

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL

GOOD NEWS BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2011

WAITING FOR JESUS – ADVENT

The word “advent” is from Latin and means the coming. Advent is a time of spiritual reflection as well as a time of eager anticipation. It is also a time of penitence and fasting. Advent, in its earliest origins, was seen as a time of preparation for the Nativity.

Advent is a Christian tradition that invites us on a four week journey. It culminates with the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Advent is a time for renewal, a time for families to gather and reacquaint themselves with one another and the church. It is a time for us to look deep within ourselves and give new meaning to our everyday lives. Lives that will be enriched by service to one another, lives enriched by commitments to prayer, and lives grounded in our Catholic faith.

May this Advent find you ready and waiting for the Christ, and in so doing, may you also bring to those you know a rich understanding of the Advent season and the traditions associated with it. May you have a blessed Advent!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL SWEETSTAKES FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION UPDATE– Thus far, we have sold 1,650 tickets for a net school profit of \$8,250.00!

We are asking that each family sell at least 50 tickets, which will enable us to reach our goal of selling 10,000 tickets for a profit of \$50,000.00. We are extending the sale of tickets to January 9, 2012. Please see Joyce Smolik or Kathy Haas for more tickets.

Please turn in your money for tickets sold by Friday, December 9, 2011. You can keep your unsold tickets and continue to sell them through January 9, 2012.

NEW INCENTIVE!!!! The name of each family who sells at least 50 tickets will go into a drawing for ONE MONTH’S FREE TUITION. For each additional 50 tickets sold, your name will be put in again.

The money raised through the sweepstakes will help us keep our tuition as low as possible while providing a much needed increase in salary for our faculty. All Sacred Heart teachers are certified and qualified for their grade level and subject area; however, their salaries are 25 to 45% below the Texas state base salary for teachers with comparable training and background.

We appreciate everyone’s participation in the Catholic Schools Sweepstakes.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION- On the Roman Catholic Church calendar of holy days, December 8th is celebrated as a holy day of obligation, commemorating the Immaculate Conception of Mary, which means Mary was born without original sin. The observance of this feast began with a Papal encyclical by Pope Pius IX, when he formally defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, *Ineffabilis Deus*, on December 8, 1854.

To the Roman Catholic, December 8th is a significant date, not to be treated lightly. As a holy day of obligation, the Catholic is *required* by the first Precept of the Church to attend Mass.

NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL CLOSING, LATE START, OR EARLY DISMISSAL-Sacred Heart Catholic School will follow the Hallettsville Independent School District’s decision regarding emergency school closing, emergency late start, or emergency early dismissal. Please tune in to Texas Thunder Radio 99.9 FM for information regarding these matters. It comes on the air at 6:00 a.m. each morning.

2012 “A BLACK AND WHITE AFFAIR” EXTRAVAGANZA -The Annual 2012 Extravaganza is coming up on February 4, 2012. If you have any creative ideas for a silent auction item or would like to donate an item, please contact Amy Machicek at 361-798-1208. See enclosed flyer and get your tickets early.

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF THE ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN – In compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), enacted in 1986, all schools, public or private, are required to have an inspection of all buildings, for asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM), by accredited asbestos-trained personnel. All Catholic School facilities of the Diocese of Victoria were inspected in October 2005, including Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville, Texas. Sacred Heart Catholic School was inspected for ACBM by personnel from EFI Global (EFI), an environmental consulting firm located in Houston, Texas. EFI is accredited and licensed by the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to perform asbestos condition assessments of all suspect and identified ACBM. Building materials at Sacred Heart were observed to be in undamaged condition and/or present minimal hazards, if any, to building occupants. Periodic surveillance is also conducted semi-annually by Sacred Heart personnel.

AHERA requires that this annual notification be posted or distributed to parents, staff, faculty, HSA, etc. indicating the AHERA asbestos Management Plan will be available for review upon request. The 2005 AHERA Re-inspection report and the AHERA asbestos Management Plan are on file in the administrative offices. Under federal law, the documents are considered permanent “archives” and may not be removed from the premises at any time. However, these records are available for review, upon request, at any time during normal school hours.

HOMECOMING 2011 – Homecoming 2011 was a wonderful experience for everyone involved. We want to commend especially our high school students for their cooperation and enthusiasm throughout the week. Their school spirit and creativeness were awesome. We want to thank Debi Bludau, and the high school cheerleaders for coordinating the week-long events. We want to give a special thank you to Linda Pavliska for organizing the beautiful Alumni Memorial Mass on Saturday and making it such a special event.

Congratulations to the following 2011 Homecoming activity winners:

Homecoming Queen - Shelby Rivers; Homecoming King - Sterling Hrcir

Ms. Spirit - Lauren Huser Mr. Spirit – Drew Shimek

Most Spirited Teacher – Mrs. Klmitchek

First Place Decorative Wall Sign – Junior Class

Second Place Decorative Wall Sign - Sophomore Class

First Place Skit Contest – Senior Class; Second Place Skit Contest – Junior Class

Volleyball Tournament Results - 1st Place – Junior Class Girls; 2nd Place – Senior Class Boys

Congratulations also to the Indian football team, coaches, marching band, twirlers, flag corp, cheerleaders and band director on their outstanding performances at the game. We want to extend a special thank you to all the Sacred Heart Catholic High School alumni for their attendance at the activities and the dance following the game. We also want to thank the Knights of Columbus for the use of their hall and preparing the delicious chicken fried steak supper.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR- Thank you to everyone who supported the elementary library Book Fair, especially to the teachers, students, and parents who purchased books at the fair. We received \$1,107.97 in Scholastic Dollars to get books for the library. Of that amount, \$639.74 worth of books from the fair were selected and the rest will be used to order books from Scholastic Resource Catalog. Thank you to the following ladies who helped during the book fair: Gayle Bludau, Angela McConnell, Nanci Hadash, Sharon Timm, and Karen Wysocki. Thank you all once again for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the next book fair during Catholic Schools Week in January 2012.

QUALITY KIDS RECOGNIZED FOR HONESTY AND FAIRNESS IN OCTOBER –

Kindergarten - Brady Haas and Luke Henneke; 1st - Jules Janak and Braden Bludau

2nd - Quade Henneke and Dallas Layton; 3rd - Hayden Grahmann and Addison Belicek

4th - Shelby Haas, Connor Popp and Jacob Fawbush

VFW Voice of Democracy Essay Winners – VFW Post 6382 announced the winners of the Voice of Democracy Essay Contest. Congratulations to the top 3 winners from Sacred Heart Catholic High School: 1st place – Ariane Kubena; 2nd place – Stephanie Sykora; 3rd place – Lauren Huser. Their essays will compete at the next competition level.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES ALL SAINTS' DAY-Each year on November 1st, the Catholic Church celebrates the feast of All Saints. It is a day to remember all the ordinary people like ourselves who lived their lives according to God's commandments and the Beatitudes that Jesus taught. True to His promise of raising the faithful to new life with Him, these people now enjoy the happiness of heaven. They are models for us and can be our heroes.

Students at Sacred Heart Catholic School honored the saints before their school Mass on Tuesday, November 1st. As 30 little "saints" processed into Church before the Liturgy, the congregation prayed a Litany of Saints. Students in grades 2 through 4 portrayed their patron saint or favorite saint: Shelby Haas, Jillian Brown, Carley Haas – St. Anne; Korbin Koehne – St. Benedict Labre; Emma Nieto – St. Martha; Heidi Smith – St. Catherine of Bologna; Jordan Bludau – St. Dominic Savio; Addison Belicek – St. Cecilia; William Harper and Nolan Steffek – St. Isidore; Abigail Clark – St. Elizabeth of Hungary; Cole Bohuslav – St. George; Brett Hermes – St. Hilda of Whitby; Austin Kutac – St. Austin; Quade Henneke, Luke Bludau, and Cole Kubicek – St. Francis of Assisi; Ella Harper – St. Maria de la Cabeza; Cole Jansky – St. Jerome; Graci Shimek, Bailey Schindler, Allie Bludau, and Sydney Migura – St. Therese the Little Flower; Adam Steffek – St. Sebastian; Morgan Machac – St. Paul; Victoria Kraatz – St. Barbara; Trey Ridgeway – St. Tarcisius; Hannah Bludau and Brianna Noska – Venerable Jeanne de Matel

Delaney Etzler and Madison Kutac served as prayer leaders. As each student came forward, the congregation was led in prayer to the saints named. This helped all to recall many different saints and to picture how they looked. It was a profound reminder that we all belong to the Communion of Saints. Right now we are saints in the making. Fr. Tommy Chen gave the homily emphasizing that it is both easy and hard to become a saint – easy because we know what to do, by living the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the example of Jesus; but it is hard because we have to put forth the effort, resist temptation, pray, attend Mass and receive Jesus as our nourishment to strengthen us to persevere.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK-Sacred Heart Catholic School participated in International Education Week by welcoming 14 international high school students on November 14th. International Education Week (IEW) is a joint initiative by The U.S. Departments of State and Education. First held in 2000, it is now celebrated in more than 100 countries worldwide. IEW is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide.

The students spent the morning making presentations about their countries to Sacred Heart students and staff. Many were dressed in native costumes and brought cultural artifacts from their countries. They shared information about their countries' customs, food, language, and culture. They come from countries as diverse as Japan, Germany, The Netherlands, Yemen, South Korea, Cameroon, Brazil, and Pakistan. After the presentations, the international students joined Sacred Heart high school students during lunch and continued to strengthen the bonds of friendship that had quickly developed. Having the opportunity to meet the international students and learn about their diverse backgrounds was a wonderful experience for Sacred Heart students and faculty. The students are sponsored through AYUSA International, a non-profit exchange student organization.

THANKS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CENTRAL TEXAS – Melinda Rodriguez, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Central Texas, sent a thank you letter to Sacred Heart Catholic School for the money donated to help the victims of the Bastrop area wildfires. She wrote: "Thank you for your generous gift of \$2,000 to support Catholic Charities' efforts to help the victims of the recent wildfires in our area. Your donation will bring immediate relief to our neighbors in need. Your kindness shows that it is during times of adversity like these that the human spirit shines. We ask you please keep all affected by the wildfires in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Thank you again for your help."

COUNSELOR'S CORNER- Through December, high school students will receive the test results of the tests taken in October and information on how to interpret their score reports. The information will be sent home with them.

Important Dates:

December 1st – College Fair, Victoria College Sports Center, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

December 3rd – SAT test

December 10th – ACT test

December 30th – deadline to register for January 28th SAT

January 13th – Deadline to register for February 11th ACT

2012 SAT Test Dates: January 28th; March 10th; June 2nd

2012 ACT Test Dates: February 11th; April 14th; June 9th

<u>S.H.C.S.</u> <u>GRADES K - 2</u> <u>CHRISTMAS PROGRAM</u>	<u>S.H.C.S.</u> <u>GRADES 3 & 4</u> <u>CHRISTMAS PROGRAM</u>	<u>S.H.C.S.</u> <u>PRE-K CHRISTMAS</u> <u>PROGRAM</u>
<p>The K – 2 Christmas Program will be on Tuesday, December 13th, at 6:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. The program is titled “Christmas Magic.”</p> <p>Everyone is invited to attend.</p>	<p>The 3rd and 4th grade annual Christmas Program, titled “A Super Gift From Heaven” is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7th, at 6:30 p.m. in the gymnasium.</p> <p>Everyone is invited to attend.</p>	<p>The Pre-K Christmas Program will be on Monday, December 5th, at 6:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. The Pre-K Program is titled “Lead the Way to Christmas.”</p> <p>Everyone is invited to attend.</p>



SACRED HEART BAND
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Beginners, Intermediate, High School
Sunday, December 11th
6:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Gym



Refreshments will be served following the concert. **Everyone is asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the LAMB ministry.**

The Sacred Heart Band Booster officers would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a safe, healthy, happy and peace-filled holiday. We thank each and every one of you for all of your hard work and support you have given the band this year. It is truly appreciated.

KINDERGARTEN DEPUTY SANTA BAKE SALE - On Thursday, December 1st, the kindergarten class will have a Deputy Santa Bake Sale during lunch beginning at 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. by the SHCS cafeteria. Proceeds will be used to purchase gifts for needy children.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES -The Reconciliation service for the high school students will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2011, from 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL SEMESTER EXAMS - High school semester exams will be administered to all high school students on Wednesday, December 14th, Thursday, December 15th, and Friday, December 16th. Students will be told which exams they will have each day.

EARLY DISMISSALS

Pre-K – 12 - Friday, December 2, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. for faculty meeting
Grades 9 – 12 – Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 12:00 noon
Grades 9 – 12 – Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.
Pre-K - 12 - Friday, December 16, 2011 at 12:00 noon

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Monday, December 19, 2011 – Monday, January 2, 2012
Tuesday, January 3, 2012 - Classes resume.

**FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 16**

**There will be
NO EXTENDED
DAY CARE**

REMINDER: ALL TUITION AND FEES MUST BE CURRENT AS OF DECEMBER IN ORDER FOR SEMESTER EXAMS TO BE ADMINISTERED TO STUDENTS. THIS INCLUDES BAND FEES, ATHLETIC FEES, LUNCHESES, ETC.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Hudson Kutac	10 William Watson	17 Brynn Webb
3 Sidney Migura	Mrs. Pickle Cash	19 Trent Malaer
Leightin Pilat	12 Brianna Clark	20 Hunter Janak
Ross Rother	Quade Henneke	23 Olivia Bohuslav
4 Dawson Belicek	15 Kenna Kubenka	25 Matthew Holub
7 Kailyn Malaer	Jayce Bludau	26 Ashley Zimmerman
Emily Harper	Reid Timm	28 Braxtyn Stika
Megan Harper	Mrs. GERALYN Klimitchek	30 Blake Hermes
8 Lillieana Bludau	16 Ava Grace Lackey	

*May the blessings of the Lord shine upon us
And help us light the candle of hope, faith, and peace.*



*Wishing You and Your Family a Blessed Christmas,
From the Sacred Heart Catholic School Faculty and Staff*