

# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT!

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

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*Thank You*

A sincere **thank you** from the Women's Guild to everyone who participated in making our annual Giving Tree event very successful again this year. The staff at the Fatima Family Center was extremely grateful for the generosity of our school children, especially during these difficult economic times. Your gifts are certain to help the needy children of our diocese have a Merry Christmas. May God bless all of you for your kindness.



Advent

**REFLECTION:** "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!" Uttered by the heavenly messenger, Gabriel, to a Jewish maiden (Lk 1:28), these words, of course, make up the first phrase of the Hail Mary. The second phrase of that great prayer comes from an earthly creature, Elizabeth, the cousin of Mary, who exclaims: "Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb" (Lk 1:42). St. Bede remarks that this is fitting since the two remarks show that Mary "should be honored by angels and by men and why she should indeed be revered above all other women."

**Congratulations** to Mrs. Marilyn Freas and all who helped to plan and prepare the joyful Christmas concert last Thursday. Your creativity and enthusiasm brings with it many blessings for the students, parish and school families!

**A Note from the Music Department:** A "round of applause" to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes, Junior High Chime Choir, the Recorder Club and instrumentalists for a wonderful performance of "Christmas Holiday Favorites" on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Mrs. Linda Hart, Miss Maria Pozzuto, Mrs. Stacie Webster, and Miss Rosetta Vercellino for all the time and energy spent in the classroom and during rehearsals to prepare the students for the concert. Another special thanks to our musicians Mrs. Mary Guzan, Mr. Jake Novak, and Mr. Tim Lake for sharing their musical talents. Many thanks also, to our Junior High students and to all who helped make the concert a success.

#### Jaguar Readers

Thank you to the following students for donating books to the Library:  
**Peter Hurley, Dara Byrd, Megan Clifford, Aden Watson, Jackie Gambrell, Grace Bujoll, and Jacob Hanicak.**

**Winter Wonderland Frenzy...**The Junior High Dance is on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please note that the time (10:30PM) stated on the invitation was incorrect. The dance will end at 10PM. Students...don't forget to turn in your RSVP for the dance. They were due today (Dec 14<sup>th</sup>).

**BOX TOPS:** While preparing your special meals this Christmas season, please don't forget to continue cutting and saving your Box Tops, Campbell, and Tyson labels. Also, please send in any Campbell Labels (UPC codes) you may currently have by this Wednesday. We have an opportunity to receive Bonus Points if we submit labels by the end of December. Please call Erica DiNovo with any questions at (440) 460-0219.

**BEAN BAG BASH...** to benefit the St. Greg's Athletic Club and Drama Club  
Mark your calendars! The first ever BEAN BAG BASH will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2010. The evening will feature bean bag tournaments, prizes, food and drink. Details, including tournament registration information and court sponsorships are posted on the school website and will be sent home later in paper packs.



**REMINDER/SCHOOL CLOSINGS:** St. Gregory will be closed if South Euclid/Lyndhurst Schools are closed for the weather. We make every attempt to have weather related closing announced on the local TV stations. If there is an emergency affecting St. Gregory the Great School only, parents will be notified by room parents. School closings will be reported as soon as possible. Thank you!



“HOME OF THE JAGUARS”

**NEWS FROM RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE:** The St. Gregory the Great Respect Life Essay Contest uses the same theme as that chosen by Ohio LifeWorks (formerly Cleveland Right to Life) for their Essay Contest. Therefore the students have the chance of winning in two contests. The theme for the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades was “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you...” Jeremiah 1:5. The first place winners won a cash prize of \$30.00, and the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. to take part in the “March for Life” in January, 2010. The second place winners won a cash prize of \$20.00 and third place winners - \$15.00. Honorable Mention winners were awarded – Certificates of Achievement. The first, second and third place winners received a framed copy of their essays. The names of the first place winners will be engraved on the plaque which is displayed in the first floor main hallway of the school. The judges this year were Mindy Gromek, Lisa Buhrow and Teresa Hill. A big thank you goes to the teachers for their cooperation and support of the contest and the students for the hard work that they put into their essays. The following are the winners of this year’s contest sponsored by the St. Gregory Respect Life Committee:



**2009-2010 Respect Life Essay Contest**

	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>
<b>First Place</b>	Jimmy Brinkman	Mary Medovich	Jack Rochester
<b>Second Place</b>	Maddie King	Chris Trotta	Ana Sofia Fehn
<b>Third Place</b>	Rachel Novinc	Helen Mersek	Nicholas Berlin
<b>Honorable Mention:</b>	Mia Mastroianni	Ryan Newlon	Meghan Loya
	Samantha Bauman	Sean Mucha	Grace Novinc
	Rachel Windbigler	Morgan Sonnhalter	Matt Medovich
	Jonathan Loya	Jackie Gueulette	Lianna LoDuca
	Anna Senchak	Michael Gauden	Quinn Lawless
			Maggie Andorka

**The March for Life in Washington DC on January 21 and 22, 2010**

The St. Gregory the Great Respect Life Committee is sponsoring a bus trip to Washington DC. Please join us and take part in the March for Life to witness on the behalf of the unborn and lobby our representatives in Congress. There is limited space; please contact Mrs. Rita Krebs at (216) 291-0842 to reserve a spot. The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. The bus has filled up quickly in the past, please call early! There is no cost for the bus. The bus will leave the St. Gregory parking lot at 6:30AM on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> and return late on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Students must be chaperoned. Room rates for our overnight stay on Thursday are as follows: Single \$180.00, 2-person double \$90.00 each, 3-person \$60.00 each, and 4-person \$45.00. Please call Mrs. Krebs at the number above for lodging fees, as arrangements can be made to host up to four people in a room. Thank you!

**ART NEWS:** The Art Fair is coming to St. Greg's on January 31<sup>st</sup>. This is during our Open House which is the start of Catholic Schools Week. Each student will have one piece of art work matted and framed. What a wonderful opportunity to spotlight our talented students! See the attached invitation and please RSVP so we can anticipate your arrival.

**Rachel Novinc** qualified for the Cross Country Coaches National Youth Championship on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Although the event was held in Nashville, TN, the weather was very cold as she ran against 122 of the best runners in her age group from around the country. Only the top 25 runners in the event are recognized with awards and Rachel was up to the task finishing her 4K race with a time of 16:44 and placing 23<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations for a job well done!

**KINDERGARTEN PARENTS:** All Kindergarten children are invited to come to the 5PM Christmas Eve Liturgy and to participate in the Mass by processing down the isle with the Celebrant as Mass begins. The children then will join their families in the pews. The students are welcome to dress as angels and shepherds for this joyful celebration. Please have the children meet Mrs. Berlin and Mrs. Ianni in the back of the church at 4:45PM. For questions please call your child’s teacher.

**Parents/Reminder:** On Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> we have early dismissal at 1:30PM. The buses will be here at that time for the early dismissal.

**Mrs. Amy Ianni** has announced that she will be leaving her position at St. Gregory’s after the Christmas break. She has accepted a position at the Cleveland Clinic. Mrs. Ianni started at St. Gregory’s in 1999, and is in her tenth year as a kindergarten aide. Parents, teachers, and students are well aware of the wonderful work she does with our kindergartners each and every day. Mrs. Ianni, we will miss you! We wish you the very best in your new work!