



# STARS



Students and Teachers Always Reaching for Success

Vol. XIV, Issue 14

Friday, December 11, 2009

## Send Your Teacher Packing

Don't forget to send in your box tops! This is a great opportunity to help your school and send your teacher packing all at the same time! For every ten box tops turned in, your teacher will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a weekend at the beach.



## Advent Outreach

The season of Advent has begun and our theme this year is "Filling Our Hearts with Jesus." During Advent, we remember Jesus becoming one of us, the Word made flesh, over 2000 years ago. We look forward to His return someday and we reflect on how we let Jesus come into our hearts each day. Our lives can get so busy with our schedules and activities that we do not make room for Jesus each day. Advent is a time to help us refocus – to better prepare our hearts and let Him be a part of our daily lives. If we allow this to happen, then we realize that we are Jesus for others. We reach out to those that Jesus asked us to pay special attention to – those who are in need. Our Advent Outreach for 2009 will be to collect children sized socks and underwear. This will benefit the Be An Angel program that has been in our parish for 30 years now. Many of the families that ask for assistance are in need of the very basics, socks and underwear for their children. In order to allow these children to get gifts of other needed clothes and maybe a new toy, they are encouraged not to write down socks or underwear as needs – the Academy has been asked to collect these much needed items. We have been very successful in the past and we know that our Academy community will be generous in assisting with filling this need. Please send in socks or underwear in similar sizes to your Academy student. You may want to let your student do some special jobs in order to earn the money to purchase the socks and/or underwear and then bring them shopping so they can select the items to be donated. Our collection will run through the last day of school before our Christmas break – Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Students may bring their donated items to their classroom or Advisory.

## Carpool Tip of the Week

After the first line of cars pull away, it is ok to park in the "auction spots." The further up the cars go, the more cars we can fill each time allowing us to get home quicker! If you are at the front of the second group of cars and in the right lane, pull up to the stop sign. If you are in the left lane, pull up to the front edge of the island.

## Parents Night Out

Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
6:30—10:30pm Family Life Center  
Life Teen will provide an evening of Christmas fun for your children. Experienced parish teens and adults will provide care for infants through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Donation: \$20 per child or \$25 per family. For reservations contact the Life Teen Office [mwhite@annunciationorlando.org](mailto:mwhite@annunciationorlando.org) #407-788-3960



## Talent Show Acts in Progress

Fifth graders are already buzzing about the talent show acts they would like to perform during Catholic Schools Week. Is your middle school son or daughter starting to plan as well? Every year the tryouts are full of enthusiastic fifth graders. Often the older students intend to participate, but they get busy with other commitments and do not get their act together in time for auditions. Please encourage your child to share their talents and make great memories with their friends by being in the Talent Show this year!

## All Star Endowment/Auction Ball

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." **Winston Churchill**

Our ACA families meet many requests to donate time and resources, especially during this time of year. We all do our part to create this wonderful community at ACA. So why not plan to do something for **you** while at the same time doing good for our community? Participate with friends in creating a wonderful evening of dining, dancing and winning terrific auction items. All the proceeds directly benefit our ACA community. Mark your calendars now for March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Only 99 days to go.....

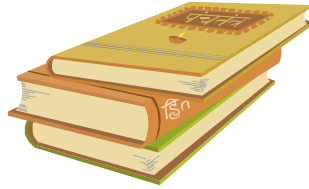
## Quill Corner

Written by Catherine Ridgeway, 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

Standing on an untraveled road, I gaze over the dry mountains attempting to overtake the horizon. They breathe deeply, slowly swallowing the sky. I gingerly stride toward the agreeing land and water, the shore, and feel the sudden temperature change. The water caresses my feet and quiets me. To the barren land, a few nearly naked shrubs cling, and they dance to the wind's silent melody. The slick, waxy leaves cling together, and chiming, add texture to the silence. This place, where the desert and the sea hold their rendezvous, has a contemplative ambience that calms all...

## **SSYRA is Back!**

Our school will be participating in the Sunshine State Young Readers Award Program again this year. This is a motivational reading program for students in grades 3-5 and grades 6-8.



Every year a committee of Florida Media Specialists nominate 15 books for grades 3-5 and 15 books for grades 6-8. If students read at least three books from the list, they qualify to vote for their favorite book. The program ends on March 25<sup>th</sup>. If students read five books from the list, they will receive a bookmark and a prize. If students read 10 books from the list, they will be invited to a special party at the end of the year. If students read all 15 books, they can choose a poster for their room. Please note: students must take the Accelerated Reader test to show that they have read the book. You can visit the SSYRA website (<http://myssyra.org>) for a complete list of the books nominated this year. There are a limited number of books available at our library, so don't forget to try the Public Library!

## **Buy Your Yearbook**

The second sale for the yearbook ends Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>! The yearbook price is \$40 for the first book and \$35 for any additional yearbooks purchased. This multi-yearbook discount offer is only available through manual orders. The online order price is \$40 per book. Order forms can be found on the Edline website under "Yearbook" or at the front office. December 14<sup>th</sup> will be here before you know it so be sure to get your order in! If you have any questions feel free to contact Layne Missigman, Yearbook Coordinator, at [missigman@earthlink.net](mailto:missigman@earthlink.net).

## **Routines for Writing**

Want your child to get in the habit of writing? Try making it a regular part of his/her life. Whether you have a little time or a lot, here are some ways to fit writing into both of your schedules.

- Enjoy on-the-go writing. Carry a small notebook and pencil, and let your child see you use it to make a to-do list: "Mail package to Grandma; pick up dry cleaning." Has your child been invited to a birthday party? Suggest that s/he make a list of gift ideas on the way to the mall. S/he can draw pictures and write the first letters of the words if he/she's not spelling yet.
- Start a family journal. Keep a pad by the telephone or on the kitchen counter. You could write about the weather getting cooler and the leaves falling; your child might report (in pictures or words) that the dog learned a new trick. At the end of the week, read aloud, from the journal after dinner.
- Write a recipe. After making lunch together, you and your child can write down how to make a peanut butter and banana sandwich: "Spread peanut butter on two pieces of bread..." Suggest that s/he make up a silly recipe, too (dandelion tacos, sweatshirt stew, etc.).

## **Calendar**

**December 11:** NJHS applications due  
**December 15:** Mass Day 8:30 am Parents Welcome  
**December 18:** End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
**December 21-January 3:** **Christmas Break**  
**January 4:** **Classes Resume**  
**January 5:** Mass Day 8:30 am Parents Welcome  
**January 7:** Report Cards Distributed  
**January 14:** Family Math Night K-2 6:30-7:30  
**January 18:** Martin Luther King Day – **No School**  
**January 19:** Mass Day 8:30 am Parents Welcome

## **ACA All Star Baskets**

ACA All Star Auction Baskets and Artwork from every class are being worked on and we need your help to make them bigger and better than ever. Your ten dollar donation per child helps us create the artwork and baskets to benefit the endowment fund for ACA. Donations are due no later than Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for all your help. We look forward to making the ACA All Star Auction a success!

## **Book Fair Stocking Stuffers**

Still need stocking stuffers or a great teacher or staff gift? Book Fair gift certificates are still available for purchase. Order forms can be found in the front office and will be accepted until Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. All purchases will be sent to you in a sealed envelope via your child no later than Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. For questions, please call Janine McComas at 321-689-5724 or [j9mccomas@gmail.com](mailto:j9mccomas@gmail.com).

## **Gold Stars:**

★ Thank you to all students who have already turned in socks and underwear for the Advent Outreach project. The collection of items is growing, all due to you!

## **Still Time to Buy SCRIP\***

Finish your Holiday shopping with SCRIP. Shop our gift card inventory for your last minute shopping. The SCRIP office will be open Monday from 7:45am – 9:00am and Tuesday from 7:30am - 8:30am. Regular office hours resume Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> (7:30am to 8:30am). Merry Christmas from your friends at SCRIP. Please contact Jill Drafts at (407) 464-0163 if you have any questions. **Shop with SCRIP now.... and pay less tuition later!**



Please e-mail submissions to: [kenneyj@annunciationacademy.org](mailto:kenneyj@annunciationacademy.org)

**Write STARS in the subject line, please.**

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