

Notes from Dr. Greco
December 15, 2011

Please keep our Confirmation students in your joyful prayer. They were confirmed by Bishop DeSimone on Monday night. The Mass and the reverence the confirmandi displayed were moving and inspiring. Bishop DeSimone established a genuine rapport with our students. Thank you to all our Confirmation families for supporting your children in preparation for their last sacrament of initiation.

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Schmauk and the children for a beautiful Carol Night. The students always look forward to performing Christmas hymns and songs for our families. It is a unique evening when the entire school has the opportunity to come together. We hope that the hour you spent with us boosted your spirits and offered a respite for you from the "busyness" of the season. Our next Christmas event is our Christmas Band and God's Voice Concert on Wednesday, December 21st at 7pm in Conahan Hall. ALL are invited. You do not have to be a Band parent to attend.

Monday, December 19th is picture make-up day for students. If you are ordering pictures, please bring in your picture order envelope. In order to retake your picture, you must return your original picture order. Activity group pictures will also be taken on Monday for the yearbook.

On Tuesday, December 20th students will continue to be photographed for yearbook sports pictures. Since we will be including Cross Country and activities that younger aged students participate in, ALL students wear gym uniforms on Tuesday.

Monsignor Diamond has extended an invitation to our 8th grade students to attend the March For Life in Washington, DC on Monday, January 23rd. The day will begin with 7am Mass at Immaculate Conception and then we will board the bus for DC. The March for Life is at no cost to the students. A permission slip and detailed agenda will be sent home after the Christmas holidays.

Catholic Schools Week and our annual Open House will take place the week of January 29th. We have 100 lawn signs available. If you are able to display a lawn sign advertising our Open House, we would love to see them. Thank you to those families who have already volunteered. Please email ischool@comcast.net or pick one up in the school office if you would like to display a sign. Thank you! We want to beat the "frost" so that the signs can be put in the ground. Our Open House is an event we all enjoy as a parish and a chance for families to experience the Immaculate Conception "spirit" first hand. Once the event is over, we ask that signs be returned for their use next year.

Important information for our Philadelphia Families:

The Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia is accepting applications for 2,000 new, four-year, K-8th grade scholarships for Philadelphia children. The application process is free and easy to complete. These need-based scholarships are available to students entering grades K-8th in September 2012 and are awarded by random lottery. There are 2,000 new scholarships available for a maximum funding amount of \$2,150 per year, per child.

To be eligible, families must: meet income requirements, be residents of Philadelphia, have a child entering grades K-8th in fall 2012 and complete the required essay question. The essay is required but not "judged" as part of the qualification process. The Fund strictly adheres to a random lottery process. **The application deadline is March 1st.** **The easiest and quickest way for families to submit an application is online at www.csfphiladelphia.org.** **Now is the time to act. Don't pass up this opportunity.**

Calendar Revisions:

- There is NO First Friday Mass on Friday, January 6th.
- Universal Visitation Day for 8th grade students will be on Thursday, January 19th. Information will be sent home when we return from our Christmas break.
- School will be in session on Tuesday, January 31st.