

ST. AMELIA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 4 December, 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

Dear Parents:

Traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church provide a special sense of meaning and beauty for those who practice them. The Rosary, Stations of the Cross, novenas, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and---of course---the liturgy itself are but a few of the many rituals and rites that have been handed down to us for centuries.

As holiday time approaches, we all have a perfect opportunity to create and celebrate valuable family traditions as well. Very often, a routine practice or the display of an object that is meaningful to a family can easily become a custom or tradition. Family values are reflected in the way these traditions are consistently practiced, and these practices often become a lens through which family members view their lives and shape their opinions.

Finally, traditions are a way of handing down information, beliefs, and customs from one generation to another. The key thing is to establish family traditions or rituals and then practice them on a regular basis. Some suggestions of ordinary events that can be transformed into family traditions include:

- ★ Attending Mass as a family throughout the year,
- ★ Asking a child to lead prayer at Thanksgiving or Christmas --- or any family meal
- ★ Asking each family member to say one thing for which he or she is grateful

- ★ Having a special book each Christmas Eve that you read as a family!. Following the reading, children go right to bed!
- ★ Keeping a Christmas memories book from one year to the next in which everyone adds a memory of that Christmas
- ★ Allowing children to select the menu for certain special meals or on a certain day of the week
- ★ Holding an ancestor night once a month on which your family celebrates the life of an ancestor

These are all very simple ways of bringing a family together and providing an anchor of strong family life. You probably have many family traditions already. Be sure to honor those important elements of family life. What appear to be simple customs will be fun for your family and will provide comfort and strength to your children well into their adult lives.

Thank you again for your help and support. May God's blessings be with you this Advent season.



Peace,

James Mulé
Principal

Dear Father,

*This Advent season, let me set aside
my own ideas long enough to ask
what You would have me do.*



*Then give me the courage and humility
I need to follow the path You set
before me. Amen*

ADVENT:

When I was a child, my family always went to Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. There was something magical about going out in the middle of the night to a church beautifully decorated with evergreen trees and bright red poinsettias. This part of our celebration was separated from gift-giving. It was a night set apart, a very special night “made radiant with the splendor of Jesus Christ, our light.”

It's this kind of excitement, this kind of religious experience that I wish for the children in our school. But, as you well know, it's hard work to keep children focused on the birth of Jesus with so much commercial competition. Yet, if we try, maybe we can help them experience some of the wonder and awe that Christmas offers.

Advent reminds us that life is full of surprises and wonderful discoveries. It is a time to be open to God's revelations, to recognize God-with-us, in Jesus our Emmanuel. It's a time when God asks great things of us, things we ponder in our hearts. It's a time for saying yes to God, “be it done to me accordingly to your word.” Its readings and prayers say: wait, listen, be silent, pray, rejoice. It is meant to be a peace-filled and joyous time. I hope that you will find the time in your own life this Advent to experience these things. And I hope that your children will experience them, too.

Your child will be experiencing many different ways to live this Advent season in school. Remember to ask questions about what your child is doing in school to “Prepare for the

King of Glory,” and look for ways to celebrate this Advent season with your child.

May you and your family have a blessed Advent --- in every sense.

**MR. MULE`, THE FACULTY AND
STAFF OF ST. AMELIA SCHOOL ALL
WISH YOU A BLESSED AND PEACE-
FILLED HOLIDAY SEASON!**

JUNIOR HIGH DANCE:

St. Amelia students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to socialize at a school dance on **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2**, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Don Miller Hall. Proper dress is required.

SCHOOL LITURGIES:

You are invited to join our students at our December school liturgies:

10:30 a.m. -Mass on **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8** (*Holyday of Obligation*)

10:30 a.m. – Mass on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21** (*St. Peter Canisius*)

SANTA'S SECRET SHOP:

HO! HO! HO! It's getting to be that time of year again and soon our elves will be hard at work creating wonderful gifts to share with family & friends!



On **Sunday, December 11, 2011**, the H.S.A. is organizing the 1st Annual “**Santa's Secret Workshop**”. In lieu of Santa's Secret Shop, all St. Amelia School children are invited to make their Christmas gifts for family and friends. There will be several crafts to choose from and the event will take place in the **Don Miller Hall from 11am – 6pm**. We have carefully selected crafts for each age group and appropriate for all members of the family. Please review the take home “catalog” received in the **Parent Envelope on Nov.**

15th, complete one form per child and return to school with full payment (checks made payable to St. Amelia School or cash) by **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH**.

We are really looking forward to this event and it's sure to be lots of fun! By the way, rumor has it, Santa, himself, will be stopping in!

**If any parent is interested in helping that day, please contact Linda Beck 877-3824.*

**GRADES 1 - 8
CHRISTMAS PLAY:**

Be sure to mark your calendars for

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, at 12:45 pm and/or 7:00 pm,

at which time we will present our Annual Christmas Program for students in Gr. 1-8. This year's program is called "A King is Coming to Town". Come along to the little town of Rumor Mill, USA, where this morning the whole town seems to have gathered in the town square. What sparked all the excitement? Reserve this evening of entertainment designed to put you in the Christmas spirit! More details will be sent home soon. You won't want to miss this event, which will really put you in a Christmas frame of mind!



PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL:

The Pre-K and Kindergarten classes will enjoy a Christmas Festival on **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16** at 10:00 am. Mark your calendar for a morning of entertainment!



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

"Don't forget that Jesus is in the tabernacle for you, yes for you, for you alone. He is longing to enter into your heart." St. Therese, the Little Flower

The Home School Association invites families from all grades, but particularly the sixth grade, to participate in Eucharistic Adoration on **MONDAY, DECEMBER 5**. We ask families to take some time to pray for the needs of our children and their teachers, and for any other need special to you, by spending one hour before the Blessed Sacrament in a given month, assigned to each grade level. Members of the Home School Association – Adoration Committee will be calling or sending you a reminder to make arrangements. Families are welcome any or every month, not just the month assigned to you by the grade your child is in

PROGRESS REPORTS:

Parents should expect to receive their child's progress report for the second quarter on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20**.

CHRISTMAS VACATION:

The Christmas recess for St. Amelia students will begin on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21**, at 2:10 p.m. School will resume on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2012**.



CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE:

For your convenience, we are providing you with the schedule of masses at St. Amelia Church for the

Christmas holiday:

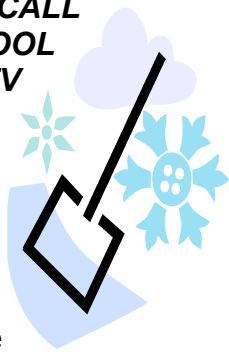
CHRISTMAS EVE: 4:30 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am



WEATHER-RELATED SCHOOL CLOSINGS:

Remember, in the event of inclement weather, please **DO NOT CALL THE RECTORY, SCHOOL OFFICE OR RADIO/TV STATIONS!** Rather, please listen to WBEN, WGR, WKSE, WJYE, WECK or watch Channel 2, 4 or 7. If an announcement is made that the **Kenmore-Tonawanda** schools are closed, **St. Amelia is also closed.**



Only an extremely severe storm occurring during the school day warrants sending the children home once school is in session!

THANK YOU:

Thank you, parents and students, for your generous response to our request for food for the Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. We were overwhelmed with the amount of food, as well as the contributions for the purchase of turkeys. Your Thanksgiving holiday should have been much happier, knowing that you have helped so many others in need! God bless you all!!

PARENT REMINDERS:

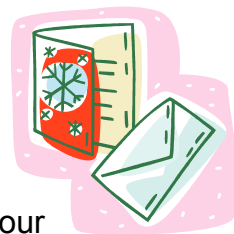
- ★ It is **very important** that you keep your home and work telephone numbers updated in the event of an emergency. If any personal information changes, please notify the school office. As always, we appreciate your help.
- ★ Students must be in their classroom by 7:45 a.m. or they are considered **tardy**. Please plan on a punctual arrival each morning. Pre-kindergarten students should be in class by 8:00 a.m.
- ★ School concludes each day at 2:10 p.m. Instruction continues until 2:10 p.m. Please be aware of this when it is necessary to pick up your child from school for **any reason**.

Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS:

Dear Parents,

The Spirit Postal Service needs **YOUR** help! Please keep the mail coming to our students. Christmas cards to your child are very welcome. Send a kiss and a smile! Mail is delivered daily. Cards may be deposited in the mailbox outside the school office.



The "WEE DELIVER" Employees

ST. AMELIA SCHOOL SPORTS UPDATES:

ST. AMELIA KNIGHTS

BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL:

Members of our Boys' Varsity Basketball team are Daniel Barry, Ian Bunny, Matthew Elkington, William Gaulin, Joseph Giroux, Christopher Kuchta, Robert Maranto, John McGloin, Michael Reardon, Benjamin Southers, Nicholas Stoetzel, Scott Zenosky, and they are coached by Mr. Maranto.

JUNIOR VARSITY: Members of the Boys' St. Amelia JV team are Sean Chameli, Thomas Gaulin, Cole Hudson, Isaac Laudan, Patrick Murphy, Timothy Murphy, Sean O'Connor, Adam Pohrte, Brendan Rozek, Kyle Toth, Joseph Turri, Alex Zulia, and they are coached by Mr. Kevin Hudson.

ST. AMELIA KNIGHTS

GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL:

"GOLD": Members of our Girls' Varsity "Gold" Basketball team are Skyler Bogdan, Kelly Burns, Hannah Emminger, Paige Freer, Francesca Gugino, Kaitlyn Hart, Madison Jansen, Molly Meegan, Alexandra Rozek, Marissa Saber, Elena Slawson, KellyAnn Swartz, and they are coached by Mr. Christopher Monaco.

"BLUE": Members of our Girls' Varsity "Blue" Basketball team are Madison Badgley, Nicole Canella, Mary Grace Downey, Elizabeth Forsyth, Natalie Gaulin, Louise Long, Molly McCarthy, Maria Pardo, Hannah

Parucki, Kara Purpura, Natalie Scrivani, Emily Segelhurst and they are coached by Ms. Laura DiPasquale and Ms. Emily Curtin.

ST. AMELIA GIRLS' JV TEAMS:

"GOLD": Members of our Girls' JV "GOLD" team are Lena Chimento, Sarah Coupal, Caroline Gruber, Emily MacKinnon, Elisabeth McAllister, Samantha McAllister, Margaret Merigold, Rebecca Munoz, Gina Pelligra, and their coach is Mr. Jim Merigold.

"BLUE": Members of our Girls' JV "BLUE" team are Mackenzie Badgley, Hannah Fischer, Jacquelyn Gardon, Daniella Gugino, Olivia Koschuk, Bridget Reilly, Laura Streer, Ava Tower, and they are coached by Mrs. Anne Mucica and Miss Lindsay Stoltman.

VARSITY CHEERLEADING SQUAD:

The following students have been selected for the St. Amelia School Varsity Cheerleading Team: Elexcia Allen, Taylor Arana, Brianna Constantino, Danielle Crane, Angelina Green, Autumn Kelleher, Ashlie LeCaste, Catherine Lippert, Christina Pascarella, Madisyn Wylke and they are coached by Miss Jenna Secchiaroli.

JV: The JV Cheerleading squad consists of the following students: Taylor Bogdan, Rhiannon Breier, Madelyn Grande, Alivia LaRue, Carolyn Lewandowski, Kaylah Parry, Marissa Pascarella, Ashley Pompeo, Emma Tomaka, Kelsey Wood, Gabrielle Wylke and their coach is Mrs. Jennifer Arana.



TO
OF

ALL
OUR

STUDENT ATHLETES!!

HARD WORK PAYS OFF!

On Friday, November 18, one hundred and five of our Junior High students were treated to a special Anderson's Ice Cream treat. These students handed in 100% of their homework in the first quarter, and had no office referrals. ***Congratulations!!***

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION:

We are continuing our successful "Boxtops for Education" Program this year. Monies collected directly benefit our students through such things as assemblies, additional special programs, etc. A sincere thank you to all for assisting with this program. You can join the Boxtops for Education "Booster Club" by logging onto www.boxtops4education.com.

The winners of the November BOXTOPS contest are:

Victoria Pohrte – 4-15
Emily MacKinnon – 6-4

PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST:



We are happy to announce the winners of our recent Halloween Pumpkin Decorating Contest:

Winner of the Best Classroom Pumpkin: All of Grade 3 – Rooms 31, 32 and 33 – with a Buffalo Bills/Washington Redskins Football theme – Mrs. Riddle, Mrs. Setter, Miss Gambino

Winner of the Best Individually Decorated Pumpkin was Elizabeth Hertz, Grade 4, Room 15 – Mrs. Mayer's homeroom, with her "Cup of Hot Chocolate."

Congratulations to all the classrooms and students for their creative and artistic work in the contests!

SCRIP PROGRAM IS STILL HERE!

We want to remind you that **SCRIP** is still up and running! We can do all of your holiday shopping for you, while you earn money

toward tuition. We have hundreds of stores from which to choose. A list of retailers, an order form and an explanation of the **SCRIP** Program was recently sent home. If you need another one, or if you didn't receive it, please stop at the office to get a copy.

Send in your completed order form, along with a check payable to the school, to the school office by a Monday, and you will receive your order the following Monday. Some of the participating businesses are Tops, Delta Sonic, Panera Bread, J.C.Penney, Ted's, Kohl's and many, many more.

Remember the SCRIP calendar: In by Monday, and orders are sent home the following Monday.

Christmas ordering: The last **Monday** to order will be **DECEMBER 12**, and we will resume ordering SCRIP when we return to school on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

Think ahead, especially for those who help you.....the Pastor, Principal, Teacher, Babysitter, Paperboy, Mail Carrier, Secretary, Employees, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Donner at 812-4071.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS:

Once again this year, there are a number of Staff Development days listed on our 2011-2012 school calendar. Like any organization of this size, time to meet, plan, train, learn and be updated are critical skills for our staff in terms of being successful and providing the best possible education for your children. This year's remaining Staff Development days are:

- ✓ **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16** – 12:05 dismissal
- ✓ **FRIDAY, JANUARY 27** – 12:05 dismissal
- ✓ **FRIDAY, MARCH 30** – 12:05 dismissal
- ✓ **FRIDAY, MAY 4** – 12:05 dismissal

Please plan accordingly around the Staff Development days listed above. Thank you for your continued support as we move forward with our goal to continue to improve!

DASH'S TAPE SAVER PROGRAM:

We would like to remind you that Dash's Supermarket sponsors a revenue generating program that assists in providing extras for our school. Simply save your register receipts from any Dash's Market, and send them to school. For every \$100 that we submit, we will receive \$3.50! Please tell your family members, friends and neighbors to save Dash's receipts for our school. There is a Dash's located on Colvin Boulevard near Highland and also on West Klein in Amherst.

FUND RAISING:

Did you support your school by selling \$300 worth of the following fundraisers:



- **Football Raffle** -- tickets are still available, and are retroactive to the beginning of football season
- **Pot of Gold** -- tickets are now available
- **Easter Candy** -- coming soon

Thank you for your support!

RE-ENROLLMENT FOR 2012-2013:

School tuition costs and fees are set by the finance committee of St. Amelia School Board, in conjunction with the parish Finance Committee. Families who are active in and contributing to their parish may request the subsidized rate of tuition. This amount is determined annually by the parish and school.

The Diocese of Buffalo defines "active parishioners" as those who are registered and worshipping members, who contribute of their time, talent and financial resources to support the parish.

PARISH VERIFICATION FORM:

Again this year, this form will be included in the re-registration packet. Active membership will be determined by the parish in which the family is a member, and attendance will be monitored on a ***quarterly*** basis. Do you attend Mass regularly? If you do, you will qualify for the lower tuition rate. You **must** return this form with your registration.

Re-enrollment of our current students for 2012-2013 will run from **JANUARY 3 THROUGH JANUARY 31**, after which we will begin to take registration of new and transfer students of families who are parishioners of St. Amelia Church. Younger siblings (pre-kindergarten and kindergarten) of current students should register in early January when you re-enroll your other children. Simply call or send a note to the office for an extra registration form. ***New students must provide a copy of their birth and baptismal certificates at the time of registration.***

All necessary forms and information will be sent home in early January, 2012. Please note: ***Non-refundable registration fee of \$150 per family will be due at the time of registration to complete the process.*** This amount is deducted from the total cost of tuition.

A **\$100 late fee** will be assessed to any families who do not re-enroll by January 31.

Please note – our annual ***OPEN HOUSE*** will be held on ***THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2***, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. At this time, we will welcome new students from outside St. Amelia Parish to our school. All current students **MUST** re-register for the 2012-2013 school year as soon as possible.

VARSITY BOYS BASEBALL WRAP-UP:

After an undefeated season in the Monsignor Martin League, the boy's varsity baseball team won their first playoff game against Sts. Peter & Paul of Hamburg. Unfortunately,

they lost to St. John the Baptist in the next round of the Catholic Diocesan playoffs. Our boys finished the season with an overall 8-1 record and established themselves as one of the top school teams in the area. Congratulations to Christopher Kuchta, Nicholas Wahler, John McGloin, Scott Zenosky, Ian Bunny, William Gaulin, Timothy Zatkos, Jesse Decker, Tyler Horn, Michael Reardon, Matthew Elkington, Nicholas DiNardo and Richard Gardon, and to their coaches, Mr. Wahler and Mr. Kuchta. We are proud of all of you!

MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION:

St. Amelia School has been an accredited school since 1991. Over the past 20 years, we have advanced the mission of our school, improve our Catholic identity, and reach goals set forth by our School Advisory Board and Staff Members.

The mission of the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools:

1. To develop and apply standards and protocols
2. To support educational communities
3. To guide school improvement
4. To encourage innovation
5. To grant accreditation

In a manner that improves educational quality and increases public trust.

An **Accredited** SCHOOL:

1. Is devoted to its mission
2. Knows itself
3. Keeps its promises
4. Accepts an objective peer evaluation
5. Is recognized internationally
6. Plans for the future
7. Actively participates in the responsibilities of the profession

On Sunday, December 4, 2011, we welcome Ms. Mary Agnes Marshall, chairperson, Ms. Denise Hall, Ms. Barbara Wojcik, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Ms. Judith Sands, team members, as they will be present at our school for three days and conduct an evaluation of our school programs. We look

forward to welcoming them as they make recommendations and commendations.