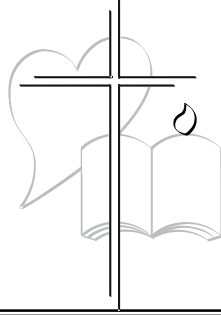


ST. GREGORY THE GREAT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE



Fr. Dave R. Ireland, Pastor
Parish Office 216-382-7601
www.saintgregoryparish.org
Extended Care 216-382-9513

Mr. Peter Wilson, Principal
School Office 216-381-0363
Attendance Office 216-381-7781
www.stgregoryonline.org
Fax 216-381-7561

“HOME OF THE JAGUARS” DECEMBER 18, 2006

Christmas...A Living Reality: John Paul II, in his Angelus message of December 19, 1999, reminded us that Christmas is not simply the remembrance of the Event that took place 2000 years ago when, according to the Gospel, the power of God took on the frailty of a baby. It is really about a living reality that is repeated every year in the heart of believers.

"The mystery of the Holy Night, which historically happened two thousand years ago, must be lived as a spiritual event in the 'today' of the Liturgy," the Pope clarified. "The Word who found a dwelling in Mary's womb comes to knock on the heart of every person with singular intensity this Christmas."

With Christmas approaching, Benedict XVI asks us to find that silent place within ourselves where we can listen to God.

Silence "is so lacking in this world which is often too noisy, which is not favorable to recollection and listening to the voice of God," Benedict XVI said. "In this time of preparation for Christmas, let us cultivate interior recollection so as to receive and keep Jesus in our lives."

It is our mission to make holy the secular aspects of Christmas. We do this by being holy people; kind, patient, generous, loving, laughing people—no matter how maddening is the Christmas rush...

We, the faculty and staff, wish all of our wonderful St. Gregory families a blessed and holy Christmas and a happy New Year!

Parents/Reminder: As we come to the close of the calendar year, we must begin to think about registration for the 2007-2008 school year. As stated at curriculum night, we have been keeping records of Mass attendance/contributions, bingo participation, and whether or not you purchased an auction ticket. Please be aware, as presented at that meeting, that a lack of participation may affect your tuition rate for next year. If you have received a phone call or letter on any issue please respond appropriately.

Merry Christmas!

Kevin J. Doles
Business Manager

The Christmas break may be a good opportunity to check school uniforms to make sure they are complete and that they fit correctly. Review the school dress code if necessary. A few reminders: hair is to be appropriately trimmed and neat. School shoes are low cut, black or dark brown. Athletic shoes must be all black if they are worn as part of the school uniform. Tan suede boots are not part of the uniform. Hemlines of skirts are within one inch of the knee. Accessories are not worn with the uniform. Call the school office with any questions.

Giant Eagle/Apple for the Students: This is an opportunity for our school to earn points, and redeem them for educational tools as you shop at Giant Eagle. All you have to do is to register our school either by phone at (800) 474-4777 (follow voice prompts) or online at www.gianteagle.com. Click on the Apples For the Students icon. Follow on-screen instructions and enter the required information. By phone or online you will need to enter the school code #2832 and the 12 digit number printed on the back of your Giant Eagle Advantage card. It is located underneath the bar code. The program ends March 17th. Please feel free to stop by the Attendance office to be registered right here at the school. If you have any questions, please call the office at (216) 381-0363. Thank you!

Any parent who would be interested in helping with the "Great Book Reading Program" for grades three and four, please give the school office a call. Thank you!

School News: This year we will make a change in the date we use for the Kindergarten age cutoff. We will begin using September 30th instead of August 1st as the date by which a child must be five years old. This change will align our school better with the current practice in our state and in our diocese. The diocesan Office of Catholic Education recommends that each parish use the same date that is used by their local Board of Education. In South Euclid/Lyndhurst, as in most districts in this area, that date is September 30th. Our neighboring parishes are already using the date. We will continue to use our kindergarten screening program to determine each child's readiness for our kindergarten.

The Rainforest of Reading

The 2006 Book Fair was a tremendous success. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make the book fair fun and profitable: Mindy and Dan Sweet, Sylvia Strnad, Suzanne Harford, Jennifer Ruscsak, Patti Olson, Nancy Blatt, Carol Sisson, Deanne Hurley, and Cecilia Gueulette. Student helpers: Dennis Strnad, Grace Quinn and sales topped last year's. This gives us purchase new books for



Paxton Sweet, Mark Ruscsak, Zachary Guzan. This year's final sales for a total of over \$6500.00 approximately \$1900.00 to the library.

The winner of the candy guessed 272 pieces of actual number of 269. in One-for-One 110 books to the

guess was Jacob Kowalczyk. He candy, which was closest to the In addition, we collected \$110.00 donations. Scholastic will donate underprivileged in our name.

Thank you to all of you who supported the book fair and for all the students who helped turn our library into a Rainforest Jungle!!

-Mary Guzan, Librarian

From the Cafeteria: Lunch Menu

- Jan 4 – hotdogs or mini dogs, french fries, fruit and milk
- Jan 5 – French toast, sausage link, fruit, milk or orange juice
- Jan 6 – Mexican or Toni Pizza, cold veggie, fruit and milk
- Jan 8 – Chicken fajita, rice, peas, fruit, and milk

Parents/Reminder: On Tuesday, December 19th we have **early dismissal at 1:30PM**. The buses will be here at that time for the early dismissal.

Reminder: Registration packets for Preschool are due back now! Any questions please call the school office.

IMPORTANT/VIRTUS: For all of our volunteers, parish and school employees who are in need of getting finger printed, we have scheduled a date for Tuesday, January 9, 2007. This will be done from 5:30-7:30PM at the rectory. This is a necessary follow-up along with the completed Virtus training. The cost is \$15.00. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Wenzel at the school (216) 381-7781. Thank you!

Certificate News: The Rectory is only open until 5:00PM on Friday, December 22nd and from 10AM-12:00 on Saturday, December 23rd for certificate pick-up. Other arrangements can be made by calling Chrissy Novinc (440) 446-9399.

March For Life Bus: January 22, 2007 marks the 34th year since the infamous Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision which struck down laws restricting abortion in all 50 states. The Respect Life committee is sponsoring a bus trip to Washington D.C. to take part in the March For Life in January. On Sunday, January 21st the bus leaves St. Gregory the Great at 6:45AM and returns Monday, January 22nd about midnight. The overnight accommodations will be at the Capital Hilton. The bus will fill up quickly. For more information or to register please call Mary Ellen Satava 216-381-2198 or e-mail msatava@adelphia.net or Rita Krebs at 216-291-0842.