



Saint Francis of Assisi School

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December 2007

Dear Parents(s)Guardian(s),

The school calendar somehow gives our lives a wonderful rhythm of purpose and perspective. As we flip the calendar to yet another month, we look forward to more favorite Saint Francis of Assisi traditions including service projects, Monday morning Advent prayer, the December school liturgy, breakfast with Santa, Santa's workshop, ornament making, Christmas concert, and Holiday Card Fundraiser. All of these put together produce one very BUSY month. We love the anticipation of the winter as much as we long for the expectations of the holidays. It's a revitalizing and life-giving pattern. But more than that, both opportunities give us pause to reflect on what lies ahead and what we have accomplished. We feel truly blessed to be teaching in a Catholic school, where we may prepare for Jesus during the weeks of Advent and share the true meaning of Christmas with our students. May the upcoming weeks be filled with appreciation for those who nurture us personally, intellectually, and spiritually. In the busy moments, may we take time to reflect upon our families, our priorities, and our beliefs. May we continue to count our blessings as we move through this season of Advent.

Reminder: There is NO SCHOOL on Tuesday, December 4.

Christmas Concert: On December 19th students will present our Annual Christmas Concert, "The Tale of the Drowsy Shepherd." The children from Pre-K – Grade 8 will take us on a musical journey to Bethlehem. Our Saint Francis families are invited to attend this event. The concert will begin at 10:00 A.M. Doors will open at 9:45 A.M. Anyone who has difficulty handling the stairs will be accommodated and may come at 9:30 A.M. **The children will be dismissed at 12:00 noon.** This is a great opportunity for you to spend a family day together enjoying a lunch at home or at a restaurant and complementing the children for their fine performance on the show. Handbook

Reminder: Children are required to wear red, white, or green turtleneck jerseys with black pants and black shoes for this event.

Basketball: Our girls' and boys' basketball season has begun. Please come to the games and support the students of our school.

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Winter Attire: Winter uniforms are in effect until April 1st. Girls may wear pants with the uniform sweater. Kids are required to wear coats, hats, mittens during the winter months, but most importantly, to wear a coat. We are amazed at the number of children who arrive to school without coats on days that it has been 30 degrees. THIS could be considered neglect. Please note, those children who are not dressed accordingly will be kept indoors from outdoor recess, library and any outdoor activity.

Holiday Cards: Within a week, each family will receive 12 or 17 Holiday Calendars to sell for our major fundraiser for the year. A reminder to all: Each family is required to sell these calendars or be assessed \$120/\$170 per family. This is part of our tuition policy that you agreed upon in the spring. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Advent Season: All students will be preparing for Christmas 2007 by participating in the lighting of the Advent Wreath each Monday morning. What will you do during this holy season?

Santa's Breakfast: Sunday, December 9 is the annual Santa's Breakfast in SFA School Hall from 8:30-11:00 A.M. This always promises to be a very nice day for all who attend. Please check our website, www.sfab.org for volunteer and sign up sheets.

Red & Green Day: December 11 will be a Red & Green Day at Saint Francis of Assisi School. Please have your children wear red or green, but we do not expect you to purchase a new outfit.

Inclement Weather: Saint Francis of Assisi School follows the Braintree Public Schools announcements. In addition, we will use our **Connect-Ed** communication system.

Special Note: Please discuss (bus, pick up, going home with a friend, etc.) in the morning as a family. We cannot continue to take calls during the school day interrupting instructional time, testing, etc. Furthermore this is causing some confusion with the children.

May the peace and joy of this beautiful season of Advent be with you and yours during the upcoming weeks leading to Christmas.

Sincerely,

Vittoria DeBenedictis, M.Ed.
Principal