



***“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus:
for he shall save his people from their sins.”***

Dear Parents,

It is but ten minutes since I've returned to my office from an Advent prayer service conducted by our pre-school and pre-k teachers for 120 three and four year olds. One of my first thoughts while watching and listening to the children was how engaged they were in the praying and singing. As I gazed on their joyful faces, I was truly moved by their excitement, enthusiasm, anticipation, and most of all by their innocence. This experience came not long after we celebrated mass this morning with grades one through eight. There too, the students sang and prayed with a respectful joy and anticipation that I've come to expect from our students. And of course, on last Wednesday, the students performed the Christmas Pageant before a standing room only crowd at church. How privileged are we, as adults, to share in the happiness of our children and thus be reminded of the real meaning and true beauty of Christmas.

These celebrations do more than “put us in the spirit.” They provide us with a respite from the “busyness” and hectic pace of the shopping and secular preparation for Christmas. At mass this morning, Father Mario urged the children to remember that Christmas is more than about the gifts they receive. He reminded them, that although it is nice to receive gifts, Christmas is about the birth of Christ; it is Jesus' birthday. Father suggested that we give gifts to Jesus by giving of ourselves to others.

I know that Cheverus children “get this.” I see examples of their kindness and caring every day. It is both gratifying and heartwarming to witness the way our faculty, staff, and students demonstrate their love for one another. It is, after all, so consistent with the mission of our school. This concern for others extends beyond the walls of Cheverus; service and care for others is learned by our students at home. These past few weeks, we have made “250 Beds for 250 Children” our school Christmas service project. We held two N.U.T. Days to raise money and, we appealed to you to assist us by being more generous than the usual \$1.00 for a N.U.T. Day. Routinely, a N.U.T. Day will raise \$300.00. As a result of these two special N.U.T. Days, with your generous support, we raised \$3,000.00!

Being here at Cheverus is truly inspirational, not just at Christmas but throughout the year. My prayer, my wish for you is that your experience as a member of the Cheverus family is the same. On behalf of everyone at Cheverus Catholic School, I wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Thomas P. Arria, Jr.'.

Thomas P. Arria, Jr.
Principal