



CONN-AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

"Centered in Christ"

December 2023

*Advent is the start of the new Liturgical Year. During this time, we prepare for the coming of Jesus. The first week we focus on **HOPE**. Let us have hope for unity in our communities. The second week is **PEACE**. May there be an end to conflict in the world. The third week is **JOY**. Let us celebrate the 'anticipation' of Christ in our lives always. The fourth week is **LOVE**. May we work to love each other no matter our differences, as God intended. We hope you have a very spiritual Advent Season that brings to your lives: **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**.*



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Our students will be attending Mass at 10:00 on December 8. This is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is a time when we recognize that through the grace of God, our Blessed Mother, Mary was conceived within her mother's womb, without original sin. Because this is a holy day in the Catholic faith, our preschoolers and kindergarteners will also be attending. We hope that you will join us at Immaculate Conception Church.

Advent Penance Service



During the Advent season, our Catholic students will have the opportunity to go to confession. 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 our priests for their service to the school community. It is a beautiful experience.



First Reconciliation

We are very excited for our Catholic students who will be making their first confessions. This is one of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ through the grace of God. We are very blessed to have a loving and forgiving God, who understands our human failings. If you have not been to confession in years, you are always welcome back. Tell the priest and he will be happy to walk you through the process. It is never too late to get back to the sacraments. God bless our second graders as they begin this prayerful experience.



Christmas Program

Our students have been working very hard to be able to present to you our Christmas Program. On Sunday, December 10th at 4:00 p.m., please join us in the gymnasium, as we bring to you the spirit of Christmas through song and the re-enactment of the Nativity. Our kindergarten children will be taking you back to the time and place of Jesus's birth. Our sixth graders will be narrating, and the rest of the students will be singing of the glory of His birth. You will be very impressed with your children. Students may wear their Christmas dress up clothes. The Kindergarten through sixth graders are to report to their classrooms when they arrive at 3:40. The preschool children will sit with their parents and will be called up from their seats at the beginning of the show and then again at the end of the show. Thank you for understanding the importance of having your children experience this program of celebration. Thank you to the following for preparing the children: Mrs. Hlebechuk, Mrs. Gretz, Mrs. Colvin, Mrs. Sparks, and Mr. Broderick.



Preschool Christmas Program

Our Preschool children will be doing an additional Christmas program for their families on December 18th, prior to their Christmas party. Please refer to the correspondence that Mrs. Spotts provide for this event.



Advent Angel Tree

During Advent season, we are asking for donations of baby items which are donated to **Alternatives. Yes**, a pregnancy support center. The center helps young families get a good start with their newborn. Items are provided for those in need, as well as providing education for these young families. It has helped many families and our students have been a part of that mission. Please see the enclosed list of items we are collecting. When your child brings in an item, they will be given an angel to hang on the tree.



Christmas Parties for Grades K thru 6

Students in kindergarten thru sixth grade will celebrate their Christmas parties on Thursday, December 21st at 10:00. Immediately following the parties, all students will have an 11:15 early dismissal. Van/Bus Transportation will be available. This will be the start of our Christmas break. We will see the kids back in school on January 3.



St. Nicholas

December 6th is St. Nicholas Day. Students will be creating 'stockings' in school and placing a note within the stocking for St. Nick to pick up. The note tells him what they plan to do during the Advent Season to prepare for the coming of Jesus. In the past, St. Nick has left a candy cane in return. We will see what this year brings!



Stocking Stuffers

If you are interested in purchasing dress down passes for your child, they are \$3.00/each, with a maximum of three per child. Please see the enclosed flyer for more details.



Fire Prevention Essay Contest

Every year, our fifth and sixth graders participated in the Fire Prevention Essay Contest. We are proud to announce that we have a winner. Anna Pascoe will receive her award at a ceremony on December 2nd at New Haven Hose. In addition to winning at the Fayette County level, Anna's essay will also be entered in the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association. Congratulations, Anna! Thank you to Mrs. Kostley and Mrs. Hustosky for preparing the students for this project. I have no doubt the students learned a great deal from this experience.



Pride in Connellsville Winners

We are so proud of the many students from Conn-Area Catholic School who were awarded recognition for their work with the Pride in Connellsville Poster and Poetry Contests. The awards were presented on November 15th at the Connellsville Presbyterian Church. This contest has been a long tradition with our students. They research a topic that is specific to the history of Connellsville. This is sponsored by Connellsville's Historical Society. Our winners are:

- Poster Category – First Place: Brielle Dzuirzynski, Second Place: Scout Witt, Third Place: Mia Trice
- Poetry Category – First Place: Conel Stevenson, Second Place: Adalynn Allen, Third Place: Cullette Gross
- Honorable Mentions: Zach Schmidt, Logan Collins, Connor Knizner, Adelyn Bell, Maximus Barndt, Travis Snyder, Selma Al-Fakih
- Special Merit: Ryden Stillwagon, Alaina Christopher, Rylynn Ghrist



Boys Basketball and Girls Cheerleading



The Boys Basketball and the Girls Cheerleading seasons will be in full swing in December. We are blessed to have our returning basketball coaches: Mr. Deal, Dr. Stevenson, and Mr. and Mrs. Yoders. Ms. Davis and Mrs. Patsch will be leading the cheerleading squads. We are grateful for their service.

*May you have a meaningful Advent Season,
a blessed Merry Christmas,
and a healthy New Year.*

