



St. Rose School

CHELSEA, MA

December 1, 2010

Dear Families,

Happy Advent! It was great to see some of you at our prayer service on Monday morning. This is one of my favorite times of year because it is a time of great hope! As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we reflect on our lives and we continue to think about time. It never seems like we have enough! We are always hurrying here and there, busy with this and that. Now is a good time to check in with ourselves to see if our sense of urgency is about what really matters. Are we caught up in life's small details, or are we thinking about how we can best use our time, which is a gift from God? We should be using it to prepare our hearts for Christ, who came as a baby many years ago, but who still comes to us today through the Sacraments and through our interactions with one another. We believe that one day, he will come again. This week is a good time to stop and think about what we are putting off- in what areas of life have we been procrastinating? What do we need to do to prepare our hearts for Jesus? Please read on about all that is happening this week:

Lunches: Please see attached letter to order the school lunch for your child for the week of December 6-9. There will be no school next Friday, December 10. Also, we are changing our system slightly; if your child receives free lunch, he/she no longer needs to turn in a slip each week; instead, he/she will automatically receive lunch. We hope this is helpful. Thank you.

Thank you!: Thank you to everyone who sold for our cookie fundraiser! Total raised was actually just over what was raised for the pies last year; \$3,090. The school's profit is 40%, which is \$1,236. I would love to hear from you once the orders come in about if you prefer the cookie dough or the pies, so we know what to do next year. As you know, we rely on this fundraising money to make up the difference between our income from tuition and what it actually costs to educate our students.

NO SCHOOL: There will be no school next Friday, December 10. Teachers have a professional day.

Christmas is coming!!!: As you know, the festival is this weekend! We are very excited to see you all, and very grateful for everything that has been donated so far! Your generosity is very much appreciated (and relied upon!). Thank you as well to those of you who promised to bring in food and baked goods, and those of you who volunteered to help on Friday and Saturday. For the new families in the school, as always, students will have an opportunity to go to the festival with their class on Friday during the school day. You may send them to school with some money if you like.

FTO: A BIG thank you to everyone who helped with the first FTO fundraiser! Many parents helped chaperone, brought in baked goods, paid for pizzas, and helped to plan this event. The total raised was \$664.65. All of that, as well as all of the funds raised by FTO, will go toward repaving the back and side lots. A special thank you to Sharon Rodriguez-Alvarez for her work coordinating this event.

Raffle Tickets: All tickets and money must be in by tomorrow (Friday). If you were unable to sell, please bring your extra tickets back so that we can sell them during the festival. Thank you!

Stop and Shop A+ Rewards: This is a great and easy fundraiser that you can do to help the school each time you shop. Please see enclosed flyer for more information about how to register.

NEASC Update: We got the report back with some great recommendations from the visiting committee, which we will be working to implement over the coming year. They were very impressed with what they saw and very much enjoyed their time at St. Rose.

No more yo-yos or Beyblades at school: Due to some injuries, yo-yos and Beyblades are no longer allowed at school. This includes before school, during recess, and after school. If I see students playing with them, I have told them that I will take them away and keep them until the end of the year. We have to keep student safety as a top priority. Thank you for understanding.

What are you doing Monday at 7:45 am???: If you don't have other plans, we invite you to join us for a brief community gathering in the school hall. Every Monday, we gather together to pray, celebrate birthdays, make announcements, and start the week off on a good note. During Advent, each Monday will be a prayer service led by a different grade. Please join us! Everyone is welcome.

Anti-Bullying Program: If you have ideas or concerns for the new school anti-bullying plan, please call or email Ms. Keeton at ckeeton@strosehelsea.com. Additionally, mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 14 at 7pm. Dr. William Sharp, a local psychologist, will be coming to share important information with you as parents related to bullying and what to do if your child is being bullied, as well as how to talk to your child about bullying and even cyber-bullying. We are really hoping to have a great parent turnout for this event.

Report Cards: Thank you to everyone who was able to come last night to meet with your child's teacher about report cards. If you were not able to come, you need to set up a meeting with your child's teacher as soon as possible. A conference is required in order to receive the report cards. Also, if you are behind on tuition payments, please see Mrs. Wright or myself to catch up as soon as possible; you will not receive a report card unless tuition is paid, unless special arrangements have been made.

Advent Missions: Just a reminder that during Advent (starting this week), all of our mission money will go to Sister Ursula's school in Pakistan. We have been hearing from her occasionally and the need is very great. A little bit of money goes a long way there; for only \$12, one child can attend school for a whole year! Please be generous. Thank you!

Student Council: Just a reminder that Student Council applications are due to Ms. O'Rourke by next Tuesday, December 7.

Mark your calendar:

Friday, December 3 & Saturday, December 4 - Christmas Festival

Monday, December 6 - Feast of St. Nicholas

Wednesday, December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 10 - No School - Professional Day for teachers

Sunday, December 12 - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Blessings,

Caitlin Keeton, Principal