

November 28, 2007

Dear Parents,

“Give us the gift of waiting, loving God. Help us to keep alert, to stand firm in our faith, to be courageous and strong. Let all that we do be done in love.”
1 Corinthians 16: 13-14

On Sunday, our Church will begin a **new liturgical year** with the season of **Advent**. The students will be preparing for the birth of Jesus in their individual classrooms and through our school-wide prayer each morning and afternoon. I encourage you and your family to create Advent rituals in your home using an **Advent wreath** or an **Advent calendar**.

Beginning **December 3rd** and every day in **December**, students and teachers **may** wear **Christmas sweaters, sweatshirts, vest, or socks** with their uniforms – **no hats**. By no means is this a requirement; I just thought that this would add a festive appearance to these days of Advent. **Holiday music** will also be playing before school each morning as students arrive.

Students in **Grade 5** will attend **Mass** on **Wednesday, December 5th** at **8:30 AM** in the **Church**. Students in **Grade 3** will attend **Mass** on **Thursday, December 6th**. You are also invited to join us for **First Friday Mass** on **Friday, December 7th** at **10:00 AM**.

Seven of our St. Michael students have qualified for the **state level competition of the 2007 Young Authors Writing Contest** sponsored by the Raleigh/Wake Reading Council. The students' stories and poems were chosen from among 200 entries at the regional level. **Congratulations to Mary Margaret Adams, Sarah Doerrer, Taylor Dworznicki, Ben Grazen, Kaitlyn Hall, Danielle Herman, and Coleen Scott.**

I am pleased to announce a **NEW WEEKLY RECORD** for **Angel Bucks**. The Total sales last week came to an unbelievable **\$44, 061.20**. The total profit was **\$2,765.98!** Consider Angel Bucks for your Christmas shopping.

This **year funds will not be collected** for gifts for the teachers. I know that many of you have already begun to purchase Angel Bucks to remember the teachers at this time of year. Angel Bucks are a gift that also provides a future return to you in the form of the tuition rebate.

Progress Reports will be sent home on **Wednesday, December 5th** to students in **Grades 3 - 8**. Please make sure that all accounts are current so that your child will receive his/her Progress Report.

The **out-of-uniform day** brought in **\$555.00** that was used to purchase **turkeys** for the Thanksgiving baskets. Thanks to all of the students and the teachers who participated.

Remember the **Jingle Bell Trail Run** is this Saturday. Check out the school website for more detailed information. We are still in need of **volunteers** for all capacities including **Sixth Grade Elves** for this weekend's Jingle Bell Trail Run. Please contact **Michelle Dawson at 481-3624 or mmdawson@nc.rr.com** if you are able to help out. See you there!

The **Grade 4 Book Club** will be meeting on **Monday, December 3rd from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the Library.**

Next week we will welcome **Padre Raimundo** from our sister parish in **Honduras**. He will spend some time with our students touring the school and acknowledging their generosity to their sisters and brothers in Honduras.

The **St. Michael Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale** is now in progress. **Congratulations to the Spirit Contest winners. Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Piegore's Grade 4 class came in second place.** The family winner of the **free wreath** is the **Skowron Family – Erica, Matthew, and Richard.** **Mrs. Rosia and Mrs. Krear's Grade 2 class came in first place.** The family winner of the **free tree** is the **Butler Family – Emma, Kate, and Lindsay.** Thanks to everyone who pre-ordered a tree. Don't forget to pick up your Christmas tree and wreath! Trees and wreaths are still available. If you are interested in volunteering, please go online to the school website and volunteer for any of the times that are available.

For the last few spring seasons, **St. Michael students** interested in **playing lacrosse** had to join a team comprised mostly of St. Mary Magdalene students or play on organized teams outside of the Triangle Catholic School Athletic Conference. Beginning this spring season, St. Michael will field our own lacrosse "club" team in addition to the conference-sponsored boys' baseball and girls' soccer.

A number of factors played into this decision.

- An interest survey distributed online to families with 5th through 8th grade boys here at St. Michael School indicated that over 30 boys are interested in playing lacrosse even if the team remained at club status.
- Four other Triangle-area Catholic schools field lacrosse teams.
- The varsity lacrosse coach at Cardinal Gibbons has offered to sponsor an instructional day here at St. Michael to introduce lacrosse fundamentals to our students.

In addition, there has been tremendous support from parents offering to help begin and sustain a lacrosse program here at St. Michael School.

We invite all students and their families interested in finding out more about **St. Michael lacrosse** to an informational meeting next **Wednesday, December 5th beginning at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

Advent Peace,
Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler