



CONN-AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

“Centered in Christ”

December 2022

One day, last week, our morning prayer was from the letter of Paul to the Galatians. It tells us to live by the Spirit and what the Spirit desires. ...for the FRUIT of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I often encourage our students to pray to the Holy Spirit in times of stress, more so for the GIFTS of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, and wonder and awe for the Lord. That is why Conn-Area Catholic School exists - to assist you in helping your children to live by the Spirit! What a great way to prepare for the coming of Jesus during our Advent season!

Advent

Happy New Year! The church calendar begins with Advent. On November 27th, we will celebrate the start of this liturgical year with the First Sunday in Advent. Throughout the following four weeks, we are encouraged to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. The children will be doing kind deeds in anticipation of His coming.





Advent Angel Tree

Our Advent Tree will slowly become covered with angels, as our students bring in donations for the pro-life pregnancy support center, **Alternatives. Yes**. This center provides for disadvantaged families in our community, resources that help them to adjust to a new baby in the family. It requires them to take courses that support their parenting, in exchange for the items they receive. We ask that you check out the flyer within this packet to identify what your child's grade is being asked to donate. Thank you, in advance, for your donations.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 8th is a holy day in the Catholic church. This is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We believe that Mary was conceived without sin. Our entire school community will be attending Mass on that day. We invite you to join us at Immaculate Conception Church at 10:00. Students are to be in formal attire.



St. Nick Day

December 6th is St. Nick Day. The children will be writing a message to St. Nick, letting him know what they plan to do during Advent to prepare their hearts for Christmas. We suspect that St. Nick will sneak into the building to retrieve these notes. Somehow, he manages to get in and out without any of us seeing him.



Advent/Christmas Program

Our annual Advent/Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 11th at 4:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. Every student in the school is involved in this program. We would love to have everyone there, so please make this a priority. The students are to dress up in 'church clothes'. You do not need to buy new clothes. Just have your child dress in something they might wear to church on Sunday. It is also on this day that the Dairy Queen will provide to our school 10% of their sales that come from our families. See the enclosed flyer for the details. Thank you to the DQ for their generosity.



Advent Penance Service

During the Advent season, our Catholic students will have the opportunity to go to confession. On December 19th, all students will participate in a prayer service and do an examination of conscience. This provides them a time to reflect on their behavior in preparation for confession. We thank Fr. Julius for planning this and for all the priests in the area who come to assist. It is a beautiful experience.



Christmas Parties/Christmas Break

Our last day of school before our Christmas break will be on Wednesday, December 21. There will be an 11:15 early dismissal, with van/bus transportation provided. It will be on that morning that we will have our Christmas parties. Students are permitted to dress down on this day. Christmas break will go through January 2.



Progress Reports

Our mid-way mark for the second nine weeks is on December 2. If your child is struggling or not working to their potential, you will receive notification in the mail. This provides enough time to remedy the causes and to improve on their learning.



Pride in Connellsville Winners

I am so proud to announce our many winners from the Connellsville Historical Society's "Pride in Connellsville Essay and Poster Contest". Each student in grades 4th, 5th, and 6th grade submitted either an essay or a poster that highlighted a place, event, etc. in Connellsville. There were many great entries. And the winners are..... Poetry: first place – Khredance Zylka, second place – Syndil Fisher, third place – Nora Al-Fakih. Honorable mention goes to Adalynn Allen and Conel Stevenson. For the Poster division: first place – Zavier Bechtold, second place – Paige Dolan, third place – Tristan Brown and Ava Sampey. Honorable mention goes to Connor Knizner, Anna Pascoe, and Travis Snyder. Special merit was awarded to Brielle Dziurzynski and Noel Sampey. Congratulations on their hard work and great accomplishments! These students presented their pieces at a ceremony on November 10.

Monster Mash Bash – The Jason Kendall Productions

Congratulations to all of you on the success of our Monster Mash Bash! We profited just over \$10,000. Your support through donations of time, talent, and treasures made this possible. We are so deeply grateful for your generosity and interest in the school. God bless you. A special shout-out to Mrs. Baker who chaired this event and put in countless hours. Thank you to Mrs. Zimmermann who cooked and managed all the food and to those on the committee who helped with the legwork of securing donations. Our sincere gratitude to our sponsors: Black Diamond Equipment Rental, Bud Murphy's Sports Bar & Restaurant, Laurel Highlands Wealth Advisory Group of JMS, and Budd Scale Service & Sales, Inc. You are all amazing.



Boys' Basketball and Cheerleading



Our boys' basketball and cheerleading seasons will officially begin this month. We were able to put together a JV team of 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. Mr. Eric Deal and Dr. Justin Stevenson are coaching the boys this year. We are grateful to have them do this so that our boys have an opportunity to discover and learn the skills of basketball. The girls' cheerleading squad is comprised of PK through 6th grade girls. Our coaches are Mrs. Tiffany Zylka, Ms. Renee Davis, and Mrs. Megan Patsch. We are happy to have them return. The girls will cheer at the boys' games. We hope you will join us to cheer on the Crusaders!



Cellurale Wreaths and Colebrook Chocolates



If you participated in either of these 'tuition assistance' programs, keep in mind that the coupons for the Cellurale orders can be found in this packet. They must be redeemed between December 2nd to the 4th. Colebrook Chocolates can be picked up at the school on December 6. Thank you for your participation in these.

Wishing you
a very spiritual Advent season,
a very Merry Christmas,
and a Blessed New Year!

