

Dear Parents,

The Administration, Faculty and Staff of St. Ethelreda wishes all of you a healthy and prosperous New Year!

As we begin the second half of this school year, I would like to thank each of you for entrusting your child's education to us. We strive hard to instill in our students a strong sense of faith and a desire to be the best person possible. This was clearly witnessed by the awe inspiring Christmas program. The students' performances were awesome. Many thanks to all who attended.

This same spirit prevails in the classrooms. There is a high level of competition to get the highest score, to answer the most questions, to make Honor Roll or Principal's List; to have a first place project and to feel a sense of accomplishment.

Before leaving school each day, we say the "Lord's Prayer" and the "3:00 Prayer." We ask God to protect our students as they leave school at 3:00. On December 18, we prayed that everyone would have a safe holiday. On Christmas morning, there was a fire in an apartment building that one of our families lived in. Their apartment became smoke filled. Luckily they were unharmed. However, while at the hospital being treated for smoke inhalation, someone broke into their boarded up apartment and stole their television and Christmas presents. A very caring Chicago Police Officer saw what happened and gave them presents and a \$200.00 gift card purchased with his own money. We thank God that Shawn Taylor (gr. 1), his Mom, Tondonlia (St. Ethelreda alum) and his baby sister were not harmed. God hears our prayers.

Congratulations Eagles Explosion Science Club! Our science club competed in the First Lego League 2009 Illinois Regional Tournament at the University of Illinois on December 19. For the third consecutive year, they were recognized for outstanding work. This year out of 17 schools our students won the "Challenge Project Award." This award was given for the best research and creativity. The Challenge question was "What makes your mode of transportation dangerous?" The team gave this much thinking and thought outside the box. They designed EAGLE EYE, a camera that would be connected to satellites similar to NASA satellites. Using nano technology, EAGLE EYE would be so small you wouldn't even notice it. This special camera would be mounted to street light poles every three miles. The cameras would be manned by retirees and disabled people who would alert the nearest patrol car for a rapid response. Because this real time surveillance camera would have face recognition, it would be easier for the police to apprehend criminals. In the end, transportation throughout our communities would be safer. A phenomenal job EBONY CRUSOE (8), ANGEL BUCKLEY (8), SYMONE JACKSON (8), and DEJA STARKS (7)! Our future scientists or engineers.

Congratulations to Shawn Rucker Jr. (4) who entered an art contest sponsored by his Mom's job to design a holiday greeting card for the company. Besides winning a certificate (which he asked to be displayed at school), Shawn was also awarded a \$500.00 savings bond and a \$100.00 American Express gift card. Way to go, Shawn!

Thank you to Maggie Miller (Diamond) and Lynda Edwards (Lydia) for copy paper. We can use more if your job has any. Thank you, also, Ms. Miller, for the coffee maker for the Teachers' Lounge.

Our wish list is growing. We are in need of two items: a "slightly" used vacuum cleaner and a snow blower. If you have one or know of someone who has one, please call us. Perhaps you work in a retail store and you can use your employee discount, that will work for us, too.

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month there is a Booster Club meeting. What is the Booster Club?

This organization, is made up of all parents whose child is a member of the flag football team, basketball team, track team, volleyball team or cheerleading. YOU ARE THE BOOSTER CLUB! Support your child and our athletic program by participating in the meetings.

The PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, however, PARENTS, YOU ARE MISSING! Your input is greatly needed for events planned by this year's officers: President – Mrs. Frazier (Victoria and Ashley); Vice President – Ms. Smith (Alana); Ms. Dukes (Brandice); and Mrs. Holman (Linda). The PTO is not limited to Moms. Dads, you are a valuable asset to our school, too. Strong parental support and a dedicated faculty makes our school a standout in the community.

Our first all school skating trip is planned for Friday, January 22. Parents, you are welcomed to join us. We definitely will need chaperones. This is a private skating party for St. Ethelreda students at Markham Roller Rink from 1:30 – 4:30.

Check this month's calendar for basketball games and practice days and times. Our boys have been playing great ball, especially the Pee Wees (K-2). They are in the playoffs and their first game is Saturday, the 9th, at 9:00.

Eighth grade students who plan to attend a Catholic High School must take the entrance exam at the school of their choice. Be there by 7:45 with the \$25.00 testing fee and sharpened #2 pencils. Make sure you eat a light breakfast and be on time!

The fourth grade class is in charge of this month's Family Mass on Sunday, January 10. Mass provides an opportunity for the students and families to pray together just like we do as a school family every Wednesday. It is very important that you spend time praying with your child just like you spend time shopping, going to the movies, amusement park or an athletic event.

Second quarter report cards will be given to the student on Thursday, January 21. We have an open door policy, Parents so you can always sit in on your child's class. Also, you can call or email your child's teacher if there is ever a concern of any kind.

When was the last time you checked out stethelreda.org? If your child tells you he/she doesn't have homework, remember, students can access Study Island on line at home. This web based program reviews the Illinois State Standards by grade level in mathematics and reading. The objective is to prepare our students for standardized testing.

"Read to Succeed", a reading program contest information was sent home with the students in kindergarten through sixth grade yesterday. Students must read a total of 360 minutes (6 hours) between January 7 and February 19. Parents must sign the log sheet and return it to school. Each student will be awarded a free ticket to Great America for accomplishing this goal.

The first week in February is Catholic Schools Week. Look for some very exciting events taking place during the school day and some evenings for parents.

If ever you have a question about anything, don't hesitate to call us. We are never too busy to answer your question or to address your concerns.

Thank you! Thank You! Thank You!

**To all of our Parents and Grandparents who sent those
delicious cakes and pies to us for holiday treats.**

We enjoyed every forkful!