



*Visitation Inter-Parish School
exists to create a Catholic learning environment
that nurtures the total person in a family-like atmosphere.*

Friday, January 6, 2012

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Teachers:

Happy New Year! On behalf of the faculty and staff, I'd like to thank you for your cards and gifts during the Christmas season. Thanks to the parents who worked the school "Happy Birthday, Jesus" parties. Thanks, too, to all who helped to promote the Christmas Musical--we are receiving very positive feedback from the audience regarding the students' performance. Sunday is the Epiphany and Monday is the Baptism of the Lord. Then liturgically we'll be back in Ordinary Time again.

Thanks to all who attended the Home and School Association Meeting Wednesday. The teachers, students, and I appreciate all that the HSA does to support the school.

Report cards are going home in family folders today. Please contact the classroom teachers if you have any concerns or questions about the grades.

Grades 5 and 8 took the standardized religion test (ACRE Test) today.

Preparations are underway for the celebration of Catholic Schools Week, January 28-February 3. Please plan to attend Mass January 28 or 29 in one of our three parishes. We'd like all of our students to participate in a special way. The coordinators are Jan Tappel for Visitation's two Masses, Amy Veasman for Brinktown, and Jenny Wieberg for Argyle. The theme this year is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service." Nomination forms for the Distinguished Graduate Award will be available in the parishes this weekend. Those forms are to be returned to the school, the Vienna Rectory, or the collection baskets at Mass no later than January 15. The School Board will review the nominees and select the recipient of this year's award. Some of the plans for Catholic Schools Week include an all-school field trip to the Vienna South Central Regional Stockyard Inc. on Highway 42, a luncheon for volunteers, community service by a small group of seventh or eighth graders at Loaves and Fishes, a teacher appreciation luncheon prepared by Msgr. Makarewicz, a Spelling Bee with K-8 participation, and a field trip to The Zone in Rolla for parent/student appreciation day. For the trip to the Stockyard Monday (1/30), students may wear jeans and Visitation Spirit shirts--cowboy hats, boots, and huge belt buckles are optional. Students may also wear Visitation Spirit shirts and jeans for the field trip to The Zone.

It is hard to believe that we have no snow days to make up yet!

Third quarter (January 2--March 15) tends to be "the slump" academically for many students. Please encourage your students to keep working hard consistently throughout the third quarter. Parents, don't let them fall into the blues when the weather turns dreary and cold. Help keep their enthusiasm up by celebrating small successes with them. Success breeds success. Being a perfectionist is the same as being successful. Set the goals high but praise your student's efforts with their little steps along the way. Growth takes time and nurturing. Success is habit to be formed by making good choices daily. Show interest in what the students find interesting. Parent support, persistent efforts, and a positive attitude are very important to long term student success. Thank you for all the many things you do to promote learning and faith.

Sincerely,

Principal Linda Stuckenschneider

