



STAR GAZER

Newsletter of Our Lady Star of the Sea Regional School

C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S

When I was but a youngster,
Christmas meant one thing,
That I'd be getting lots of toys that day.
I learned a whole lot different,
When my Mother sat me down,
And taught me to spell Christmas this way:

"C" is for the Christ child, born upon this day,

"H" for herald angels in the night,

"R" means our Redeemer,

"I" means Israel,

"S" is for the star that shone so bright,

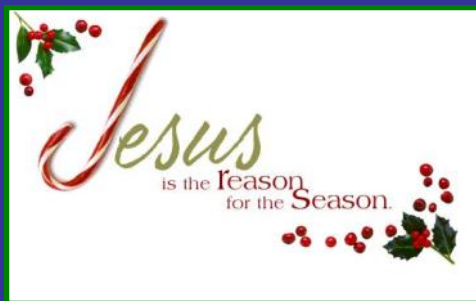
"T" is for three wise men, they who traveled
far,

"M" is for the manger where he lay,

"A" is for all He stands for,

"S" means shepherds came,

And that's why there's a Christmas day!



Congratulations to our Alumni listed on Wildwood Catholic's Honor Roll

First Honors

Gabrielle Adams
Arianna Alosi
B. Eric Axelsson IV
Victoria Bennett
Keira Heilpern
Christopher Kanya
Graham Neville
Amanda Palombo
Alexa Stefankiewicz
David Von Savage
Madeleine Von Savage

Second Honors

Patricia Dougherty
Elizabeth Durstewitz
Tyler Finley
Taylor Gleason
Emily Whissell
Jessica Yegosh





Classroom Happenings

Prekindergarten

As we enter Advent, the Prek students have made a wreath and have lit a candle each week, they understand this concept pretty well. We have also learned two new letters, the first being 'C' in which we have made Christmas cookies with Mrs. Wallace, made colorful chocolate candy, and had a C egg hunt. The second letter we studied was 'S' in which we made snowflakes, wrote Santa letters with Mrs. Lomax, made paper plate snakes and met Mrs. Murphy's real live snake.

The children also have been getting into the Christmas spirit by making gingerbread houses, learning about St. Nicholas, and making beautiful angels. They worked like little elves on their top secret project, you will find out in time what that is, parents! The students are working very hard practicing for their Christmas show as well. Parents get ready to see the children shine like Christmas stars! I'd like to take this time to wish everyone a blessed and Merry Christmas. I will see you next year!!!

Kindergarten

We have been busy practicing both our play, *The Hoity Toity Angel* and our school Christmas presentation. We have been making presents for our parents. We have made a "special" gift with the help of our 8th grade prayer partners.

Our prayer partners made us Christmas presents and we had a little party with them on the 19th, complete with Christmas cookies.

We have had "guest" readers (parents and other relatives), who came in and read us Christmas stories during the month of December. This is something we would like to continue with other favorite books when we return in January!!

We went to see the live performance of *The Christmas Carol*. We also learned a lot about Victorian Christmases from a wonderful presentation by the MAC.

In religion we have been studying Advent and although we do know about "waiting patiently", visions of sugar plums continue to excite us!!

On Monday, the 22nd, we are having a special Birthday celebration for the baby Jesus, along with 1st and 2nd grade. Then on Tuesday, we will perform *The Hoity Toity Angel* at 9:30 a.m. The kindergarten students will be either angels or stars, and we are incredibly cute!!

First Grade

Merry Christmas from our first grade family to yours! We have been busily preparing our hearts for Jesus' birthday. We practiced our songs for our Christmas concert remembering this is a gift to Jesus. We happily practiced and practiced for our presentation of the *Hoity-Toity Angel*. We were a big hit at the Victorian Towers and hope all can come see our performance to help bring meaning to the season! We learned the importance of generosity through our participation with the giving tree, money for the missions, and by watching the wonderful performance of *A Christmas Carol*.

In between all the fun, we have also begun learning to subtract, continuing our reading comprehension using our new reading series *Storytown*, and have added some new "rules" for our Vowac. We can't wait to begin spelling in the new year! We hope all enjoy a blessed Christmas, a restful vacation and a happy new year!

Second Grade

As we think back on December, we realize it was a very busy month. We prepared for our play.. It a huge success and some of us think we are ready for "Broadway." We had a great time singing with the third grade at the Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Coast Guard Base. We have also been leading the singing during our weekly school-wide Advent prayer service. We are quite the singers!

Second grade is resolved to continue to work, work, work. We continue to pray for all who have asked for our prayers and those who need our prayers.

2009 will be a busy time for second grade, with preparation for Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Keep us in your prayers.

Third Grade

To observe Veterans Day the third grade made a special Wall of Honor for all of their family members who served in the military. They made thank you cards thanking them for their service to our country. At the monument in Cape May they composed a very special poem telling them how they felt about what they have done for our country and us. We prayed the Patriotic Rosary as a school.

We had a special visitor, Emlen Physick, from the MAC Center who taught us more about Victorian times in our community.

We had a delicious Thanksgiving Feast. Enjoyed by all! Thank you PTA! The third grade memorized and acted out a poem, *Twass the Day before Thanksgiving*. They had a good time preparing for it. In class, we learned about the First Thanksgiving. We watch a video on *The First Thanksgiving* and did activities both fun and educational. We made hats to wear at the feast. Pilgrim hats for both the ladies and the men and Native American bands with feathers. The ladies' hats were a hit. The ladies from the Christ Child Society liked them so much that the children made them all one. We went to Mass for Thanksgiving. The Mass was beautifully done by the eighth grade.

The children really enjoyed "*The Christmas Carol*" at Elaine's. They were really impressed with how close the actors were to them. They all told what part of the play they liked best.

For Advent they made Advent wreaths, one for school and one for home. We have been counting down the days till Christmas day by our Advent chains and doing the special activities. Also we read everyday a special story about the life of Jesus to help us know the story up to His birth. We celebrated the Immaculate Conception with Mass and special activities. We celebrated Our Lady Of Guadalupe by watching a video on her life and Juan Diego.

The second and third grade sang at the Coast Guard Base for their tree lighting ceremony. They sounded like angels. As a special treat Santa came to see them. Thank you Coast Guard!

Fourth Grade

The fourth grade has done many wonderful things these past few weeks. In November we celebrated Veteran's Day. We attended the Patriotic Rosary and presented the Veterans with cards. Afterward we walked to the Veteran's monument to participate in the ceremony. We prepared A Wall of Honor to recognize family and friends who served our country.



Classroom Happenings *continued*

Thanksgiving was a wonderful time. Our class learned about the hardships faced by the Pilgrims on their voyage to the New World. We made Pilgrim hats and bonnets as well as Native American headdress which we wore to the Thanksgiving feast. Thank you to everyone who helped to prepare our wonderful feast. We also enjoyed participating in the Thanksgiving Liturgy.

The third and fourth grades continue to learn about Victorian life. We were visited by Dr. Emlen Physick, who taught us about life in Cape May during the Victorian period and introduced us to some of the Victorian Christmas customs that are familiar to us today. We enjoyed watching *A Christmas Carol* at Elaine's dinner theater. We will also participate in the Victorian Christmas program presented by MAC.

Our class has been preparing for the coming of Christmas. We made Advent wreaths and celebrated the feasts of St. Nicholas, Immaculate Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and St. Lucy. We have also been practicing for the Christmas concert. The fourth grade would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Fifth Grade

Greetings from Fifth Grade! We've had a very busy Advent. The Christmas Pageant was fabulous, kudos to Mr. New, Sister Linda and Mr. Orr.

Fifth grade is looking forward to the addition of a new student. Carly will be joining our class after the Christmas break.

Along with our academic studies, we have been busy sorting and wrapping Christmas cards featuring artwork of OLSOS students. Proceeds from the sale of the cards (10 for \$5) will go to offset the cost of hosting the intercultural students who visit in the spring. If you are interested in purchasing some cards just send a note in with your child or call the business office.

Blessings to your family this Christmas!

Ms. Feketics' Notes

8th grade Algebra students are working on Chapter 5, writing and solving linear equations in slope intercept, point slope, and standard forms. The midterm will be cumulative through Chapter 5 and count as two major test grades.

7th grade PreAlgebra students are finishing Chapter 5 on fraction operations. We will start Chapter 6 when we return from Christmas break. The midterm will be cumulative through Chapter 6 (as far as we get by January 9th) and count as two major test grades.

6th Grade Advanced Math students are now working on Chapter 8, studying measurement. After that we will skip to Geometry, so they will be ready for IOWA testing in March. The midterm will be cumulative through Chapter 8 and count as two major test grades.

5th Grade Advanced Math students are working on Chapter 5, adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. The midterm will be cumulative through Chapter 5 and count as two major test grades. All Math midterm dates will be January 13th and 14th.

In science, both the 5th and 6th Grades are finishing up their exploration of the solar system. Even though we will be moving on after exams, their science fair alien project will need to be completed at home. Students will receive any revisions needed on their planet research during exam week. The midterm will be cumulative on Unit D and the planet handouts. The midterm will count as two major test grades. Midterm date: January 20th.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Mr. Beck's Notes

A Merry, Merry Christmas from all the 7th grade citizens! We love this time of the year and know you do, also. By the time you get this message we will be back from our long-awaited trip to Sight & Sound in Lancaster. The 7th grade class prepared the Advent Mass Friday Dec. 19th, we were grateful to see so many parents there.

Our annual leaf-raking program is scheduled for Dec. 29th at 9am and hopefully you have seen the permission form and that your student has returned the form to school.

In class, we have finished the American Revolution and will be spending a considerable amount of time on the establishment of our government and constitution. The students will be working on a timeline project during the break. We continue to examine the New Testament and especially the Letters of St. Paul in our religion series. In addition, information has been sent home regarding the upcoming Confirmation for our students.

Have a safe and family-filled Christmas Season!

Mrs. DiPasquale's Notes

The eighth grade is into full Christmas spirit. They met with prayer partners to write letters to Santa. They then put on the Santa hats and wrote from his point of view in answer to the kindergarten. The eighth grade also taught a computer lesson to the kindergarten. Both grades really enjoy these visits. Many members of the class volunteered to help the parish host its appreciation dinner on December 12th. Finally, they worked hard getting ready to carry on the tradition of the Christmas tableau.

The classwork is also in full gear. The students are working especially hard this month on science projects, scholarship contest essays, and Confirmation preparation.

Mr. McGee's Spanish Notes

The students are filled with enthusiasm. It is very contagious, especially this time of year. Regarding Spanish, each class has been fantastic and I have been impressed with their talent. It is extremely exciting to see them progress so quickly. We must continue pushing forward and challenging ourselves further!

Thanks for everything and have a wonderful Christmas!

Mrs. Johnson's Notes

The Library Page: Our students have been enjoying Christmas Tumblebooks and readings of *The Christmas Story* and other holiday books. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you next year! -Mrs. Johnson

6th Grade Religion - We have been busy working on our prayer partner Christmas gifts and cards. We did a Saint Nicholas paper and we are currently working on our Christmas project, *A Christmas Story* written by the students as an inanimate object. What great imaginations they have! Until next year, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



★ ★ Thanks and more ★ ★

Thanks from the Healthy Families Organization

Dear Students and Families of OLSOSRS,

“Thanks” is such a little word — no bigger than a minute—but there’s a world of meaning and appreciation in it!

The diapers, gloves, scarves, mittens, cranyons and books were awesome. Thanks so much!

Thanks from CARA

To Our Lady Star of the Sea Regional School,

On behalf of all of us at CARA, thank you for your donations of children’s clothes and winter coats.

Your support and kindness are much appreciated. Thank you for helping those who are in need.

Sincerely,
Patty and Staff



Eighth grade servers at Monsignor’s parish appreciation dinner



Pre-school student **Liam Reich** just welcomed new sister **McKenna** on December 2nd. Everyone is doing well! McKenna has already been to some of the events at school and Liam’s mom was recently spied “rockin around the Christmas tree”

★ ★ Advancement Office ★ ★

TYPING HELP STILL NEEDED

If you have a spare hour or so and have basic typing skills, the advancement office would love your assistance with a project being undertaken. Thank you to Mrs. Burkhardt, Mrs. Garry and Mrs. Johnson who have helped get the project started.

If you can spare a little bit of time on occasion, please contact Mrs. Mulville in the school office.

WEB SITE RE-DESIGN PROJECT

Mr. Bader (who owns the local web design company *Cape Graphics*) has been helping us design our new website. The initial drafts are looking terrific!

Now we need your help; in order to create a site that is efficient and easy to use, we need feedback from the users.

What do you use the website for? Is it easy or difficult to find the information you are looking for? What do you wish was on the site and what are you glad is there? What have you looked for but couldn’t find? What do you think should be on the home page (such as a calendar, the green envelope)?

If you would be willing to share your feedback with us, please contact Mrs. Mulville either by phone or email. Our goal is to have the new site up and running by early spring.

ALUMNI PROJECT

Are you or someone you know a graduate of Our Lady Star of the Sea or St. Raymond’s school? Eventually, we’d like to hold a class reunion so we are trying to begin collecting names and contact information of former students.

Please contact Mrs. Mulville with any information you can share.





Calendar, Photos and Star Students



WHAT'S COMING UP?

- ★ *Tuesday, 12/23* Noon Dismissal
- ★ *Thursday, 12/25* Christmas
- ★ *Monday, 1/5* School reopens
- ★ *Wednesday, 1/7* **General PTA Meeting** at 6:30 pm, parents of basketball players & cheerleaders to stay for the athletic association meeting at 7:15 pm.
- ★ *Friday, 1/9* **Mass 9 am/Noon Dismissal/ Blood Drive 10 am-4 pm**
- ★ *Week of 1/12* **6th through 8th grade Mid-term exams**
- ★ *Thursday, 1/15* **Prayer Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King**
- ★ *Monday, 1/19* **No School** Faculty Retreat
- ★ *Wednesday, 1/21* **PTA Board meeting at 6:30 pm**
- ★ *Friday, 1/23* **End of 2nd marking period**
- ★ *Thursday, 12/11* **Check Churchwerks** for midterm grades



STAR STUDENTS



November - Peace

- ★ Vincent Soda, Lexi Wallace
- ★ LeNyah Bryan, Mary Dunleavy, Alexis Mateo, Robert Quinn, Maxwell Souder
- ★ Tandi Ankrum, Gabriel Coffey, Emily Holzer, Amy Serra
- ★ PJ Bogle, Erin Connelly, Kate Donaldson, Natalie Babore, Thomas Logan, Keith McKinney, Reilly Sheehan, Remi Wallace
- ★ Alyssa Francesco, Madisen Friedhoff, Skyla LaMonica, Lillia Mitchum, Jack Sandman, Seaira Tosto
- ★ Mary Gomez, Kayla Grimley, Rian Lawley, Tristán Rosas
- ★ Laura Lombardelli, Ryan McDuell, Jacqui Schmucker
- ★ Shannon Birdsell, Peter Tomlin
- ★ Talia Besu, Marco Quiroz, Samantha Wilder, Josh Zilinek
- ★ Caskia Czworkowski, Tom Doherty, Lexi McDuell, Eli Neville
- ★ Our apologies to PJ Bogle, whose name was omitted from last month's list of Star Students

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION COACH / PARENT MEETING

★ MEET / TALK WITH COACHES ★

JANUARY 7TH FOLLOWING PTA MEETING

APPROX 7:15PM IN THE GYM

JV GIRLS ★ JV BOYS ★ VARSITY GIRLS ★ VARSITY BOYS
CHEERLEADERS

TOPICS

FLOOR MAINTENANCE ★ PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY

KITCHEN HELP

PANCAKE BREAKFAST ★ GAMES HOME / AWAY

TOURNAMENTS ★ TRAVEL

TEAM PLAY ★ AND MORE....

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT

Bill Gray 609-425-8551