

# The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School  
December 2016

We hope you and your families had a wonderful Thanksgiving! It is hard to believe that December is here already! November was a short but busy school month. Thank you to all the parents who helped make our many November activities go smoothly - we couldn't do it all without you! A special note of gratitude to our Parents' Association for providing dinner for our teachers during conferences. We are also thankful for the time each of you took to meet with your children's teachers during conferences. Please remember that additional conferences may be requested and scheduled as needed at any time during the school year.



With the season of Advent upon us, we turn our thoughts to preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. This is one of the most important seasons of the church calendar, and we are honored to share this special time with your children here at school. In joyful anticipation, we light our Advent wreath and pray together on the morning announcements each week. We continue to do small things with great love, knowing that our students will truly grow in faith and service to others during Advent.

During this especially busy time of year, we would like to call to your attention some important dates you may wish to take note of now. Our first and second graders will present their Christmas program in Horning Hall on December 7 at 6:30 p.m. Seventh and eighth grade students will have mid-term exams December 16, 19 and 20 with a review day on December 15. December 21 will be our last day of school before Christmas Break, with early dismissal at 11:30 a.m. There will be no lunch periods that day. Christmas Break runs from the afternoon of December 21 through January 3. School resumes on January 4. The second quarter also ends on December 21, and the third quarter will begin on January 4. Second quarter report cards will be available to download on Ascend on January 12. Paper report cards will no longer be sent home. Second quarter interim reports were issued on November 22. Please remember that student progress can be checked any time on ASCEND.

Please plan to attend the Parents' Association general meeting on January 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center Gathering Area. Again this year, the meeting will be a combined meeting with our School Board, in lieu

of the previously scheduled January 10 School Board meeting. This meeting will feature our annual State of the School presentation with a look at the many exciting things we are doing here at school, and all parents are encouraged to attend. If you are considering kindergarten for your child next year, please RSVP by December 29 to 330-867-8720, ext. 343 for our Kindergarten Kaleidoscope event on January 12. This is a great way for parents and children to learn more about our kindergarten program! We hope to see all of you on January 29 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. for our annual Catholic Schools Week Open House. All current and prospective school families are invited to join us! This year's Open House will feature the return of the popular Faith, Hope and Love Café, serving up nourishment for both body and soul in Horning Hall! Please watch for more information about all of these events.

*At this Christmas when  
Christ comes, will He find a  
warm heart? Mark the season  
of Advent by loving and serving  
others with God's own love  
and concern.*

~Saint Mother Teresa

With Christmas Break just a few weeks away, this is the perfect time to think about some books your child might like to read independently or with you during the time away from school. A book would be a great Christmas gift! Nothing fills a chilly winter afternoon or evening quite like a good book by the fire! Has your child told you about our "Hot Reads"? Hot Reads can be spotted in classrooms and offices throughout the school! These are books our staff members are reading or have read and have on display to pique the curiosity of students. When students ask about the books, the staff members can then direct them to the library where they can check the books out for themselves! In keeping with our ac-

**Hot Reads Make  
Heartwarming Gifts!  
Principals' Picks**

**Mrs. Arnone recommends *Hamilton: The Revolution* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter. This book that inspired the hit musical tells the story of the poor kid from the Caribbean who fought the British, defended the Constitution, and helped to found the United States.**

**Mrs. Woodman recommends *Messenger* by Lois Lowry. In this third book in the *Giver* Quartet, Matty, who has been invaluable as a messenger in Village, must make one last journey through the treacherous forest with a power inside him as his only weapon.**

creditation goals to help students better understand what they read, we would like to offer some book suggestions that might be wonderfully received if they end up under your Christmas tree! Please see the box for our "Hot Read" picks!

Winter is on the horizon, so please be sure your child has a coat, hat, gloves or mittens, and boots for recess. As needed, school closings or two-hour delays will be announced by our One Call Now telephone notification system, as well as on Fox 8 news, the school website, and by email. School closing or delay information will be issued via One Call Now as soon as a determination is made to cancel school. Because many of our families rely on public school transportation and Latchkey at the end of the day, it is highly unlikely that school would ever be dismissed early due to worsening weather conditions once students are safely in the building. However, because so many of our students do ride public school buses from Copley, Highland, Revere, and Woodridge, closings in these districts, as well as other fac-

tors, may impact our decision to cancel or delay school in the morning, or even the night before. Thank you for your patience as we consider the many factors that help us to make the best decision to keep our students and staff safe.

Winter weather brings with it the cold and flu season, so please take a minute to read the health policy in our Family Handbook. Please call the school office by 9:30 a.m. if your child will be absent or late, and request homework at that time. Please note that we cannot guarantee homework to be ready for pick-up before the end of the school day, particularly during peak times of illness. Students should be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school after an illness. Your cooperation helps us to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all students.

*As always, we appreciate your continued support of our school and Catholic education. With our most sincere wishes for a joyful Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, health and happiness,*

*Mrs. Arnone  
Mrs. Woodman*

