

Dear St. Ethelreda Parents,

You are the BEST PARENTS in the world! Because of your generosity and spirit of giving, WE COLLECTED 1195 non perishable food items, enough to give food bags to 105 families for THANKSGIVING! And, we have enough left to make bags for CHRISTMAS. Isn't it great knowing that you and your child helped to make THANKSGIVING special for someone? The students were given a challenge: Bring in 1000 food items and the teachers would wear a special St. Ethelreda uniform for a week. We will wear our uniforms this week.

Sunday was the first Sunday of Advent, the four weeks before Christmas that we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. This is the real reason for the season, Jesus Christ is born. Don't take Christ out of Christmas for your children. Remind them of the story of Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem for the census. They had no where to stay except in a stable surrounded by animals. When Jesus was born, the angel came and so did the three Kings, bearing gifts for the newborn King. Don't put yourself in unnecessary debt trying to buy your child everything he/she wants. Remember, you still have bills to pay after December 25. And besides, who wants to be paying this year's Christmas bills next Christmas? I am sure your child will not stop loving you if you don't get them every item on the toy list. Try it and see.

Thank you to all who helped with our annual fruit drive. All proceeds help to purchase educational supplies for our students. We are beginning a new fund raiser today. Wouldn't you like to help us win \$100,000? You don't have to buy or sell anything...isn't that great? Just stop in a U.S. Cellular store and get a code to use online to vote for our school. Anyone can vote for the school and you can vote as often as you like. Read the special notice sent home today. Make copies and pass them out to family members and friends.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! To all of the following parents who got their employers to donate copy paper to our school: Mrs. Angela Roberts (Terrance – gr.7); Ms. Doris Miller (Damien – K, ) and Mr. Dewayne Bland (Daejohn – Pre-4, Demarius – 3<sup>rd</sup>). We certainly appreciate it and can still use more. We are accepting both letter and legal size paper of any color. Also, we can use preprinted envelopes. All we have to do is place our return label on them. We are accepting envelopes of all sizes. One person's junk might be another person's treasure.

REMINDERS.....REMINDERS.....REMINDERS.....REMINDERS...

- Beginning December 1, students can wear the St. Ethelreda sweat suit to school on Tuesdays and Thursdays for gym class. To be in uniform compliance, it has to be the St. Ethelreda sweat shirt and St. Ethelreda sweat pants. If you don't have this, students should continue to wear their gym tee shirt and shorts under their regular school uniforms.
- Toy Drive.....Bring a new toy by/on Friday, December 4, and you can dress down.
- Progress Reports will be sent home on the 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Bring a coat (clean and still wearable), gloves, hat, scarf or boots to school for our winter coat drive. We are collecting for men, women and children. For your participation, you can dress down on the 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Family Mass is at 9:00 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and the fifth graders are the Lectors for the Mass. In November there were more students and parents at Mass than in October. Let's increase attendance more this month.
- Our all school Christmas play will be held at St. Ethelreda in the Harold Washington Assembly Hall on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00. Our students are working hard to present to you "Light of the World." All students from pre 3 through eighth grade have a part in making our Christmas pageant a success. Bring everyone with you for this wonderful celebration. The best part about it is it's FREE.
- On the 17<sup>th</sup>, the Student Council is sponsoring RED and GREEN DAY. Students can dress in red and/or green tops or pants. They can also wear black pants with a Christmas top. The cost is .50 to dress down.
- Our first skating party for the '09-'10 school year is planned for December 18. We are going to Markham Roller Rink (16700 S Dixie Highway). The buses will leave at 12:30 and return by 5:15. Students should dress for skating. Skate rental is included in the trip cost. They can bring their own skates, if they have them.
- The Food Pantry will be open from 10:00 until 12:00. Santa will be here for pictures. We will also distribute winter coats and toys.

**From the Administration and Staff to each of you!!  
May all of your wishes come true this Christmas holiday!!  
God's blessing of good health and prosperity in the year 2010.**

**And don't forget, "Jesus is the reason for the season."**