

**The Good News in Education**  
**St. Joseph Catholic School - Greenville**

Dear Friend of St. Joseph,

The Season of Advent is with us and we humbly ask for blessings during this period. Advent is the anticipation of Christmas when Christians attempt to prepare for the arrival of Jesus into our hearts in a meaningful manner. Sure, Christmas is a wonderful season for greetings of joy, celebrations, gatherings, and gifts, but the real reason for Christmas must always remain in Jesus again coming into our hearts and homes. From Christmas forward, we only hope and pray that Jesus will remain in our hearts and actions every day of our lives.

At St. Joseph School, our daily attempt is to place before students the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and act accordingly. Thank you for supporting us in these attempts in your family life. Bless you and yours for the most holy and Christ-filled Christmas ever!

Regards,

*Paul C. Artman, Jr.*

Paul Artman, Ed.S.

Principal

December, 2011

**PREVENTING CYBERBULLYING**

A large part of a teen's social life takes place online; therefore, cyberbullying has become a bigger concern than ever. Thank you for sharing these tips with your child:

- \* Make sure your teen understands that it is never okay to post or send threats, hurtful comments, or inappropriate messages or pictures. This could even be illegal!
- \* Tell your child not to respond to cyberbullying. As with other types of bullying, responding only spurs on the activity.
- \* Please report cyberbullying to your service provider, and if school-related to the principal.

**WAYS TO PRAISE A CHILD**

- ⇒ WOW
- ⇒ Awesome
- ⇒ You are so responsible
- ⇒ That's it
- ⇒ What a good listener

**GOOD NEWS**

At St. Joseph Catholic School, we value achievement and thank God for good news like:

- Kevin Muzzi won the Mississippi Wendy's Heisman Award
- Congratulations to the 90 student awards garnered at the St. Joseph Science and Engineering Fair. There are 40 students eligible for advancement to District-level competition.

**GET OUTDOORS**

Colder weather does not need to prevent your child from venturing out for much needed fresh air and exercise. Christmas break, sleeping late and cold weather could become a recipe for laziness. Remind your children to layer clothing and get outside for a toss of the Frisbee, a game of touch football, or a run through the neighborhood. This winter, stay healthy-stay busy!

**ANNUAL FUND GIVERS**

Thank you to very special givers to the Annual Fund. Your every gift supports enhancements to the academic programs at Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary and St. Joseph Catholic High School. Bless you for your efforts!

### GRATEFUL GIFTS

Parents set the example at home in many ways, including expressing gratitude for Christmas gifts. When your child receives a gift, it is important to show appreciation. We should always thank the giver promptly and graciously in person or by telephone. A hand-written thank you will always perform wonders when it comes to expressing appreciation for a special gift. It is important to always be a cheerful giver and recipient.

### POWER AGAINST BULLYING

Each day, about 160,000 children stay home from school because of bullying. No matter which part a child might play in the bullying problem, there are ways parents can try to help. Here are suggestions in case your child:

**is bullied ...** If your child frequently wishes to skip school, seems sad, has belongings disappear, or comes home crying or with bruises, he may be a victim. Ask questions about rumors, teasing, or hitting and reassure the child that this behavior is not his/her fault. Together, document details and arrange a meeting with the principal.

**bullies others ...** If you find out that your teen is a bully, take it seriously. Get his side of the story, but seek input from adults who see him during the day. Meet with a school counselor in order to discover causes and a plan to halt the behavior. Also, explain to your child that you will not tolerate bullying and establish consequences should the behavior continue.

**witnesses bullying ...** If your teenager sees bullying, encourage him to walk away with the bullied peer and report the activity to an adult immediately. Then, suggest that your child reach out to the victim in a continued supportive manner.

### DO YOUR BEST ON YOUR TESTS

- Prepare for tests along the way
- Review class notes nightly
- Get a good night's rest
- Remember: You can do it!
- Be well prepared
- Enjoy a solid breakfast
- Be organized and do not rush
- Relax

### THE ST. JOSEPH VISION

Our school vision maintains that we are committed to cultural diversity as a means for our students to learn, understand, and experience the community in a real context. Curriculum must reflect a variety of learning activities for the students' unique needs. Additionally, diversity in assessment methods affords students a variety of achievement opportunities.

### UP A TREE

Thank you for purchasing your fresh Christmas tree from the St. Joseph Tree Lot located behind the school at 1501 V.F.W. Road. Your continuing this Greenville Christmas tradition benefits the school's Athletic Association.

### COUNSELORS' CORNER

Our Greenville Catholic Schools maintain a continuous standardized testing regime that allows us to track students on an individual and corporate level in comparison to nationally established norms. Our continued above national average SAT 10 test results have been processed and are being revealed to parents, students, faculty, and the School Advisory Council at present. Please attend one of the scheduled Parent Meetings for a full explanation of your child's test results and class results, as well as to receive a personalized copy of these standardized test scores.