



December 7, 2017

Dear Parents,

Today's weather has everyone thinking winter, Christmas and snow! We have been very lucky with mild temperatures and perhaps have gotten out of the habit of wearing a coat. Now that the weather has turned cold, children need to wear coats, hats and gloves. We go outside even when it is cold, so please be sure your child/children are dressed ready for outside recess!

Preparations for Christmas continue throughout the school. Today, students in grades three through eight have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Last week, the eighth grade class sponsored Santa's Cottage. While this is a fund raiser for the eighth grade class, it is also an opportunity for all students to purchase Christmas gifts and treasures for family and friends. Hopefully the purchased gifts are still wrapped and will be a surprise on Christmas morning! The Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest was a huge success. Posters were judged by parishioners last weekend after Masses. The winning posters are displayed in the main hallway.

Congratulations to this year's winners:

Age Group 5-7 years: First place - Noah Woodrome; Second place – Natalia Flores

Age Group 8-10 years: First place – Taylor Cahill; Second place – Callie Kunz

Age Group 11-14 years: First place – Ella Lowry; Second place – Aggie Shining

The state of Illinois recently passed the Invest in Kids Act to help provide families funding to attend the school of their choice. The Tax Credit Scholarship Program begins in January 2018 and will automatically expire in January 2023 unless it is changed by the legislature. Scholarships will be awarded on a first come basis and income criteria (beginning with household annual income less than 185% of Federal Poverty level, 185%-250% and 251%-300% of Federal Poverty level). Please see the attached program description for additional information. Applications will be accepted beginning January 2, 2018 (even though additional information still needs to be disbursed to us from the state about the process). There will be a short, informational meeting for interested parents on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00 at Holy Childhood.

It has been a custom at Holy Childhood School that any parent/family who wishes to do so donates money that is given to our Pastor and Associate Pastor for birthday and Christmas gifts. If you would like to donate money to this gift, would you please send it to school with your child in an envelope marked "Priests' gifts"? I know both Father Paul and Father Jerry do not expect anything, but are grateful for the gifts they receive.

Blessings,

Claudia J. Dougherty, M.A., Ed.S.  
Principal

## **Calendar:**

Wednesday, Dec. 13 Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship informational meeting 6:00 in Parish Center  
Thursday, Dec. 14 Out of uniform – for \$1.00 donation your child may dress out of uniform.  
Theme is Christmas sweater or shirt  
Christmas Concert – beginning at 7:00 in the gym  
Wednesday, Dec. 20 End of second quarter  
Christmas vacation begins at 3:00  
Monday, Dec. 25 HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS  
Monday, Jan. 1 Happy New Year  
Wednesday, Jan 3 Classes resume at 8:00

## **SCRIPS**

Gift cards may be purchased in the school office Monday thru Friday. Cards will also be sold in the Gathering Space after all weekend Masses. Purchasing gift cards is a great way to support Holy Childhood School! Thank you!

## **Amazon Smile**

As you continue your Christmas shopping, please remember to log into Amazon Smile when purchasing through Amazon. By choosing Holy Childhood Church, a percentage of your purchase is returned to the school. Help HCS as you shop!

## **Golf Tournament**

It is not too early to think “Spring” and “Golf”! Mark your calendars so you don’t miss the Holy Childhood Golf Tournament scheduled for **Friday, April 20, 2018**. We will be doing a 12:00pm Shotgun start.