

ST. AMELIA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 5

January, 2012

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the New Year!! We hope that each family has a peaceful and joyous Christmas season. We look forward to a fruitful year together in which all children continue to learn and grow to their fullest.

January can be looked at as a "Fresh Start" whereby students review their personal strengths and areas for improvement. Setting goals and clear expectations for oneself is an excellent vehicle that will lead to improved academic performance. January, February and March are key teaching and learning months, and teachers will be raising the level of expectations for themselves and for your children. The state testing in grades 3 – 8 will be administered right after our Easter break. Please do not extend the Easter break. Thank you for your cooperation.

Together, we can have great success!

In addition to high academic expectations, we also have high hopes for this coming year as we continue to grow as a caring and welcoming Catholic community. We look forward to working closely with you throughout 2012.

It is astonishing that we have reached the mid-point of our school year, and we are beginning to prepare for the 2012-2013 school year! Time certainly does seem to fly (when you're having fun)! Information about registration will be available soon, actually on January 3, 2012.

On Sunday, January 29, we will conduct our annual open liturgy to kick off **Catholic Schools Week!** It is very important for you to mark your calendar and plan on

attending. I would love to see our church filled to capacity. We begin Catholic Schools Week with a liturgy. The reasons that we do this are twofold. The first is that we want parishioners to see firsthand their investment in Catholic Education in this parish. They support us with their prayers, and their treasure. Their direct monetary support amounts to \$600 for each child in the school which will come to \$300,000 yearly. That is some commitment!

Open House will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2012. The second reason for this special day is that we are marketing our school to prospective families and future students. It takes the tuition from approximately 20 students to pay the staff salaries, books, supplies, heat, electric, etc. for each class. Currently, half of our classes exceed 20 while half do not. Do the math and you can see why it is important for every school family to help market this school. It helps make it financially viable.

However, most importantly, we are very proud of the Catholic education that is offered at St. Amelia School. It is truly a **first rate** one in both the faith formation and academic rigor. Our graduates are accelerated in Math, Science, and Foreign Language. Our test scores are well above national average, and principals from both Catholic and public high schools praise our graduates' achievements and readiness.

Recently we concluded our Middle States Association visitation. The visiting team of five educators from various areas were elated with OUR school. The team consisted of Mrs. Mary Agnes Marshall, team leader; Ms. Denise Hall, Mrs. Patricia Johnson, Ms. Judith Sands, Ms. Barbara Wojcik, and we thank them for their dedicated work. They praised

the teachers, students, and you, the parents, for your dedication, hard work and sacrifice. We are eagerly awaiting the written report with both recommendations and our commendations. The Middle States process is a great learning tool. It sets a protocol for us to look at each key area, and we published our findings in over 400 pages. Stop by the office and take a look at your GREAT school.

We would like to extend sincere thanks to our Middle States Committee, led by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Christy, and supported by Mr. William Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Sean Beiter, Mrs. Colleen Emminger, Miss Sharon Gutowski, Mr. Benjamin Huffcut, Mrs. Nancy Kindred, Mrs. Lisa Laski, Mr. and Mrs. Robert McGuire, Mrs. Mary Merigold, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Metzler, Mrs. Barbara Neilson, Mrs. Karen Pelligra, Miss Emilia Peterangelo, Mr. Michael Sullivan and the entire faculty and staff. A job well done!

We would also like to recognize and thank all those who spoke at the Middle States dinner: Mr. Thomas Christy, Father Thomas Maloney, Miss Margaret Staff, Joseph Turri, Daniel Barry, Mr. Jed Likos, Mrs. Colleen Emminger, Victoria Pohrte, Assemblyman Robin Schimminger, Dr. Rosemary Henry, Mrs. Barbara Neilson, Mrs. Mary Teresa Murphy, Mrs. Mary Agnes Marshall, Mrs. Kathleen Christy and Father Ryszard Biernat. A special "Thank You" to our student dancers, our band and our "Saints". We are so very proud of all of you.

Thank you to everyone who supported and worked with us on our journey.

On behalf of Msgr. Maloney, our pastor, Fr. Ryszard, Fr. Don and the entire Faculty and Staff of St. Amelia School, our warmest blessings on you and your family for the New Year of 2012!

Sincerely in Christ,

James Mule, Principal

"Happy New Year! We hope that everyone has a peaceful holiday with family and friends. May this year bring love, laughter, learning and joy to all of you!"

**RE-ENROLLMENT BEGINS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2012!!**

**REGISTER EARLY TO BE
ASSURED OF A SPOT FOR
YOUR CHILD
NEXT YEAR!**

SCHOOL LITURGIES:

You are invited to join our students at our January school liturgies at 10:30 a.m. on:

FRIDAY, JAN. 6: St. Andre Bessette
TUESDAY, JAN. 17: St. Anthony

Mark your calendars! Celebrate the opening of Catholic Schools Week on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 29**, by attending the 9:00 a.m. Mass together with your family.

RE-ENROLLMENT FOR 2012 - 2013
SCHOOL YEAR:



Registration for next year will be as follows:

JANUARY 3 - JANUARY 31 -
re-registration of current students and their siblings

JANUARY 3 - new kindergarten and pre-kindergarten students

FEBRUARY 1 - transfer students and new students from all parishes

Younger siblings of **current** students should register now (pre-kindergarten and kindergarten). Simply call or send a note to the office for an individual registration form. Parents of **NEW** students (younger siblings) must provide a copy of the child's birth and baptismal certificates.

We are very happy to announce that tuition for the 2012-2013 will only increase by a few dollars per month. With that in mind, remember all families need to re-register ASAP. Currently we have waiting lists in certain grades. Thank you for giving your attention to this matter.

In order to re-register your children at parishioner tuition rates, you must be a parishioner in good standing, attending weekly Mass and using offertory envelopes. We commend those families who make special efforts to come to Mass every weekend, for they are teaching their children to live their faith.

We will check attendance periodically, and those families who do not fulfill this obligation will be billed at the non-parishioner rate.

We strongly encourage you to register students AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, as many of our grades are currently at full capacity. If your registration is late, there is a good possibility that we will be unable to accommodate your child in September. Open registration for new and transfer students will begin on **FEBRUARY 1, 2012**.

Remember, the registration is not complete until the non-refundable fee of **\$150** per family has been paid and **all forms** are completed and returned. The \$150 amount will be deducted from your total tuition cost. A late fee of \$100 will be added to the registration fee if paid after January 31.

EASTER CANDY SALE:

*The weather outside is frightful, but thinking spring is so delightful....*Yes, it's time for our annual **Niagara Chocolate Easter Candy Sale**. Brochures and order forms will be sent home with your children on **FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2012**. Let family, friends, neighbors and co-workers know you will be selling **Niagara Easter Candy**. Niagara's top quality chocolate will sell itself! We just need to let people know we are selling it. Look for the brochures and order forms on **January**

6th!! Completed order forms are due in school by **FEBRUARY 2, 2012**. If you have any questions, please call our chairperson, Kathy Secchiaroli, 694-4344.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." John 6:35

Each month, our school families spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, praying for the needs of our children and their teachers. You will receive a telephone call from a Home School Association member, asking you to choose an hour to come to church and pray. The phone calls we make to you are meant as a friendly invitation to offer for your children one of the greatest sacrifices we can offer for another – the act of prayer in front of Jesus in the Eucharist. Please consider making time to come and pray.

On **MONDAY, JANUARY 9**, our 5th grade students and their families are encouraged to participate in the adoration. Please pray for our school, our students, our faculty, staff and administration.

Eucharistic Adoration is held each Monday in the church from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and it is open to people of all faiths. Feel free to go to church during that time and pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

SKATING PARTY:

St. Amelia School will sponsor a roller skating party on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 12**, from 6:00 8:00 p.m. at the Rainbow Roller Rink, 101 Oliver Street in North Tonawanda. Admission is \$2.00 at the door.



PRAYER SERVICE:

We will hold a *Peace and Unity* prayer service in the church on **FRIDAY, JANUARY 13**, at 1:15 p.m. All are welcome.

NO SCHOOL:

There will be no school on **MONDAY, JANUARY 16**, as we observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

GRADE 3 PARENT BREAKFAST:

Parents of grade 3 students are invited to have breakfast with their children on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 19** at 8:00 a.m. A flyer with more details will be sent home in January.

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING:

On **THURSDAY, JANUARY 19**, at 6:30 p.m., the Home School Association will host a meeting. Please plan to attend.

FOOTBALL TICKETS:

We have a limited supply of the football tickets in the office, and they are retroactive to the beginning of the current NFL football season. Tickets are \$10 each, and they would fulfill part of your 2011-12 Home School obligation. If you are interested, please call the office or send a note to school and we will send them home to you. You may purchase tickets until our Monte Carlo Night on **January 21** -- Football Fundraiser Prize Drawings will be held at 9:30 p.m.

POT O'GOLD TICKETS:

Our Pot O'Gold ticket sale is off to a rousing start, but we still have tickets available for sale. Remember, they make terrific gifts, and they generate income for the school at the same time. If you would like to participate in this fundraiser, there are tickets available by calling Mrs. Robyn Turri, 833-8150, or you can pick them up at the school office.

EARLY DISMISSAL:

Students will be dismissed at 12:05 p.m. on **FRIDAY, JANUARY 27**, so teachers may attend a staff development meeting. There will be no lunches served; please pack a snack.

MONTE CARLO NIGHT!!!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2012

8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Football Fundraiser Prize Drawings will be held at 9:30 p.m.

\$10.00 admission includes Beer, Wine and Pizza

Winners need not be present to win but...

Prize amounts *double* if the holder of a winning ticket *IS* present!

A fun night is planned for all!



MONTE CARLO HELPERS NEEDED!

Please call Vickie or Brian Brennan, 877-0770, if you are able to help.

Thank you for your support!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK - 2012:



**"ST. AMELIA SCHOOL – FAITH,
ACADEMICS, SERVICE**

The Greatest School on Earth! Yes, we are.....and wait until you see what we have planned for this year Catholic Schools Week!! Activities are being planned for every day, included a Spirit Week, assemblies, Learning Fair and many more. We will kick off CSW with a Family Mass and breakfast. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending our Kickoff event – 9 a.m. Mass and a free

breakfast! More information will follow in a special Catholic Schools Week newsletter!

Now more than ever, Catholic Schools Week is a time to celebrate the enduring value of Catholic education. Each year at this time, we focus on the gift that Catholic education provides to America's young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

Particularly during times of change and challenge, Catholic schools provide long-term benefits to the nation's youth: a high-quality, faith-based education that will continue to pay dividends for years to come. This year's theme, "Catholic Schools: Faith, Academics, Service." This theme expresses our school's focus on learning about faith, striving for high academic standards, and serving our community. We've planned a variety of events that demonstrate how we're doing it. Come see what makes St. Amelia School exceptional!

Please note the following schedule for Catholic Schools Week at St. Amelia School:

SUNDAY, JAN. 29:

"Faith, Academics, Service: In Our Parish"

9:00 am - Opening Liturgy and
Breakfast

MONDAY, JAN. 30:

"Faith, Academics, Service: In Our Community"

Collection for the needy in our
community

TUESDAY, JAN. 31:

"Faith, Academics, Service: In Our Students"

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1:

"Faith, Academics, Service: In Our Nation"

Wear Red, White & Blue to school

THURSDAY, FEB. 2:

"Faith, Academics, Service: In Our Vocations"

Open House – 6 to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 3:

"Faith, Academics, Service: In Our Faculty, Staff and Volunteers"

We encourage our families to attend the 9 a.m. Mass on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th**, where we will have a solemn opening of **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK!** Following the mass, there will be a breakfast reception in the school, and we invite all our parents and students to this social.

Top Ten Ways for Parents to Observe Catholic Schools Week....

Catholic Schools Week is not just for kids. Here are 10 ways for parents to participate in the annual celebration of Catholic education:

- ❖ Write a note of appreciation to your children's teachers. Thank them for the attention and energy they give your children every day, as well as for their dedication to Catholic education.
- ❖ Write a letter to your parish priest (Fr. Tom, Fr. Ryszard, Fr. Don), thanking them for supporting the St. Amelia Catholic School that is preparing your children for a bright future.
- ❖ Write a letter to your representatives in the U.S. Congress and state legislature to let them know why Catholic education is important to you and your community. Send a copy of your letter to your school principal.
- ❖ While you're at it, write a thank-you note to that special teacher from your own Catholic school days who had a significant impact on your life.
- ❖ Donate books or other learning materials to the school library. If you can, ask the librarian if the school needs books on certain subjects or for particular grade levels.

- ❖ Set aside time for family prayer for all those who contribute to the success of your children's school, including students, teachers, staff and volunteers. Add a prayer for vocations to continue the Catholic education tradition in your community and throughout the country.
- ❖ Volunteer to help plan and carry out Catholic Schools Week activities. Whether you are able to contribute a little time or a lot, your effort helps make the week special for all.
- ❖ If, through your work or volunteer activities, you learn of a need in the community that students at your children's school can help fill, recommend a Catholic Schools Week or ongoing service project. Better yet, volunteer to organize it.
- ❖ Join in the fun! Gather the entire family—from younger siblings to grandparents—and participate in the week's events at your children's school.
- ❖ Extend a special invitation to your school's open house and other Week events to friends and neighbors who might want to learn more about the value of Catholic education.

THANK YOU:

We appreciate all those who contributed to the success of this year's Pre-K & Kindergarten Christmas Festival on December 16.

Thanks to all of the teachers and to all the parents and friends who attended this special program.

SANTA'S SECRET WORKSHOP:

Thanks to all those who participated in the Santa's Secret Workshop. Thanks also to Mrs. Linda Beck, Mrs. Tammy Badgley and

Mrs. Teri Gaulin for doing such a **GREAT** job of coordinating Santa's Secret Workshop, and thanks to all the mom and dad helpers who gave their time to help make this event a great success!

ST. AMELIA SCHOOL SWIM TEAM:

The St Amelia Swim Team had a record of 3 wins and 4 losses this season, finishing in 3rd place in the division. Among the all-time high of 62 team members this year, many were first year team members. We expect to again grow much stronger next year, after all the experience that was gained.



Team members are:

11+ - Daniel Barry, Aaron Binner, Adam Binner, Kelly Burns, Sean Chameli, Thomas Chameli, Danielle Crane, MaryGrace Downey, Francesca Gugino, Sydney Haen, Brandon LaBarba, Alivia LaRue, Emily MacKinnon, Molly McCarthy, Alexandra McGee, Rebecca Munoz, Michelle Munyon, Julia Murphy, Abigail Orlandi, Hannah Ososki, Gabriella Phillips, Ashley Pompeo, ShyAsia Reeder, Marissa Saber, Elena Slawson, Laura Streer, and KellyAnn Swartz.. They were coached by Paul Callahan, Paul Downey, Danielle Munyon and Marty Slawson.

9 and 10 – Callum Antonio, Elise Beamer, Daniella Gugino, Jack Gugino, Alyssa Harrington, Teresa Junczewicz, Olivia Koschuk, Emma Naab, Aracely Naffziger-Brown, Kaylah-Marie Parry, and Sean Phillips. They were coached by Erin Maynard and Bill Naab.

8 and under – Finley Antonio, Amy Barry, Olivia Beamer, Grace Chillingworth, Gabriel D'Angelo-Diel, Skylar Drawdy, Emily Fischer, Paige Glor, Peyton Glor, Julia Harrington, Olivia Harrington, Carly Hudson, Magdalene Ingalls, Alexander Koschuk, Grace Laski, Joshua Lemke, Zachary MacKinnon, Abigail, Murphy, Anna Orlandi, Megan Pompeo, Alexandra Randall, Alexis Roberts, Harrison Sly and Bryan Toth. They were coached by Samantha Barry, Samantha Gugino, Griffin Downey and Molly Downey.

Qualifying for All Stars: Amy Barry, Daniel Barry, Adam Binner Grace Chillingworth, Gabriel D'Angelo-Diel, MaryGrace Downey, Emily Fischer, Danielle Gugino, Francesca Gugino, Carly Hudson, Magdalene Ingalls, Alexander Koschuk, Olivia Koschuk, Zachary MacKinnon, Michelle Munyon, Abigail Murphy, Anna Orlandi, Alexandra Randall and Alexis Roberts.

Qualifying for All Stars in all events - Kelly Burns and Alexandra McGee

Congratulations to all team members and their coaches!

ACADEMIC INTERVENTION SERVICES:

Academic Intervention Services (AIS)

continues to be required by all schools to assist students who have either not achieved the New York Learning Standards or are in jeopardy of not achieving them.



Contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns. This year the programs will continue to be provided to our students in grades 3 - 8 similar to last year, and pre-kindergarten through grade 2 will begin in January.

The Academic Intervention Service (AIS) was adopted by our State Education Department. It falls very much in line with the "**No Child Left Behind**" legislature, which is now required. Regular classroom instruction must be provided for identified students. Parents should think of AIS as an educational safety net where students in need are receiving the appropriate assistance they need in 3 - 8 grades.

Additional instruction in either English/Language Arts (ELA) and/or Mathematics (and/or Science or Social Studies) will be provided by a teacher for at least 40 minutes, or one instructional period, per week. In many cases, this instruction is provided by one of our regular teachers assigned to grades 3 - 8. In some cases, it is

provided by one of our remedial reading, math, or special education teachers.

During AIS time, students who need the service will be receiving it from the personnel assigned to provide it. This way, the needs of all students can best be met.

Progress in the AIS program will be monitored quarterly, which also falls in line with our Report Card marking periods. At this time, parents whose child(ren) either are or will be in the AIS program can expect to receive a letter of notification as well as a subsequent "Progress Report" outlining how they are progressing or doing. Students are placed in AIS based on one or more of the following reasons or performance indicators:

- ⇒ Scores below performance levels on state assessments (i.e., a 1 or a 2)
- ⇒ At risk if not mastering state assessments in English/Language Arts, Math, Science, or Social Studies
- ⇒ Poor test scores on an assessment
- ⇒ Report Card indicated an area of concern
- ⇒ Running record/informal reading inventory scores
- ⇒ Teacher recommendation
- ⇒ Attendance or health concerns

A student receiving AIS program services will benefit from extra-help and time to address specific academic areas that they can improve upon during the year. **Attendance and participation are now required by state mandate and may no longer be waived by parents.**

WEATHER-RELATED SCHOOL CLOSINGS:

In the event of inclement weather, which may result in school being cancelled, please listen

to your local radio and/or T.V. stations, such as **WBEN, WGR, WJYE, WLVL** or watch **Channel 2, 4 or 7**. If an announcement is made that the **Kenmore- Tonawanda** schools are closed, **St. Amelia is also closed**.

Remember, in the event of inclement weather, please **DO NOT CALL THE RECTORY, SCHOOL OFFICE OR RADIO/TV STATIONS!**

A reminder, also, to be sure to have an **"Emergency Plan"** in place in the event of a school closing and/or unplanned early-release from school.

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

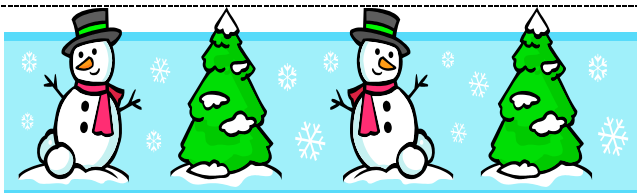
CONGRATULATIONS AND "THANK YOU:"

A very special *"Thank You"* to Mrs. Renee Obringer, Mr. Joseph Donohue, and Mrs. Carmarie Glogoza for making the Christmas play such a GREAT production! We received many positive comments from parents and parishioners, and it put everyone in a Christmas frame of mind!

REMINDER- GRADES 3 - 8:

NYS-ELA Assessment – April 17 - 19

NYS-Math Assessment - April 23 - 24



ANNUAL REPORT:

Our Annual Report is available at the school office.. You are to be commended for all your efforts and support of our "5 Star School".

We are truly blessed to have the constant support of the parents, teachers/staff, parishioners, and shareholders, etc. that make St. Amelia School a National School of Excellence!

500 LETTERS TO SANTA:

Again this holiday season, St. Amelia School joined Macy's and the Make-A-Wish Foundation® to help find the magic of the season. Our school children, along with children across the country, wrote 500 letters — stamped and addressed to Santa Claus at the North Pole — which were deposited in the Santa Mail letterbox at any Macy's store. For each letter received, Macy's is donating \$1 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, up to \$1 million dollars to help grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. As of this writing, over 900,000 letters have been written. We are sure Macy's will reach their goal of one million.



RACE FOR EDUCATION RECAP:

We are proud to announce that the final amount received in this year's Race For Education was \$35,103!

The Grand Prize Winners, the top students with the highest dollar amount in sponsor donations, were awarded \$100 Savings Bonds:

Roehner Fleming
Daniel Beiter
Margaret Christy
Samantha Hare

The top three classes who brought in the highest total dollar amount were:

Mrs. Mayer – 4/15
Mrs. Liszka – 6/6
Miss Tucholka – 6/4

Each of these homerooms will receive a pizza party.

Ten dollar gift cards were awarded to each boy and girl per grade who ran the most laps in the Race for Education. They are Robert Maranto, Marissa Saber, Nicholas Taboni,

Kaitlyn Hart, Kyle Toth, Autumn Kelleher, Catherine Lippert, Matthew Buckley, Elisabeth McAllister, Santo Sinnott, Meghan O'Connor, Bradley Converse, Sydney Cerkiewicz, Samuel Hanlon, Cidnee Frymire, Nicholas Sandarelli, Julia Harrington, Daniel Mucica, Samantha Sly, Cornell Schultz, Elizabeth Warne, Matthew Bradley, Peyton Overturf.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL ON
ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL "RACE FOR
EDUCATION!"**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE ST.
AMELIA HOME SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION!**

Did you make a New Year's resolution this year? I did. Mine is to try and recruit people that have yet to volunteer for an HSA event. You don't know what you are missing. I have met the most amazing parents at these events; most of them I consider family. And for those of you in the business world, volunteering is a great networking tool also! If you are not sure what to do, just shoot me an email llaski@excelsiorortho.com and I can get you started.

Middle States Accreditation was a huge success. I would like to personally thank Kathy and Tom Christy and their Middle States Committee for an amazing job. I was lucky to be part of the dinners and interviews. The amount of preparation that went into this was tremendous (over a year of planning). Mr. Mule, teachers, staff, students, and St. Amelia parents were spectacular. For those of you that don't know, the mission statement of the Middle States Commission is...

- to develop and apply standards and protocols
- to support educational communities
- to guide school improvement
- to encourage innovation
- to grant accreditation

in a manner that improves education quality and increases public trust. Thanks again to the Christy's and everyone involved with this endeavor.

December 11th was our first annual "Santa's Secret Workshop". It was well received for its first run. We had a little over 80 children signed up to make personalized presents throughout the day. One of the highlights was a two-hour visit from Santa. Linda Beck and her crew of Elves did an amazing job. We look forward to next year's workshop.

At this year's Open House (February 2, 2012), there will be a live auction of items that were made in each of the Elementary classes, so don't miss out on that. More information will be sent out as the date gets closer.

Save these dates:

January 12th – Roller Skating Party at Rainbow Roller Rink 6pm to 8pm

January 19th – HSA School Meeting 6:30pm featuring Kids-n-Balance, bring the kids, wear your sneakers, and be prepared to sweat!!!

January 21st – Monte Carlo 8pm to 1pm (HINT: Good function to volunteer for)

URGENT: I am still in desperate need of volunteers for Tuesday morning envelopes. If you are a stay at home parent or work later in the day. I am still in need of people to help stuff envelopes for approximately 1 to 1 ½ hours each Tuesday morning. Please let me know if you can volunteer llaski@excelsiorortho.com

On behalf of the HSA, we would like to wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Lisa J. Laski
HSA President

