

# JANUARY NEWS

## St. Ethelreda School

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*Principal's*

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY, 2012



*Educating Tomorrow's Leaders*

Dear Parents,

Once again, on behalf of the Faculty, Staff and Administration of St. Ethelreda School, I wish you a Happy and blessed New Year; and remember to pray, "All will be well in 2012" every day.

### Catholic Identity

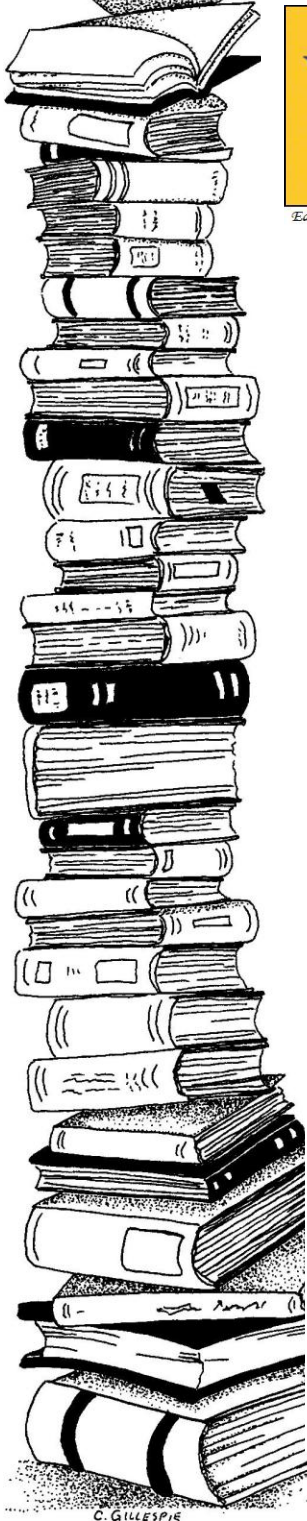
Thank you to all who made it to Family Mass this past Sunday. Family Mass is for everyone including preschool, to have the opportunity to pray together, with their parents and classmates and their parents, as well as their teachers. I must say that I was disappointed to see only 3 fourth graders at Mass since this was their Mass. Family Mass is for everyone. I hope to see more of you next month as we pray together as the St. Ethelreda School Family.

If your child is interested in becoming Catholic, please contact the school office. The second grade students who are Catholic will begin preparing for First Holy Communion this month. Notices will be sent home next week.

### Excellent

Report Cards will be distributed on Thursday, January 19 to all students in Kindergarten through eighth grade. This report card ends the first semester. In reviewing grades for the entire school, I am pleased to see improvement and continued good work for many of our students. Unfortunately, for some students who are still not taking their studies seriously, I have indicated on their report cards the potential for retention. Students need to understand that they are here to learn something new every day and to be in on time. Late work (only in case of absence) is not accepted in junior high. And by now, the intermediate students know the procedures for turning in their assignments. Attitudes toward academics should be as strong as attitudes towards athletics. "The Sixth Day" (known as Saturday School) will continue to take place once a month for all who need an extra day to complete assignments.

# National Book Month



- The results of the Peabody Vocabulary Test and the Phonetic Awareness of Language and Sounds test; and the Chicago Public Schools early screening test for Preschool and Kindergarten will be communicated to the parents as soon as we receive them.
- The Big Shoulders Fund is providing Hearing and Vision testing to all students in Kindergarten through eighth grade. Parents will be notified if a referral is determined.
- Our Chess Club has participated in three matches at Whitney Young High School. They have become more competitive at each match. This month they are competing at Whitney Young and at De Lasalle High School. You can always come out and support them. Soon we are going to host a match at St. Ethelreda. We will be looking for volunteers to help with this activity.
- Are you checking your child's grades on Power School? Grades and assignments for first through eighth grades are posted weekly on Power School to keep you, the parents, aware of your child's progress on a daily basis. If you are having problems accessing Power school or forgot your Password, call Sr. Caroline and she will walk you through the process.
- Leadership Club members are planning to make Valentine's Day cards to give to the elders in our school families to express their love for these trailblazers. If you know someone who you would like to receive card to brighten their day, just send the name to Mrs. Pass, our Leadership Club moderator.
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s holiday should have been spent reflecting on his life and struggles to make his dream a reality. We need to instill in our children the names and sacrifices that people made to make life better, to some degree, for them. They need to understand the struggles of their grandparents and great grandparents. Don't let Dr. King just be a name to them. Help them to understand what he stood for then and now.
- The first through eighth graders are working on Social Studies projects this month. Check the calendar for the due dates.

### Vital

- Raffle tickets will be sent home next month for our first fund raiser. Each family is asked to sell \$200.00 in tickets for cash and prizes. The drawing will be held in the spring.
- Tuition is our only source of income. I urge you to make your payments on time to keep our school financially stable. This means all Child Care Co payments, before and after care and lunch money.
- Tuition, as well as Child Care Initiative Co payments, is due in full by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. Payments may be broken into two payments as long as the balance is paid by the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- If a student's tuition is past due by more than one month, he/she will be excluded from school (Attendance Interruption) until the tuition account is brought current. Also, no student can participate in any activities or sports if the tuition is delinquent.

### General

- The preschool students are going on a Field Trip at Shedd Aquarium on Friday, January 27. Note, the date is changed from the Calendar. They should dress for the weather. They will eat lunch at school when they return. Remember, parents can only chaperone if we have your mandated forms.
- Market day money is due by January 23 and pickup is on January 30.
- Our Cheerleaders are competing at De Lasalle High School on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Please come out and support them.

- Graduation pictures for Pre Kindergarten (those who will enter Kindergarten in the fall), Kindergarten and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be taken on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The students will take 4 poses in Cap and Gown and 4 poses in their regular clothes. All boys must wear a white shirt with a collar and a tie (any color) for the robe pictures. Girls should not wear hair bows, barrettes and hair styles that prevent the cap from fitting their heads.

### *Upcoming Events*

- Catholic Schools Week – January 29 – February 5.
- Teachers' Professional Development on February 17. Preschool will be open and All Day Care available.
- Black History Program: General Theme: Imani (Faith) and School's Theme: EVERY DAY IS A DAY OF BLACK HISTORY – February 25.
- Welcome back, Sr. Mary. Our prayers are with you and our family in the loss of your mother. Condolences may be sent to her at school. And, thank you, Mrs. Johnson, for stepping in during our time of need.

### *Needed:*

Now that we are in the second half of the school year, our classroom supplies are almost exhausted. Each student is asked to bring 2 of each: Kleenex, paper towels, hand sanitizer and Lysol wipes. Thank you for your understanding and generosity.