Capelli Salon & Spa
Please Help us Celebrate!***

Open House Saturday Dec 3rd – 3:30 – 6:30PM









See attached Flyer

LEE'S MARTIAL ARTS (West Seattle)

PARENTS NIGHT OUT!!! Saturday December 3rd ***AND *** Friday December 16th (6-10PM)
Get some last minute Christmas shopping done while the kids have their own fun! Cost is \$30/child \$40/ 2 kids Includes dinner, games, popcorn and movies! Please RSVP. It is required.

KIDS SELF DEFENSE CLASS Sunday December 11th, from 2:00-4:00 PM. (Please arrive 15 min early so we can start promptly) Cost is \$30 The Kids Self Defense Workshop is designed to inform and empower kids 6 - 11 years of age on the basics of self defense. This class will include a highly rated film, role-playing, and physical self-defense tools.
RSVP and advanced payment is required.

www.LMAWestSeattle.com
LMAWestSeattle@aol.com

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|  Dec 8 | Immaculate Conception Mass |
|  Dec 9 | Report Cards |
|  Dec 12 | Gr 3 – 6 Advent Reconciliation |
|  Dec 14 | Gr 7 & 8 Advent Reconciliation |
|  Dec 16 | Noon Dismissal |
|  Dec 16 | Faith Family Card Exchange |
|  Dec 19- Jan 1 | Christmas Vacation |
|  Jan 5 | Epiphany Program |