

Holy Ghost Catholic School
Phone: (402)731-5161 / Fax: (402) 731-5174
5302 South 52nd Street Omaha, NE 68117

Father Greg Benkowski, Pastor

Mrs. Dana M. Martin, Principal



HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY NEWS LETTER

WELCOME BACK FROM YOUR CHRISTMAS BREAK ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2012.

REMINDER: STARTING IMMEDIATELY: If your child is using a Jeans Day Pass, it must come to school with them and given to the teacher. If your child does not provide the Jeans Day Pass, you will not be able to participate in the next scheduled Jeans Day. Also, if you have “extra” Jeans Day pass, please use them, as they will not be allowed to be carried over from one year to the next. Note: They may NOT be worn on Church days.

We are currently collecting: Please send those Hy-Vee receipts into the school office so that we can total them up and earn some “cold” “hard” cash. Also, please keep turning in those Box Tops for Education, Our Family UPCs, Land O’ Lake Milk caps (clean please and with the sticker on top!!!) and Campbell Soup Labels. Any little bit helps the numbers add up for more money and/or points to purchase items.

NEW: We sent home an Office Depot ID school card for Holy Ghost. We can receive 5% back to school thru their program for purchases made by others who designate Holy Ghost school to benefit. Contact the school office for additional information and a billfold size card to put in your wallet.

SPEECH CLUB students are meeting twice this month to prepare to present their speeches at the Week-end Masses for Catholic School Week kick-off. See more information on CSW below.

PARISH FRIED CHICKEN DINNER is set for Friday, January 13, 2012 in the Social Hall, please come join us for a delicious dinner and socializing. Invite all of your friends, neighbors and relatives. See separate flyer for more details.

NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2012 in Honor of



Student Council SUCKER SALE is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2012 until Friday, January 20, 2012. A separate flyer will be sent home with the details from Student Council.

Lansky Pizza night is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at the 50th & L location. You may eat in or do carry out, just be sure to put your receipt in the Holy Ghost blue box and sign in your child/children so that they may earn a free Jeans Day pass (see note above about Jeans Day Passes) for Friday, January 27th. Serving times are from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Come and join other Holy Ghost families and parishioners and eat dinner out.

Student Council Break-A-Rule Day is scheduled for Friday, January 20, 2012. A separate flyer will be sent home with the details from Student Council.

2012-2013 SNEAK-A-PEEK FOR ALL-DAY PRE-KINDERGARTEN is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the ADPK classroom in the school. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let the school office know, so that we can send them more information to attend this evening.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012 will be the annual Catholic School Week with our “Famous” pancake breakfast, Cinnamon Roll Sunday and Bake Sale. See Separate flyer to follow with more details.

FAITH.ACADEMICS.SERVICE is the theme for this year’s Catholic Schools Week, please check-out the information that will be sent home to see what activities we will be enjoying this year.

Amazing Art Show Case, please check out the Amazing Art glass case in the School lobby. We are featuring the amazing 6th grader’s art with the featured artist Georgia O’Keeffe this month.

Please check the school website for more details on any of the events listed or check your bound calendars for more events.

HIGHLIGHTED CLASS OF THE MONTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS AND SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSES

It is with much gratitude that I thank everyone and anyone who had a hand in helping me and Mr. St. Claire with the Winter Program this year. The students involved were amazing, and I thank all the 6th – 8th graders for their hard work on creating the sets and learning their lines. I consider it a blessing to see such talent, and I loved being part of it.

In my room there’s been lots of learning going on. The 5th grade are finishing up their first novel, The Whipping Boy, which helped them learn about what it means to be a friend and what drives characters in a story to act the way they do. In Social Studies they are doing a mini unit on how to read maps using longitude and latitude. Their final project will be to plot out a map of Santa’s workshop using coordinates of degrees and minutes.

The 6th grade not only participated in the school play, but also read through the play *A Christmas Carol*. Using that story, they have written essays to show how different dramatic elements are used or function in a script. Now they know what it means to be a ‘scrooge’ and also what the *true* meaning of Christmas is. In Social Studies we are beginning to take a closer look at the Federation of Russia. Students currently learned about the location of various European countries, and are now focusing their studies on our International Fair topic. Christmas in Russia, the Communist rule of the Soviet Union, the imperial tsars, and many more topics will be covered in the upcoming months.

7th graders are beginning to work on their assessment in Language Arts. They will be reading a book, and then writing a 5 paragraph essay persuading me to put the book on a 7th grade must read book list. This will be worked on over break, and then continued into the month of January. Students will be reviewing plot diagrams, character motivation, and figurative language. I look forward to reviewing their progress over the past years when it comes to reading fiction. In Social Studies we have come to the beginnings of the American Revolution learning about how we initially broke our ties with Great Britain. When we return from break we will actually learn about the battles, people involved, and just how New England became the United State of America.

Finally the 8th graders have finished reading the play *The Diary of Anne Frank* while learning about WWII and the Holocaust. Their final project was to describe in a power point presentation the 8 members who went into hiding, and the historical facts that were featured in this story. The students were very much involved in the reading of this play, and very intellectual when we discussed these rather negative events of history. I am amazed at their inquiries, and am proud of the work they have produced for this unit. In Social Studies we are just breaking the surface of what caused the American Civil War. When we return from break, we will dive head first into these causes and the war itself.

Looking Forward: In my room we still have the Modern Woodmen of America Speech Contest which we will begin working on probably in March as well as the National Geography Bee which we are currently working on. The actual School Geography Bee will be held within the first 2 weeks of our return to school.

The students have done some amazing work, but there is still plenty to come and I look forward to each and every day I get to share that knowledge with them.

Respectfully, Ms. Heimann

