

The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School
December 2017

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! One big activity in November was our school field trip to see the movie *Wonder* and the pep rally that followed it to reinforce the "Choose Kind" message of the movie. At the pep rally, the 8th grade class was awarded the kindness stick and is now charged with passing along the stick to another class that exhibits kindness. The kindness stick will be passed to a new class each month based on the class' acts of kindness. 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 focus on our school theme, 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 13 at 6:30 p.m. Seventh and eighth grade students will have mid-term exams December 15, 18 and 19. December 20 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 20 through January 2. School resumes on January 3. The second quarter ends on January 4, and the third quarter will begin on January 5. Second quarter report cards will be available to download on Gradelink on January 11. Paper report cards will no longer be sent home. Second quarter interim reports were issued on November 16. Please remember that student progress can be checked any time on Gradelink.

Please plan to attend the Parents' Association general meeting on January 17 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. 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 28 to 330-867-8720, ext. 343 for our Kindergarten Kaleidoscope event on January 11. 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 28 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. for

Did you know? Christmas is not the only holiday celebrated in December! Other religious and cultural holidays celebrated around the world include Boxing Day, Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Omi-soka, St. Lucia Day, St. Nicholas Day, and Three Kings Day.

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.

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

**Great Books Make
Heartwarming Gifts!
Principals' Picks**

Mrs. Arnone recommends *Auggie and Me* by R. J. Palacio — If you loved *Wonder*, this book gives you another perspective of Auggie through the eyes of Julian, Charlotte and Christopher.

Mrs. Woodman recommends *Santa's Magic Key* by Eric James — Don't have a chimney? No problem! Build a new family tradition with this delightful book!

Christmas gift! Nothing fills a chilly winter afternoon or evening quite like a good book by the fire! 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 book picks!

We have already begin to experience wintry weather, so please be sure your child has a coat, hat, gloves or mittens, and boots for recess. Also, a special reminder for our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students that during the school day, only the school uniform sweatshirt or 3/4 zip pullover are permitted. Hoodies and outerwear may not be worn in school. 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, Facebook, 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 factors, 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

