

## **Our Lady of Perpetual Help School**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School's seventh and eighth grade soccer team got first place in the Independent School Conference League's Middle School Division for both the season and tournament.

The Home and School Association held their Breakfast with Santa on December 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a great time for all.

Fifth grade student Cayci Holt was in the production of Annie at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre.

Eighth grade student Lauren Collins and second grade student Lorelei Tinney performed in the production of **The Nutcracker** with the Chattanooga Ballet Corp.

Sixth grade student Emma McNabb performed in the production of **The Nutcracker** with the Civic Ballet of Chattanooga.

Seventh grade student A.J. Carreon was selected to participate in the Lower Southeast Tennessee Junior Band Clinic.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School held their annual Christmas program on the evening of December 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Notre Dame High School**

Miss Jenny Rittgers departed Notre Dame on December 5<sup>th</sup> after nine years. She will be joining the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma Michigan. Miss Elizabeth Wheeler, a third generation Notre Dame graduate who graduated third in her class, has stepped into the role of Admissions Director.

Notre Dame Students collected 1874 pounds of food for the Chattanooga Food Bank and \$2555 for Ladies of Charity as part of the annual Christmas Drive.

The Service Class group delivered 107 packages with clothes and toys for children 6 months to 6 years of age to the Clifton Hills Head Start program.

## **St. Jude School**

First and Second grade classes presented the annual Christmas pageant on December 12<sup>th</sup> in a very simple and beautiful presentation of song and story. Many parents and grandparents attended and then enjoyed a special lunch with their children.

Peter Berce won the St. Jude School Geography Bee and will advance to the next level of competition. Bella Bombassi was runner up.

St. Jude students participated in a special Christmas service project for their sister parishes in Gros-Morne, Haiti. Raising money through extra chores, bake sales and yard sales; students purchased twelve goats, fourteen hens, and two piglets. Monies were also sent to feed four Haitian children for one year!

## **St. Dominic School**

On Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, St. Dominic celebrated annual Church Day. The students spend the whole day at St. Dominic Church. The parents drop them off at the parish life center where we begin our day with our morning circle. We then go to the church for Mass. Afterwards the older students celebrate Reconciliation with Father Nolan and the younger students have a lesson on the meaning of Reconciliation. The rest of the day is divided between learning stations, lunch, recess, and a puppet show. The theme of the day this year was Advent. If you ask the students, most of them will say that Church Day is their favorite day of the year!

On Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> was the evening of the children's Christmas Music Program. The older students sing and play instruments and the younger children sing and dance. First graders, in costume, act out the Nativity. This night gets all of our hearts ready for Jesus' coming!

The children at St. Dominic School, at the request of a parishioner, made many Christmas cards for a little boy in Vanderbilt Hospital who didn't want anything for Christmas but to receive Christmas cards. Merry Christmas Josh!

## **St. Mary School – Johnson City**

The students, faculty, and staff at St. Mary's participated in giving to the six children and three families they adopted for Christmas. Our Kindergarten, seventh and eighth grade buddies, and our first and sixth grade buddies went shopping together to purchase toys and clothing items for some of these children and their families. Our fifth grade purchased items as a family and brought them to school. Our student council went shopping together after school hours and

purchased items for these families. The students wrapped the times before dropping them to the designated places.

Six of our students placed in the Junior Monday Club Poetry Contest. These students are: Carmen Palileo – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Lane Caughron – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Austin Harris – 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Audrey Harris – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Hannah Donahue – 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Mara Donahue – 1<sup>st</sup> grade. They will be honored at the Youth Poetry Reception on April 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Johnson City Public Library.

Our Walk-A-Thon celebration/party to congratulate our students on raising over \$15,000.00 through their Walk-A-Thon was on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Our Christmas program was presented by our students, for our families and parishioners, on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Sharvis Smith, our music teacher and our students did a superb job!

### **St. Joseph School**

The school community gathered together each morning during Advent for a student-led prayer service around the Jesse Tree. The service involved handmade ornaments, readings, and hymns. The prayer service complimented the salvation history that students are learning in their religion class.

Students did an outstanding job in their annual Advent/Christmas program December 14<sup>th</sup>, ***The Little Drummer Boy***. Students acted and sang accompanied by other students on strings, wind, keyboard, and percussion instruments under the direction of Mr. William Lovelace.

Families gathered on December 19<sup>th</sup> for a family advent activity and then went caroling in the neighborhood. The evening concluded with hot chocolate and Christmas cookies.

### **St. John Neumann Catholic School**

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade, along with the middle School Band, participated in the Christmas production: ***The Christmas Shoe Tree***. In conjunction with the theme of the production, St. John Neumann parishioners and students made donations of new or gently used shoes for people in need around the world.

St. John Neumann Catholic School had a float in the WIVK Knoxville Christmas parade. SJNCS students, parents, faculty members represented our school with great pride and a joyous heart! The Christmas Stocking Stuffer Collection was phenomenal! Laura Seymour from Catholic Charities was thrilled to pick up \$320 in gift cards and over 16 boxes of items that will be used to stuff Christmas stockings for the residents of Samaritan Place.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Social “rocked the gym” on Friday night, December 21<sup>st</sup>! The children laughed and danced and shared in the giving spirit of the season as they brought in \$225 and 23 toys to donate to Catholic Charities. The Out-of-Uniform day on Friday, brought in an additional \$665 to help make Christmas a little brighter for the needy children that Catholic Charities sponsors.

### **Knoxville Catholic High School**

Advent Penance Services for KCHS students were held at All Saints Church on December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. There were ten priests available each day to hear confessions, and the largest number of students in recent years took advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We are grateful to all of the Priests who took time from their busy schedules to assist with these services.

The Fine Arts Celebration that was held on December 6 was truly a celebration of the teachers and students in the KCHS Fine Arts Program. It was truly a blessing to attend and witness the sharing of talents to our school community.

Breakfast with Santa was held again this year on December 8<sup>th</sup> and many in the community stopped by for breakfast, crafts and to have their picture taken with Santa. Participants were asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy for children supported by the programs of Volunteer Ministries.

**Lessons and Carols** were presented this year on December 13<sup>th</sup> at All Saints Church. We were blessed to have Bishop Stika and Sister Mary Marta Abbott participate at this very special school community service.

KCHS participated in the “**Hoops for Books**” donation challenge between KCHS and Webb, a Book Drive that will benefit the Knoxville News Sentinel’s Empty Stocking Fund. The winner was announced at halftime of the December 21<sup>st</sup> Boys’ Varsity Basketball game at home with Webb.

The Angel Tree program was available again this year at KCHS. The Angel Tree benefits programs at Catholic Charities by providing gifts to those who otherwise might not have any gifts at Christmas.

Our 2013-2014 school year academic calendar should be approved shortly and will be emailed to our families as soon as it is final.

### **Sacred Heart Cathedral School**

**YEAR OF FAITH** We have embraced our school theme, “Increase our Faith” from Luke 17:5. The Year of Faith encourages focus on the areas of sacred scripture, participation in the Mass and celebration of the gift of the Eucharist. Each month we focus on three areas:

1. **Gospel selections or stories on Faith**
2. **Commandments and portions of the Creed**
3. **Synonyms for the word 'Eucharist'**

In December, our Gospel reading was from Matthew 12:22-23, Peter Walks On Water; the Creed was "Honor Your Father and Mother." And, our word for the Eucharist was "The Holy and Divine Liturgy". We are encouraging these topics for reflection and discussion within our families throughout the school year.

**SACRED HEART TEACHER SELECTED FOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN PRESTIGIOUS SCIENCE TEACHER ACADEMY** Middle school science teacher, Mrs. Amy Gilliland, has been selected for a fellowship program in the NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) "New Science Teacher Academy." Mrs. Gilliland is one of only 245 teachers across the nation to be accepted into this prestigious program. She will participate in a year-long professional development program designed to help promote quality science teaching, and classroom excellence.

The 2012 Fellows were selected on the basis of several criteria, including showing evidence of a solid science background and displaying a strong interest in growing as a professional science educator. Each Fellow will receive a comprehensive NSTA membership package, online mentoring, participation in web-based professional development, and financial support to attend the NSTA's 2013 National Conference on Science Education in San Antonio.

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) promotes excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning. For more information, visit [www.nsta.org/academy](http://www.nsta.org/academy).

**ANNUAL FUND** We kicked off the 2012-2013 Annual Fund Campaign in December. There is no better investment than in helping our students experience God's unconditional love and mercy through a Catholic education at Sacred Heart Cathedral School. ***Please consider a gift to the Annual Fund!*** The Annual Fund is critical to our school's operating income and provides funding for academic enhancements and projects.

**HATS OFF DAY** By special proclamation of Sacred Heart's School Advisory Board, we declared Wednesday, December 12, 2012 "**Facilities Team Appreciation Day!**" Our Facilities Team is made up of Tom Greer, Doug Caiazza, and Tom Quinones; they work hard every day to keep our school, parish, and Diocesan facilities in tip-top shape. Students wore their favorite hat to school on 12-12-12 to show appreciation for the Facilities Team.

**SHCS CHRISTMAS CONCERT** Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, Grades K-2 performed "*Angels, Lambs, Ladybugs, and Fireflies*" and Grades 3-5 performed "*On Our Way to Bethlehem*" at the SHCS Christmas Concert.

**SHCS PAJAMA DAY** Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> was "**Pajama Day**" at SHCS. Students and staff were allowed to wear their PJ's to school! Students also enjoyed a Christmas Story Time and In-School Basketball games. Thanks to our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students for suggesting this fun school event!

## St. Mary School - Oak Ridge

**SPIRIT:** St. Mary's Advent Family Mass and Concert of Carols, held the evening of December 20<sup>th</sup>, was by every measure a truly "Lovely Evening"—the title of the opening song performed by the entire student body (a traditional German "round song"). A great crowd of St. Mary's School families, parishioners, and guests received a beautiful Christmas gift – from the uplifting Mass, celebrated by Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia, to the final hymn, "Advent Peace Canon," sung jointly by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Home & School concluded the event in fitting style by hosting a tasty and inviting reception that encouraged many families to stay a while and enjoy the food, fun, and fellowship.

**MISSION:** St. Mary's First Lego League Crusaders won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the category of "Programming"—out of 60 teams total—in the December 8<sup>th</sup> First Lego League tournament at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville. Crusader team sponsors Mr. Nick Corrigan and Mr. Gary Sega found out later that the team was only a few points away from 3rd place overall. A great showing for the team's first effort!

**SERVICE:** Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, St. Mary's 8<sup>th</sup> graders, parents, and homeroom teacher Marsha Sega gathered up the numerous gifts donated by St. Mary's students and parish families and made the journey to Jellico, where the Crazy Quilt Friendship Center hosted a party for the needy children who received the presents. Both students and parents had a great time loading, unloading, and helping sort the gifts at the center; whose appreciative staff gave their thanks for this act of kindness.

An added surprise: before their departure, both WATE Channel 6 and WBIR Channel 10 reporters showed up at the school to film the event! You can access the WATE story here: <http://www.wate.com/story/20268349/8th-graders-in-oak-ridge-buy-christmas-gifts-for-500-low-income-children>.