

Be Part of the Heart



St. Benedict School Newsletter, December, 2011

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Advent season is officially upon us! The importance of the Advent season is our focus from now until Christmas break as we prepare for the coming of our Lord. Classroom Advent wreaths were blessed at our first "live" Advent celebration which took place in the gymnasium on November 29th. "Live" means that we sit in a circle, in imitation of an Advent wreath. We sing songs, read a passage from scripture, and progressively light another candle each week. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet our Lord. This tradition helps us keep in focus the true meaning of Christmas and that we are called to serve others in our lives. Parents are invited to attend the weekly Advent celebrations and also to come to our Advent Mass which will take place on December 22nd at 1:15 p.m.

Not only will you hear singing at our Advent celebrations, but also in the gymnasium during music classes each day as Mrs. Schaefer prepares our students for our annual Christmas Concert. The students are sounding better and better each day! Be sure to mark on your calendars that the concert will take place at the MacLab on December 21st beginning at 6:30 p.m.

As you will likely know by now, our Santa's Anonymous Giving Tree Campaign has begun. Our hope is to instill a spirit of giving at our school. Those participating in this campaign would take a gift tag off the tree (located in the foyer . . . you can't miss it ☺), then purchase a gift for the gender and age of the child as per what is written on the gift tag. Unwrapped gifts with the gift tag taped to it can be put into the Santa's Anonymous Box which is located in the office area. This initiative runs until December 16th. Even a small gift can make a huge difference in the lives of others.

May God bless you and your family during this Advent Season as we focus our thoughts in anticipation of the coming of our Saviour.

Monique Tellier-Phillips



IMPORTANT DATES FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

**Christmas Holidays- Dec. 26-Jan. 6th
School reopens on January 9th, 2012**

EARLY DISMISSAL (GR. 1-5)

**Wednesday, December 7th, at 12:20pm No
Kindergarten on that day.**

**Reminder: Parents please make
sure you call the front office if
your child will be late or away.**



Thank you to Mrs. and Mr. Hein, Mrs. Artokivi, Jodie de Waal and Monique Schultz for helping scoop up ice cream every month.



*Did you know that playing a game is a great way to have fun with you child and build language at the same time?
 *Check out the "Good-Times with Games" webpage at www.parentlinkalberta.ca for a list of language building games.
 *Creating your own game is a fun way to spend quality time together and to build language.

ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL ENVELOPES

Should your family require more stamped envelopes, please send a note in your child's agenda or have them come to the office for them.

MASS and ADVENT CELEBRATION



St. Benedict School's Christmas Mass Celebration is on Thursday, December 22nd at 1:15 pm at St. Benedict School. Everyone is welcome to join us at all of these celebrations.

SANTA'S CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE



Our annual bake sale will be held on Tuesday, Dec 6th from 10-12 pm. This will be a great time for all parents to purchase their Christmas Goodies. Students will be allowed to purchase individual treats that day as well. All proceeds go towards the purchase of gift cards for our families in need. Thank you to Dawn Galloway for baking all the goodies and the gift card donation.

COLDER WEATHER

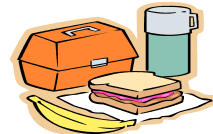


Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for Alberta weather. The playground can be quite windy. Bus students need to be well prepared in case a bus should break down. Please label/personalize toques, mittens, scarves, snow pants and boots visibly on the outside so that we won't have students wearing the wrong ones.

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

We congratulate the following students who demonstrated leadership and responsibility this past month.

- Emily Tews
- Macauley Wilmot
- Adam Juszkiwicz
- Logan Dufresne
- Annabella Katan
- Trent Dyck
- Jenna Hanson
- Melinda Lindstrom
- Brayden Calder
- Seneca Rendle



HOT LUNCH NEWS/CHANGES

Thank you to all the parents who are helping with hot lunch this year ... it is great to have so many new faces!

Please remember, if you are free on a Tuesday, you are always welcome to come out and help - you don't have to come every week. We need help from 11:30 - 12:45. If you are only able to come for a short amount of time, we always need help distributing lunch in the classrooms from 12:15 - 12:35. Come when you can!

The number of children ordering hot lunch has gone down a little this year. Parents are reminded that this is used as a smaller fundraiser for the PAC. All monies made go directly for extra perks for our students. We will be starting a new Hot Lunch Order System by ordering online at <http://stbenedict.hotlunchprogram.com>. The system will be open for orders starting on December 6th. For the initial order, you will need to log in and register your child/children. Once your child is registered then you make the menu selections. Once that is complete please print your form and submit with your payment to St. Benedict School. The system will accept orders up to/on December 12th. Order forms and payments are due at the school on December 13th. This is a 6 week cycle, if you would like to split your payment, then you may write two equal cheques. One dated for December 13th and the second dated for January 17th. There is a \$1 processing fee which will be automatically included in your total. Parents can still print their form and send in cash as well. If you do not have computer access, please let the front office know and we will make sure you are provided with a hard copy. We will do our best to ensure that you have at least one week, including a weekend, to return your hot lunch form. **WE CANNOT ACCEPT LATE ORDERS.** We have volunteers working to provide your child with these hot lunches and they spend countless hours totalling, ordering and distributing the lunches. If you have any questions or comments about the new Hot Lunch Ordering System, please let the front office know and we will pass on the message.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Our Christmas Concert this year is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21st at the MacLab Center.

The Program this year is as follows:

Kindergarten Concert- 6:30pm

Gr. 1 & Gr. 2 Concert- 7pm

Gr. 3, 4 & 5 Concert- 7:30pm

6pm- Kindergarten Students arrive at the MacLab and go to the designated classroom. Supervision will be in place for kindergarten students and siblings in other grades.

6:30pm- Grade 1 & 2 Students arrive at the MacLab and go to the designated classroom. Supervision will be in place for Grade 1 & 2 students and siblings in other grades.

7pm- Grade 3, 4 & 5 Students arrive at the MacLab and go to the designated classroom. Supervision will be in place for Gr. 3, 4 & 5 students and siblings in other grades.

Tickets for the Christmas Concert will be sent home on **December 1st**. Each family will receive 3 tickets per performance. Extra tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis starting on **Monday, December 5th** at a cost of **\$2** each.

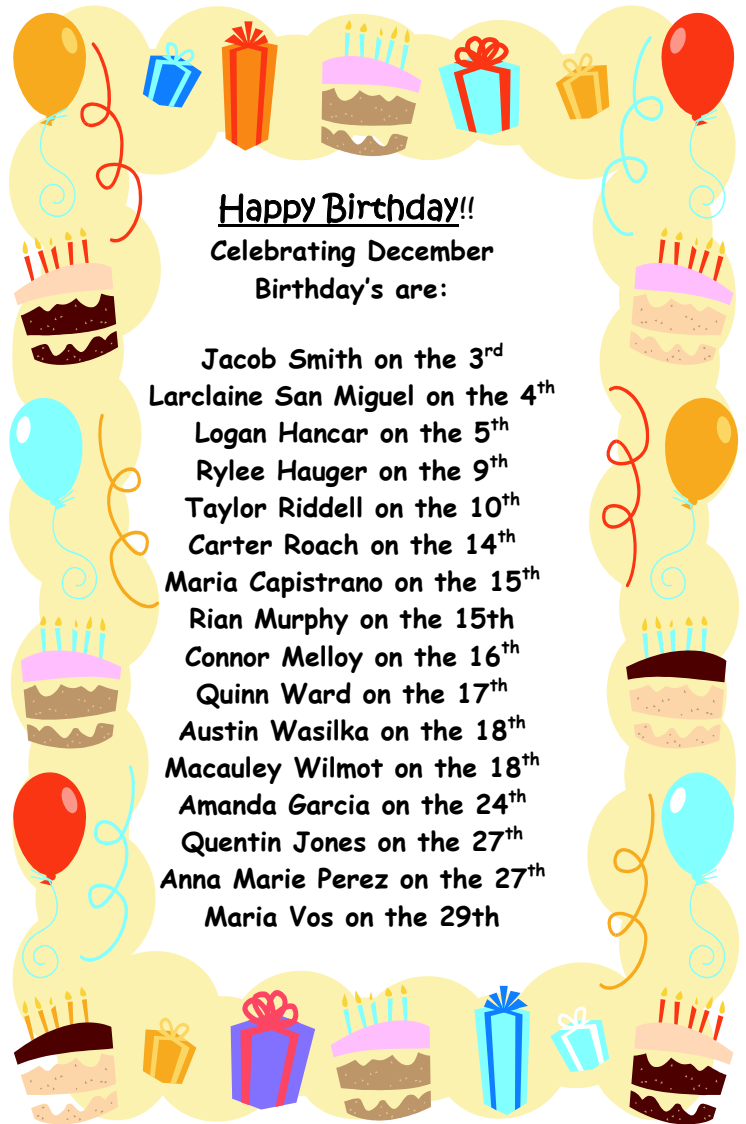
St. Benedict School Giving Christmas Tree

This year we will be doing something a little different for Christmas. We are decorating our Christmas Tree with gift tags. Students/Parents/Staff are *invited* to pick a gift tag. Each tag will state if the gift you will purchase is for a girl or boy and the age it is intended for. I have attached the **WISHLIST** letter we received from **Leduc Santa's Anonymous**. Our Santa's Kick Off day will be November 29th. This will be the first day our beautiful "Giving Tree" will be ready for all your gifts.



If a family opts to choose a gift tag, please be aware that once you purchase the gift as per information on the tag, please tape the tag on the gift item and place it our Santa's Box in the front office. **We ask all gifts remain unwrapped.** **Leduc Santa Anonymous** will be picking up our all our donations on December 15th, so we ask all gifts to be sent in **by 3pm on December 14th**. We will also be raising money for Santa's by selling **Jingle Bells** on our **December 8th Spirit Day**. Students can purchase the premade Jingle Bells, that you pin on, for **\$1** or they can bring Jingle Bells from home to wear. Students will be allowed to wear their bells on December 23rd, the last day of school, as well.

St. Benedict School will also be giving gift cards for Sobeys and Wal-Mart out to families in need this upcoming Advent season. If your family is experiencing financial difficulty and could use a gift card to purchase food and/or gift items, please **contact Mrs. Tellier-Phillips** in confidence at monique.phillips@starcatholic.ab.ca or at **780-986-7480 (Ext. 222)**.



Happy Birthday!!

Celebrating December Birthdays are:

Jacob Smith on the 3rd
Larclaine San Miguel on the 4th
Logan Hancar on the 5th
Rylee Hauger on the 9th
Taylor Riddell on the 10th
Carter Roach on the 14th
Maria Capistrano on the 15th
Rian Murphy on the 15th
Connor Melloy on the 16th
Quinn Ward on the 17th
Austin Wasilka on the 18th
Macauley Wilmot on the 18th
Amanda Garcia on the 24th
Quentin Jones on the 27th
Anna Marie Perez on the 27th
Maria Vos on the 29th

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

Do you know a teacher who is outstanding in his/her field? Every year parents & colleagues are invited to initiate the nomination process of a teacher who they think deserves this prestigious honor. The criteria for the awards program are:

- Recognize outstanding Alberta Teachers.
- Honor creative, innovative and effective teaching.
- Focus public attention on the teaching profession.
- Involve Albertans in celebrating teaching excellence.

Nomination forms for parents are available on page 13 at

<http://www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/excellence.aspx>

Deadline for nominations is February 3, 2012.

GREAT JOB STUDENTS!!!

On Thursday, November 24th the students of St. Benedict School participated in a **Walk for Awareness for Type 1 Diabetes**. The Juvenile Diabetes "Dragon" came out to celebrate the "kick off" for the walk! Afterwards, everyone was able to enjoy a juice box and a fruit snack, as they saw that someone with Diabetes must eat extra snacks when they engage in any extra activities.

Our students' efforts and support helped to raise **\$566.50!** This money has been donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) for Diabetes Research. Thank you to everyone who supported this great cause!!



Christmas Season Liturgy Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24th, 2011

5 pm, 7:30 pm & Midnight (12 pm)

Christmas Day, December 25th, 2011 9 am
& 11 am

ST. MICHAEL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To register for the Sacraments or for additional information please contact Linda Boire at the parish office at 986-3253.



Grocery Gift Certificates for Sale

Just in time for Christmas! The Knights of Columbus are selling Garden Market IGA gift certificates. Call Richard Yoner at 780-986-0471

BOOK FAIR NEWS



Thank you to everyone who supported the book fair, it was an overwhelming success!!! Over \$1100 was raised! The winner of the \$25 Family Event Door Prize was Nolan K. and his teacher, Mrs. Hauger. The \$10 winners were: Justin R. in 2J, Logan D. in K,

Jordan G. in 5B, Tyler E. in 3M, Madison M. in 3E and Devin M. in 4H. The poster winners were: Emylia T & Adam J in Kindergarten, Kailyn G. in 5B, Dylan W. in 1B, Devin N. in 3E, Kendra S. in 1M, Riely C. in 1B, Blake H. in 4H, Cody L. in 3E, Makayla H. in 4T, Kaitlyn P. in 2J, Anna Maria P. in 5S, Kai M. in 2M, Kayla N. in 3E, Austin W. in 4T, Seneca R. in 1B and Teagan H. in 1B. Congratulations to all!!!

December

Understanding

Understanding is using your mind to think clearly, paying careful attention to see the meaning of things. An understanding mind gives you insights and wonderful ideas. An understanding heart gives you empathy and compassion for others. Understanding is the power to think and learn and also to care.

Courtesy

Courtesy is being polite and having good manners. When you speak and act courteously, you give others a feeling of being valued and respected. Greet people pleasantly. Bring courtesy home. Your family needs it most of all. Courtesy helps life to go smoothly.

Service

Service is giving to others, making a difference in their lives. You consider their needs as important as your own. Be helpful without waiting to be asked. Do every job with excellence. When you act with a spirit of service, you can change the world.

Helpfulness

Helpfulness is being of service to others, doing thoughtful things that make a difference in their lives.

Offer your help without waiting to be asked. Ask for help when you need it. When we help each other, we get more done. We make our lives easier.

ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL UNESCO NEWS

Christmas Gifts of Hope Catalogue

**If you cannot feed a hundred people,
then feed just one.**

~ Mother Teresa ~

The Ainembabazi Children's Project is one of our UNESCO projects to promote service to others, cultural awareness, and global citizenship. Our school has been twinned with Kahunga School in southern Uganda. If you wish to donate, your gifts will help improve the lives of the orphans and vulnerable children who attend the school. A great way to GIVE this Christmas!

Attached is the Gifts of Hope catalogue. Just print out the order form on the last page and make a donation this Christmas.

Child Scholarships

For the first time, we can also support students at Kahunga Primary School through school scholarships.

Scholarship Costs include the full payment of school fees for three terms as well as provides some of the necessary school materials for their success.

- Primary Level - Total contribution of \$75 per year
- Secondary Level - Total contribution of \$200 per year

One Time Scholarship Support: you will receive a thank you from Ainembabazi letting you know basic information about child you supported for the year (photo, age, grade level and name) along with your charitable receipt.

Ongoing Scholarship Support: you will receive not only a thank you and charitable receipt from Ainembabazi, you will receive information on the child you are supported including a photo, the age, grade level and name. We will also have the child write a letter directly to you sharing some more information about their life and their hopes and dreams. You will also receive annual progress reports on your child. Please allow leeway for a marginal increase in school fees up to 5% per year. We request that sponsors make a commitment to take their sponsored child at least to the Secondary 4 level which may require a minimum of a 4 year commitment if sponsorship begins at the Secondary 1 level.

Attached is the Child Scholarship order form. Just print out the form and make a donation this Christmas.