

Wednesday E-Folder

December 7, 2011

Today is recognized as the Feast Day for St. Ambrose. St. Ambrose is often credited as the patron saint of learning. Since we know learning as a lifetime process, I offer an abbreviated version of the poem *I've Learned* in appreciation for the life lessons we have each come to learn:

I've Learned

....that we don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change.
....that true friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distance. Same goes for true love.
....that you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.
....that it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.
....that you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.
....that you can keep going long after you feel like you can't press on.
....that we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.
....that either you control your attitude or it controls you.
....that heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.
....that money is a lousy way of keeping score.
....that sometimes when I'm angry I have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.
....that just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have.
....that maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you've had and what you've learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.
....that it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes you have to learn to forgive yourself.
....that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.
....that just because two people argue, it doesn't mean they don't love each other. And just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean they do.
....that two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different.
....that your life can be changed in a matter of hours by people who don't even know you.
....that even when you think you have no more to give, when a friend cries out to you will find the strength to help.
....that credentials on the wall do not make you a decent human being.
....that the people you care about most in life are taken from you too soon.

Academic Distinction

As the scholarly leaders within our school, the following students are recognized with academic distinction for the success they have earned during the first trimester of the school year. Congratulations to this outstanding group of scholars!

To properly recognize their accomplishment, each of these students will be acknowledged with an achievement certificate at our community meeting assembly on Friday, December 16th. This assembly will begin at 8:15am and will be held in the Parish Center. Parents and other guests are invited to attend this special recognition.

Academic Excellence

8th - Emily LeCompte and Jessica Willey

7th - Nicole Baumann and Lani O'Neill-Tarvin

6th - Kadija Diallo, Emily Gutierrez, Laney Marsh, Abby Reilly and Alison Weeg

Academic Achievement

8th - Arthur Carlton-Jones, Callan Grant and Matthew Seidel

7th - Elizabeth Bragdon, Morgan Hall, Shayla Houlihan, Lydia Marks, Samantha Miller, Sydney O'Dell and Stefan Sweirkosz

6th - Liza Ervin, Teresa Miller, Jayden Overton-O'Hara, Abby Roskovich and Nick von Kollmar

Christmas Concert

On Friday, December 9th at 6:30pm in the Parish Center, our music students in grades PK-4 will perform in the annual Christmas Concert. Included in this musical event is a special performance by our very own school band. As in past years, seating is at a premium. It is suggested to please arrive early to obtain proper seating. As is courteous, families are asked not to reserve large seating areas for guests that have not yet arrived.

Critter Christmas at the Salisbury Zoo

On Saturday, December 10th at 2:15pm, our music students in 1st – 3rd grades will proudly share their Christmas joy for all to see. Stop by and enjoy PENGUIN PRIDE in action!

Cultural Experience for Upper Grade Spanish Students

This Sunday, Dec. 11, is the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our church community is hosting a fiesta in the Parish Center following the 5:00 PM bilingual mass. You and your children are invited to join in celebration of the miraculous event. Any student in grades 5th – 8th, who attends the mass and fiesta celebration, may submit a short paper of his/her experience for extra credit in Spanish class! Please bring a covered dish to the fiesta and check the parish bulletin for further details.

As history is said to have stated, “The Queen of Mexico” appeared to Juan Diego with a message of community. She asked him to build a cathedral where she stood. The bishop did not believe Juan Diego’s account so she left her image on his *tilma*, or cloth, as proof of her appearance. This basilica is now one of the most visited Christian buildings in the world.

Should you have any questions about this unique experience, please contact Ms. Elle Phillips.

Choir Program

The *Choir Christmas Program* is scheduled for Monday, December 12th at 6:30pm in the Parish Center. Participants for this event include all Choir members in grades 5th through 8th. All community members are invited to attend this musical medley. This event is certain to bring out the Christmas spirit in all those who attend this special performance.

School Band

The march continues! The SFdS band is scheduled to perform at their final seasonal event. Next up for the *Marching Penguins* is the Delmar Christmas Parade. This special program is scheduled to begin at 2:00pm on December 10th. Good luck!

Parent's Night Out

The members of the National Junior Honor Society are offering an evening of babysitting on December 16th from 5:30pm – 8:00pm. Pizza and drinks will be provided. The cost is \$5.00 per child. Students are to be dropped off in the school hall (the cafeteria area). Payment can be made at the time of drop off. All proceeds for this event will go to the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign.

In order to prepare for your child's attendance at this event, we ask that you [CLICK HERE](#) to obtain a reservation form. Please complete and return this form by December 15th.

Say "Merry Christmas!" with a SFdS 2012 Yearbook!

Now through December 21st, when you purchase an *SFdS 2012 Yearbook* for a student(s) you will receive a limited edition SFdS ornament! Don't miss out on this special promotion! On December 22nd, the student(s) will receive a certificate notifying them of their special gift. You will receive your ornament gift soon after your purchase is made. This Christmas, show your spirit on your tree and give the gift of memories that last a lifetime! [CLICK HERE](#) to order online! PENGUIN PRIDE!

Weekly Mass

On Wednesday, December 14th, students in grades 4-8 will gather together to celebrate liturgy at our 8:30am mass. As always, parents and other guests are invited to attend all of these Eucharistic celebrations.

In the case of rainy weather, we will continue to participate in school liturgies. Although, we ask that each child be prepared to walk to church during such rainy weather. Raincoats or umbrellas are helpful in such cases.

HSA News

In joyful anticipation for the wonder of the Christmas season, the HSA is hosting a parish-wide *Santa Social and Pancake Breakfast*. This event is scheduled for Sunday, December 18th from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Breakfast items will include pancakes, sausage and hot beverage for the low price of \$5 per person. Pictures with Santa, crafts for the kids and St. Francis spirit items will also be available. Volunteers are needed to help serve pancakes, work the craft tables, and set up for the event and clean up after the event has concluded. If you are able to assist with any of the aforementioned volunteer duties, please contact Angela Gianelle at angela@yourdocsin.com. To view the flyer for this special event, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Request for Baked Goods

As we scour the Eastern Shore in search of delicious baked goods to sell at the HSA sponsored *Santa Social* scheduled for December 18th, legend tells us to look no further than the SFdS

school community! Please email Angela Villano avillano@sfdscs.org if you might be willing to provide a yummy treat for this parish-wide event!

For your convenience, you are asked to please drop-off the tasty treats anytime on Friday, December 16th (to the school office) or on Saturday, December 17th from 2:00-4:00 pm (in the Church parking lot) or anytime in the morning of Sunday, December 18th (in the Parish Center).

On a final note, if you have something that can be frozen, then feel free to send in your goodies to be held in the cafeteria freezer until the day of the event.

Notes from the Athletic Director

With the arrival of the holiday season, the tendency to overeat becomes a very real possibility. Between class parties and neighborhood gatherings, it can be challenging to maintain a healthy diet. However, planning healthy lunches for school can be quick and easy. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to peruse a few of the dietician recommended lunch box meals that are easy to make.

Scrip

There is updated information relating to the Scrip program. This information has been revised for today's E-folder. To learn more about the recent additions, please [CLICK HERE](#) for further details and [CLICK HERE](#) to access the revised order form.

Milk Carton Campaign

As a reminder, each family was provided a *Salvation Army* milk carton that is intended to gather your spare change. Once collected at St. Francis, your donated spare change (bills are accepted) will then be donated to the Salvation Army organization. These thoughtful contributions are intended to support the needs of those less fortunate in our community.

Your family is asked to return the collected funds from the milk carton program no later than December 12th. Thank you in advance for your support of the important work they do.