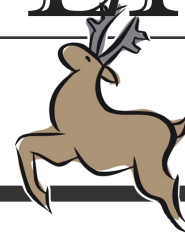


NEWSLETTER

visit us on-line at www.dces.info

DECEMBER 2009



School Closings -WJR and WWJ

As the season for inclement weather approaches, the probability of school closings increases. The radio stations WJR (760) and WWJ (950) and television stations 2, 4, 7 carry regular announcements of area school closings. Divine Child Elementary School will be announced when school has been cancelled. The WWJ News radio 950 also offers a website alert. Go to schoolclosed.com and click on the yellow "Get Alerts" tab in the column and register for the e-mail alert. Please DO NOT call the convent or the rectory to confirm what you have heard on the radio.

Hot Lunch Form Reminder

Please remember to complete the entire form for hot lunch including the milk column. When adding, please remember that pizza is \$2.00, snack pizza roll is \$2.00 and the rest of the lunches are \$2.35. An extra entree may be purchased for \$1.30 on hot lunch days only. Just remember that lunches are ordered by the month. Refunds are not issued for snow days or for when your child is absent on a hot lunch day. If there is a small miscalculation or a snow day, the money will be used to purchase games and cards for students to use during the indoor lunch periods. Thank you once again for your cooperation!

Giving Tree

Two trees are decorated with bows and lights outside the office and clinic. They are awaiting warm items to be placed on the boughs as ornaments. The students are asked to bring in warm items of clothing, such as: gloves, mittens, scarves, socks, earmuffs, or any other new warm item. We are hoping that instead of the boughs being laden with snow that they are laden with many new warm items. Last year all items were taken to the Battered Women Shelter. Please remember to clothe those in need.

Give Your Child Four Priceless Gifts for December Holidays

As you think about giving gifts this holiday season, remember that there are some gifts only you can give. Unlike toys that may break before next month, these gifts will last a lifetime.

- **The gift of time.** The old saying is true. Children really do spell love T-I-M-E. Give the gift of listening to your child, reading with your child, helping your child, and just hanging around with your child.
- **The gift of understanding.** Children aren't perfect. (neither are parents.) If your child makes a mistake, listen first.
- **The gift of confidence.** When you believe in your child, you help him believe in himself. When you tell him that you know he can do it, he'll never doubt that he can. Years from now when he faces another challenge, he'll hear your words in the back of his mind.
- **The gift of enthusiasm.** Whether you're working on a household project or going out to toss a ball, do it with verve. Your excitement about the task will rub off on your child. When he has to tackle a tough project in school (or later in life), he'll find the energy to carry it through.

Honor Roll.

As a result of focusing on scholastics and monitoring their own behavior, 156 fifth through eighth grade students earned Honor Roll status: 41% of fifth graders, 42% of sixth graders, 57% of seventh graders and 37% of eighth graders. These students earned A's and B's and at least an S in conduct on their first quarter report card. Their hard work is both appreciated and acknowledged by the DCES Administration and Faculty. Congratulations Honor Roll Students! Look for your name displayed on the Honor Roll board.



PARENTS' GUILD MEETING • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 @ 7:00 P.M.

Divine Child Elementary School Multi Purpose Room (MPR)

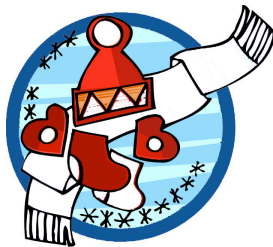


Thank You!

Thank you for opening your cupboards and pantries and sharing with the less fortunate. During the prayer service, we prayed together for one another, for the less fortunate, and for those who were not with us this Thanksgiving, those in other areas of the world and those who have passed away. The students reflected on the many meanings of Thanksgiving, with a true concentration on praying, sharing and thanking. A large array of food was collected by the students and then sent to St. Christine Food Cupboard. What a wonderful way to fill the cupboards that had been so bare! We are called to feed the hungry and DCES truly did.

Winter is Here! Dress for the Season!

Just a reminder that red sweaters are a must wear item in the daily school uniform. Please remember to wear the red sweater and dress appropriately for the weather. Parents please examine the sweaters for tears. Holes in the wrist cuff are not appropriate even for skateboarders who have hooded sweatshirts with thumb holes. Some students will make the holes which begins the unraveling process. Please mend all sweaters. Skirts need to be checked for proper knee length. Please lower the hem when your daughter grows. Warm coats, gloves, hats, scarves, are a must for recess. Lunch recess does include outdoor time every day even if it is for just a few minutes. If the girls' legs are too cold, please have them bring a pair of windpants/leggings to slide on before going outdoors. Only a child with a note is allowed to stay indoors. Many items are always left behind in the cafeteria. If you are missing any items, please have your child look in the lost and found items on the cafeteria bin/table.



Junior High Has Christmas Spirit

The Divine Child Junior High Students and staff caught the true meaning of Jolly Old St. Nick. The Student Council is sponsoring a candy cane message sale in order to raise money for the needy. We are proud of the spirit of gift-giving this Christmas season. Many students have given many volunteer hours during lunch time to help assemble blankets for Heartland Convalescent Center members. Other students are caroling with the Youth Group to help raise money. Thank you again for your generous hearts!

DCES Spelling Bee Winners!

Congratulations to our DCES Spelling Bee winners who then went on to participate in the Patrick O'Kelley Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee that was held on Sunday, November 22.

John Balash
 Luke Ciarelli
 Collin Beaudoin
 Nicholas Lenaghan
 Matthew Giroux
 Kathleen Van Antwerp
 Stashu Kowalski
 Andre Senerpida
 KiLee O'Brien
 Shelbi Hines
 Andrew Suchy
 Alex Morin
 Jacob Earl
 Maria Matta
 Kyle MacLean
 Stephen Lietz

A special congratulations to KiLee O'Brien, who placed 1st in the junior high level of competition at the Patrick O'Kelley Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee. Congratulations also to Nicholas Lenaghan who placed 2nd and John Balash who placed 3rd in the Intermediate level. These students will now advance to the Archdiocesan Spelling Bee in Wyandotte in January. Thank you to all our DCES students who participated and represented our school so well. We are proud of all of you!

AMAZON SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Please use the AMAZON TAB on the DCES Website when ordering from AMAZON. AMAZON now permits schools to use the site as a fundraiser when entering their site from the school website. Join together and see how much we can raise when we shop for Christmas gifts on line through AMAZON. Just go to DCES.info and click on the shopping bag link "Shop at Amazon" to begin raising funds for DCES.

Olga's Fundraiser

Every first Friday is Olga's Fundraiser day for DCES. Please take your Olga's coupon, (all students receive them) to Olga's and enjoy a sit down or take out order. If the coupon is misplaced or you would like to share with others, you may print additional coupons from the DCES.info website. Just click on the fundraiser tab and click on Olga's to print extra coupons. November sales earned DCES an \$84 fundraiser check. Thank you to all everyone who ate Olga's on the First Friday!



*It is with deep and sincere gratitude
that I thank you for your prayers and cards
expressing sympathy at the loss of my brother, Wayne.*

*He added artistry and humor to our family;
we do miss him.*

*Your prayers for him and us
support our belief in eternal life.*

God Bless you,
S. Cecilia Bondy

BOOK BANK NEWS • December 2009

If anyone had a problem with using the Little Caesars coupons, I am so sorry; in the future if this happens, please let the store know to contact Dawn Clingan and LC Corp. for its legitimacy.

Congratulations to all the readers!!! Out of uniform day was December 9; the kids were able to show off their favorite holiday shirt!

Two Borders gift cards were given out to each classroom in 1st - 6th grades: These cards are generated based on a random drawing of all the students that read more than 500 pages. One iTunes gift card is given out to each 7th & 8th grade class randomly generated based on who read the 300 pages.

Keep in mind that the Book Bank program has changed a bit this year. All kids in 1st – 6th grades that read 500 + pages will receive an out of uniform day. If the kids also draw a detailed picture of their favorite book, they will receive the Little Caesars crazy bread coupon! For 7th & 8th grades they have to read only 300+ pages to receive the out of uniform incentive coupon. Any book report written by a 7th or 8th grader will be judged by the Henry Ford Community College English Department. The grade level with the best papers will have these bound as a keepsake! Please remember that all book bank records must be turned in the day they are due. Absent students may submit the record upon their return to school. The reports and coupons will be generated by the Friday of the turn-in week.

**Remember to turn in your Reading Record on
January 5, 2010!**

DC Book Bank - Every reader wins!

Nikki Rinke 313-724-1173 or

313-909-0808 nikkirinke@phoenixeng.net

PG Meeting Parent to Parent Drop Off-Etiquette

Many parents need to be reminded of proper student drop-off etiquette. When dropping off your child, please do so quickly and safely. Students should be ready to exit and prepare for exit while they first get in the car. Any parent signature or additional business should be done prior to being in the drop off line. Parents should not be kissing and hugging every child as they exit the car. Affectionate good-byes need to be done at home so that the drop off line runs smoothly. When one car stops the process, other cars begin to move out of line and try to go around. This is unsafe for both drivers and students. Please be careful of your surroundings. Even if you are running late, safety of all must be first.

At dismissal, students need to go directly to their cars. Please do not pull in front of the crosswalk and put the teachers and students in danger. Many students cannot be seen above the hood of a car, so please drive slowly and cautiously. Parking on Herbert Weier Drive and Robindale is dangerous. There are many blind spots in that area and it could cause accidents. The final note, students should go directly to their cars or begin walking home immediately. The gym door exit is not a play area. Please instruct children to stay out of the shrubbery and off the bricks. From one parent to another, please join us in keeping our kids safe.

Building Character

Make Resolutions To Bring Out the Best in Your Child

Many parents make New Year's resolutions.

Here are some you can make.

They are virtually guaranteed to evoke better behavior from your child. He'll become more motivated at school and home. Your relationship will also improve.

- **Be more positive.** Break the habit of paying attention to only what your child does wrong. Look for and praise what he says and does right - when he's polite, when he's not whining, when he does his homework without your asking.
- **Be more consistent.** Let your child know what to expect. Then follow through on what you say. If your child breaks a rule, don't say, "It's not a big problem." Don't say, "I'm too tired to deal with this now." Enforce family rules, and your child will connect his behavior to consequences.
- **Have more patience.** Children can't change their behavior over night. Nor can we. Start fresh each day and keep at it. It can take weeks to see some improvement.

Source: Sal Severe, "Resolutions for Better Behavior," Parenthood Web. www.parenthood-web.com/articles/phw1297.htm (10/01)

PG Minutes

December 2, 2009

1. Opening Prayer

2. Welcome and Approval of September 30, 2009 meeting minutes: Meeting called to order by Marte Biscaro and Janice Sandie. We had a wonderful potluck dinner-meeting! Thanks to all the moms who brought food and participated.

3. PG Board and Financial Update: We are still collecting raffle monies and bake sale monies. The Boutique revenues should be about the same amount as last year when these amounts are collected.

4. Board Member Reports:

Book Bank: Book Bank has a few changes this year. Students in grades 1-6 must read 500 pages to receive the out-of-uniform incentive. To receive the pizza coupon, they must draw a picture. Students in grades 7 and 8 must read 300 pages. A book report can also be written by Junior High Students. There are also drawings for gift cards! Please see the insert in this Newsletter for more details on the improved Book Bank program.

DC Apparel: Did well at the Holiday Boutique. Have long sleeve t-shirts and sweatshirts for sale for gym classes. Also check out new items.

Doves:

When turning in forms for Dove's hours, please write legibly. Please turn in raffle and bake sale monies as soon as possible.

If you haven't taken the **Protecting God's Children** workshop, please do so ASAP. It is mandatory if you plan on working with school age children in any capacity. The classes are listed on the website www.virtus.org and count as Doves' hours.

Market Day: Thanks for buying pies! We sold twice as many this year. Please consider helping out with Market Day. We could use another volunteer.

Programs: Pet Blessing, Rosary Making and the Cyber Safety Program were successful and fun. The students learned some valuable information about internet safety and were very attentive. January 25th we will have Junior High Career Day. February 12th there will be a Crime Scene Investigation from the Hands on Museum for the 5th through 8th graders. In March, for the younger grades, there will be a Body Works Program on how to keep your body healthy.

5: Old Business/New Business:

Scrip: We have gift cards on hand for the holidays from Bath and Body Works, I-tunes, Honey Baked Ham and more! Buy from DC and save on your tuition!

Also, please register your **Kroger Plus card** and start saving on tuition and helping out the school at the same time! The rectory has the directions for registering your card.

School Improvement Committee:

- a. Looking into getting outdoor signs for the Elementary School to direct visitors to our proper Main Entrance.
- b. One hundred and eighty tulip bulbs have been planted in Fr. K's Garden so far.
- c. The DCES website is being updated for missing forms.
- d. Please shop through the DCES website, www.dces.info/ and click on the amazon (gift bag) link at the bottom left corner. All purchases will give back 5% of purchases to our school.
- e. Please use the school improvement link at the top of the home page for any comments or concerns you would like addressed. The committee reads all suggestions.

6. Next PG Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the MPR.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Bustamante-Secretary

Individualized Fluency Assessment

Individualized Fluency Assessment evaluates a student’s oral reading ability. This test measures a student’s ability to accurately read connected text at a pace that allows comprehension of grade-level reading materials. This Oral Reading Fluency Assessment, measured in words read correctly per minute (WCPM), is one of several essential assessments in elementary schools today. Oral reading fluency has repeatedly been shown to be one of the best overall indicators of general reading competence.

Our school will begin to individually assess students in grades 1-8. This is an enormous task, yet necessary. We are fortunate to have Mrs. Grenn, a DC parent and certified teacher with a Master’s Degree in Reading, assist the reading teachers and Mrs. Thomas as they conduct the individualized assessments.

Students can practice for these timed tests. Parents can time the student at home as he or she reads aloud. The parent keeps a record of correct words per minute and encourages the student to compete against the last score. They can even use the same passage and try to improve their speed. This will increase fluency, build confidence, improve vocabulary recognition, and provide comfort when they are timed at school. The reading fluency assessment will be recorded as an assessment grade in every reading class.

The following chart displays the norms for Oral Reading Fluency. A 50 percentile is average.

Grade	Percentile	Beginning (WCPM)	Middle (WCPM)	End (WCPM)	Grade	Percentile	Beginning (WCPM)	Middle (WCPM)	End (WCPM)
1	90	0	60	103	5	90	169	184	189
	75	0	37	77		75	141	156	166
	50	0	21	52		50	117	131	137
	25	0	12	33		25	89	106	112
	10	0	7	20		10	65	78	88
2	90	95	125	140	6	90	171	185	201
	75	71	100	117		75	143	160	172
	50	49	76	94		50	115	132	145
	25	27	52	70		25	91	106	117
	10	15	30	49		10	72	80	90
3	90	125	151	168	7	90	200	206	213
	75	96	125	139		75	175	183	193
	50	73	96	110		50	147	157	167
	25	52	72	85		25	126	134	146
	10	30	50	57		10	106	115	124
4	90	142	167	180	8	90	208	219	221
	75	118	140	152		75	183	195	198
	50	94	114	124		50	156	166	171
	25	71	90	99		25	126	144	145
	10	48	66	75		10	100	112	115