



December 2009

Building Bridges

“between school and home”

All Saints School

338 E. Lyman Avenue Winter Park, FL 32789
www.allsaintsschoolwp.com

407-644-1737



Dates to Remember

December 1
Chapel, 9:15am

December 7
Wreath Delivery

December 8
Mr. Mitchell, Storyteller

December 9
Family Chapel, 9:15

December 10
School Commission Meeting
9:30am - school library

December 17
Christmas Pageant
7:00 pm - Thomas Center

December 21-January 3
Christmas Break

January 4
Teacher Work Day

January 5
Children Return to School

Teachers Birthdays

Jessica Duff 12\4
Rosie Johnson, 12\12
Brittany Olden Brown,
12\17

Notes from the Director

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you are anticipating the coming of the Christmas season. Before we know it, Christmas will be here.

‘Busy’ is already in the air for everyone as we prepare for the holidays. Excitement is already sensed by the children without them fully understanding what it is all about. In the next weeks we will be seeing excited children as they learn more about Christmas and prepare for their Christmas pageant. It is a blessing to work with little children and be surrounded by their enthusiasm and sense of joy!

The season of Christmas is a time for shopping, giving, and family and friends gathering together but our main emphasis here at the school will be the birth of the Christ Child. Christmas is the celebration of the greatest gift given to us by God – His Son. Advent is Jesus’ coming and this month your child will be learning about the season of Advent, that it is a time to prepare our hearts for the celebration of the most important birth. Alleluia Chapel will focus around Advent as well.

Please be sure to mark your calendars for Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. The three and four years will be participating in their annual Christmas pageant. The younger children will not be participating but you are welcome to attend. After the play we will enjoy refreshments and fellowship. This year the PTO will be doing the same outreach project as last year, ‘Pajama Program’. This organization collects new pajamas and books. We will be collecting for children ages 0 to 5. The donations are then distributed to children living in adoption centers, group homes and shelters across the state and country. Donations can be made the night of the pageant or dropped off in the office anytime.

Blessings of God’s love and peace are wished for you and your families this joyous season and in the New Year. “Let us praise the Lord the God of Israel! He has come to the help of his people and has set them free. He has provided for us a mighty Savior”... Luke 1:68-69

Christmas blessings, Mary



Christmas Wreaths

Christmas Wreaths are scheduled to be delivered on Monday, December 7. Please plan to pick them up the week of December 7.



If you have any questions please contact Megan Baptist at 407-539-1928 or megbaptist@embarqmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

VPK PARENTS...

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE SHEETS ARE READY FOR YOUR SIGNATURES...

PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR CHILD’S TEACHERS...

THANK YOU

PTO Corner

The holiday season is here! I hope you all enjoyed the Thanksgiving Feast. Melissa Johnson worked so hard to organize this event and did a GREAT job! Many thanks to all those who helped her at the Feast and a big thanks to Toni Hale for making such a tasty lunch. Toni caters regularly for All Saints Church and always does a great job, if you're ever in need of a caterer, you can reach her at tghale@earthlink.net.

Megan Baptist has also been hard at work on the Christmas Wreath sale. There were 100 wreaths ordered which means more than \$1000 for the school!!! I hope everyone ordered one because they are beautiful. Thank you, Megan, for all your hard work!!!

Our annual Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Thursday, December 17th at 7 pm and you will not want to miss it! If you are interested in helping, please contact Rebecca Bench or Marie Stokes.

I know how hectic the holiday season can get with buying presents and getting together with family and friends but make sure you take time out of your schedule to do those things that only happen once in life, like going to your child's school play or taking them to the Christmas parade. This is the time of year for making memories and enjoying these special moments. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and Merry Christmas!

Ann Stevens, PTO President
(407) 647-6417 ~ sas32789@cfl.rr.com

NEWS FLASH!



THE ALL SAINTS SCHOOL
DIRECTORY IS HERE!!!
LOOK FOR YOURS THIS
WEEK!

Baby Saints

Benton (young two's class) is a big brother. Robert Michael was born on November 10 to the proud parents, Mike & Kristen. Congratulations!



Advent is a Time of Preparation

The History of Advent: Advent has probably been observed since the fourth century. Originally, it was a time when converts to Christianity readied themselves for baptism. During the Middle Ages, Advent became associated with preparation for the Second Coming. In early days Advent lasted from November 11, the Feast of St. Martin, until Christmas Day. Advent was considered a pre-Christmas season of Lent when Christians devoted themselves to prayer and fasting. The Orthodox Eastern Church observes a similar Lenten season, from November 15 until Christmas, rather than Advent. Many Christians still view Advent as a season to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus. In the last fifty years, however, it has also come to be thought of as a time of anticipating the Nativity on Christmas Day.



Advent Wreaths: Advent Wreaths have their origins in the folk traditions of Northern Europe, where in the deep of winter people lit candles on wheel-shaped bundles of evergreen. Both the evergreen and circular shape symbolized ongoing life. The candlelight gave comfort at this darkest time of year, as people looked forward to the longer days of spring. Later, Eastern European Christians adopted this practice. By the sixteenth century, they were making Advent wreaths much as we know them today. An Advent wreath traditionally contains four candles- three purple and one rose. Purple dyes were so rare and costly that they were associated with royalty; the Roman Catholic Church has long used this color around Christmas and Easter to honor Jesus. The three purple candles in the Advent wreath symbolize hope, peace and love. These candles are lit on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of advent. The rose candle, which symbolizes joy, is usually lit on the third Sunday. Sometimes a fifth candle is placed inside the Advent wreath. This candle is lit on Christmas Day. It is white, the color associated with angels and the birth of Jesus. Because Advent wreaths are an informal celebration, not all are the same. Instead of purple candles, some people use blue, which recalls the color of the night sky before daylight returns. Others use all white candles. Whichever traditions you choose to observe have fun and remember the Hope, Joy, Peace and Love Christ's coming has brought and will complete at His return.

WHAT SHALL WE GIVE THE CHILDREN?

What shall we give the children?
Christmas is almost here.
Toys, and games, and playthings,
As we do every year?

Yes, for the magic of toyland
Is part of the Yuletide lure
To gladden the heart of childhood,
But I shall give something more.

I shall give them more patience,
A more sympathetic ear,
A little more time for laughter,
Or to tenderly dry a tear.

I shall take time to teach them
The joy of doing some task.
I'll try to find time to answer
More of the questions they ask.

Time to read books together,
And take long walks in the sun;
Time for a bedtime story
After the day is done.

I shall give these to my children,
Weaving a closer tie,
Knitting our lives together
With the gifts that money can't buy.

-Author Unknown

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE...

...the children thoroughly enjoyed learning about this outreach project, putting the Christmas Boxes together, carrying them to Chapel, learning where they will be going, counting how many they made and carrying them to the car...107 Christmas Boxes were made by our All Saints School family (20 more than last year).....thank you to everyone who participated in shining so brightly!!!



All Saints Christmas Pageant December 17, 2009 7:00 pm

You and your family are invited to share in the joy of the Christmas season. Thursday, December 17th, All Saints School proudly presents our annual Christmas Pageant. The Pre-K and Three's will perform the age-old tale of how our Savior was born. It is truly a delight to behold!

Donate some comfort!

This year, in conjunction with the Christmas Pageant, we will be collecting donations for the Pajama Program. This organization collects new pajamas and books for children ages 0 to 17. We will be accepting donations for children ages 0 to 5. The donations are then distributed to children living in adoption centers, group homes, and shelters across the state and country. This program is a wonderful way to give children in need the simple comforts of warm pajamas and a good story. For more info go to www.pajamaprogram.org.

Instructions for the children in the pageant

Please bring your child to his/her classroom on the night of the pageant at 6:30 pm

Costumes

Please plan to dress your child in his/her Sunday best. Your child's teacher will fill you in on any specifics.

Baking Help Needed!

Here's a chance to put to use all the cookie dough you purchased! Please make a batch of cookies and drop them off in the carline on the morning of the 17th. After the pageant, families can enjoy fellowship and the delicious cookies. Thank you in advance for helping to make this a success!



Alleluia Chapel

"Heroes in God's Service", was our first Chapel of the month. Father Russell spoke of how Esther, (the Queen) was praised because she bravely saved her people. She was brave enough to go to the king and tell him of the plot to harm them. So the king took care of the evil man, saving Esther's people.

"David and Goliath" was the second Chapel. Mary P. told the story of how David conquered the giant. David was asked to take food to his brothers at the battle line. There he saw how Goliath would tell the men to fight him every day. David told the king he wanted to fight the giant and his faith in God would help him. So he used a sling shot and stone against Goliath defeating the giant. We had a very big giant drawn by our very own Ms. Connie. She did a wonderful job. John Camacho took the role as David and threw a stone at the giant and he fell down.

The Chapel right before our Thanksgiving holiday was, "Thanksgiving to God". This was a perfect time to incorporate our Samaria's Purse. This is one of the school's out reach programs. The children brought all the shoe boxes they filled to Chapel. They were counted (107), and the children carried them to Mary P.'s car. She drove them to the pick up point. We are so thankful to God that we were able to do this.

December Chapel:

December 1 – Mary and Joseph See the Angel
 December 9 – Family Chapel – Baby Jesus is Born
 December 15 – The Story of the Shepherds

God Bless,
 Father Russell,
 Mary P. & Mary H.



ART FEST '10 IS GOING GREEN! As you shop during the Christmas season, remember that we have already started to acquire items for the Art Fest Silent Auction! The request letter is available to submit to businesses you think may want to participate. For more information, please call Amy Plank at 321-303-7455 or email at ryan_plank@earthlink.net

St. Jude's Trike-a-Thon

It's time to get geared up for a great cause! St. Jude's Research Center Trike-a-Thon is coming up on Thursday, January 21, 2010. This fundraising event is loads of fun for children in the Older 2's, 3's and Pre K classes. The children can ride their tricycles around a closed course within the All Saints campus. Sponsorship can be "per lap" or for a specific amount and your donation will benefit the St. Jude's Research Center. All children that participate are asked to wear a helmet and can decorate their bikes the morning before they ride. Volunteers will be needed the day of the event to help collect and decorate bikes and assist the children around the track. A volunteer sign up sheet will be on the office door or contact Sunshine Newsom at 407-643-1499 or Denise Mackinnon at 407-622-6962. (sunshinewson@gmail.com) We hope you can participate in this wonderful event benefiting a very worthy cause.

