

The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School
December 2013

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 the parents who provided 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 try to find God in all things each day, 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 11 at 6:30 p.m. Seventh and eighth grade students will have mid-term

exams the week of December 16, with a review day on December 16, and exams on December 17, 18 and 19. December 20 will be our last day of school before Christmas Break, which runs from December 21 through January 5. School resumes on January 6. Looking ahead, the second quarter will end on January 10, and the third quarter will begin on January 13. Second quarter report cards will be sent home with all students on January 16. (Second quarter interim reports will be issued on December 5. Please remember that progress for students in grades 1-8 can be checked any time on Edline.)

Please plan to attend the Parents' Association general meeting on January 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center Gathering Area. This meeting will feature our annual State of the School presentation with a look at how we are integrating the Common Core standards into our curriculum, the status of our technology initiatives including our 1:1 iPad program, and much more. If you are considering kindergarten for your child next year, please RSVP by January 2 to 330-867-8720, ext. 343 for our Kindergarten Kaleidoscope event on January 16. 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 26 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 nour-

ment 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 Christmas gift! Nothing fills a chilly winter afternoon or evening quite

**Great Reads
Principals' Picks**

Mrs. Arnone recommends *Counting by 7's* by Holly Goldberg Sloan. This Newbery award hopeful tells the story of a girl with Asperger's Syndrome who deals with being an outsider, coping with loss, and discovering the true meaning of family. It is a tearjerker!

Mr. Baxendale recommends *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, which chronicles the tale of a boy who becomes lost in the woods and must learn to survive on his own.

like a good book by the fire! In keeping with our goal of improving reading comprehension, we will continue to offer book suggestions throughout the school year. Please see the box for our latest picks!

Our fall weather has been beautiful, but winter is just around the corner, so please be sure your child has a coat, hat, gloves or mittens, and boots for recess. As needed, school closings 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 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 stu-

dents 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 school in the morning, or even the night before.

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

Mr. Baxendale

