

¿Qué Pasa? / What's Up?

Family Bulletin #14

www.saintelizabeth.us "Photo Gallery"

December 6, 2018

We are now in the Advent Season, the "New Year" of the Church. During Advent, we reflect on the nearness of our Lord. We give thanks for the Gift He is to the world, and we wait in hope for and joyful anticipation of His return. Please enjoy this Advent prayer to share with your family. May God bless you in this Advent Season.

Advent Prayer for Families

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

Urgent: Important Meetings tonight!

Tonight, Thursday, December 6, we will hold two very important meetings. The first one for parents whose children work with Sister Jo for Math, Emily Vincent for Language Development (our Title I Program) and for the parents whose children work with the other **Mother Pia** staff. **This is a required meeting.** We will start promptly at 6:00 PM and will conclude within 45 minutes. Remember to sign in to receive your parent service hours and your child's "Free Dress" pass for attending this Title I meeting! The second meeting at 6:45 PM is for **Eighth Grade Parents** to support you in the current high school and scholarship application process. Now that you are in the middle of this challenging process, we're here to help! Silvia Rodriguez will also be at the meeting to provide additional support and information about finances.

Christmas Program

Our Christmas Program is next Thursday evening! Please be sure your child is in the gym at 5:45 PM. Our program will begin at 6:00 PM.

Students attire for the Christmas Program

Boys: Black pants and white, black green, or red shirts, preferably long-sleeved. Vests or ties are acceptable, as long as they are white, black, green or red. Our school uniform pants and shirts are perfectly acceptable. Please wear black dress shoes or black school shoes. Girls: a Christmas dress in either white, black, red or green (or a combination of these colors) or black pants (**not** leggings as pants). Dresses can also be paired with scarves, cardigans, or shawls however they must also be either white, black, green, or red. Our school uniforms are also perfectly acceptable. Dresses or skirts have to be at the knee or longer. Black dress shoes, boots, or black school shoes should be worn.

Posadas

Please join us for a beautiful and holy parish tradition on Monday, December 17, beginning in the church at 7:00 PM. After opening prayers, we process prayerfully around the neighborhood to remember the holy journey of the Blessed Mother and Joseph to find a place for our Lord to be born. We sing at each stop, are turned away as Mary and Joseph were, and finally come to our gym, our place of celebration and joy. We share hot chocolate and sweet bread, all the children hit piñatas and enjoy candies, and we welcome Santa to give out small presents to our guests as we celebrate the Lord coming among us. It is a wonderful evening—please join us and bundle up for the beautiful procession!

Note on Posada celebration:

The gym celebration is like inviting people to our home. The gifts we collect at school are for the children of our parish, not for ourselves. It is remembering that the most important part of Christmas is preparing ourselves for Jesus. **We do this by giving, not by taking.** Please explain to your child that the purpose of our gym celebration is to share our blessings with others and that is why we give the gifts to other people. **Please remember the spirit of this evening is sharing with others and making room in our own hearts for Jesus.**

Excellence in Academics—It's a Team Effort!

Your child's education is a priority to you and to us, and striving for excellence is a shared partnership. I examined report cards carefully to celebrate your child's progress and to note areas for improvement. These areas may be in attendance or they may be in academic subjects. If your child earned a "D" or "F" on their report card, this is very serious and must be improved. If your child is in middle school (Grades 6-8) and received two or more "D" or "F" grades, I have mailed letters today requiring improvement by December 20th. If your child does not turn in all work and is not working to the best of their ability, they will be placed on "Academic Probation" in January. **Academic Probation is a period of time in which they may not participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, Student Council, Tech Team, Peer Mediation, or special school activities until their grades have improved.** I met personally with each student whose academic performance needs to be improved and who will be getting a letter sent home. I explained the letter and the reason for the letter and emphasized the need to earn passing grades of "C" or better. If your child is not earning satisfactory grades, they will not be able to keep up with the curriculum and will continue to fall behind. This could put them behind for the rest of their academic career and, in the short term, definitely jeopardizes their chances for acceptance to their high school of choice. Please support this important requirement with your actions at home regarding homework and your participation in your child's academic efforts. Parents of students in **every grade** should be building responsible study habits and making academics one of your family's priorities. Let's work together for your child's bright and successful future!

Handbook Policy (for clarification):

It is expected that students comply with teacher requests for responsible behavior, class participation, completed homework, and a willingness to cooperate with school regulations. Failure to do so will result in unsatisfactory grades in class work, effort, and conduct, and may result in probation.

Handbook Addendum to page 15 Dec 6,2018 (for clarification)

While on Academic Probation, a student will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular events or special school activities. This includes CYO sports, Student Council, Tech Team, Peer Mediation, school assemblies, or eighth grade special activities later in the year and other activities. It is intended to communicate the seriousness of student performance that is not meeting St. Elizabeth School standards. The length of Academic Probation will depend upon each individual situation and will be communicated to the student and parent via letter.

Parent Service Hours Opportunity: Art Classes!

Ms. Alvarez is looking for some parent volunteers who would be able to help with our Art classes. Your task would be helping set up materials, assisting Ms. Alvarez, and helping clean up as classes transition through the periods. If you are interested in helping, please contact the office and leave a message for Ms. Alvarez. Please note that we need a commitment of at least half a day for several classes, so we cannot have parents who only want to help in their own child's class.

Reminders

Dec 12th No School- Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

Dec 13th Christmas Concert at 6:00pm

Dec 17th School Posada

Dec 20th Noon Dismissal.

Christmas Break Dec 21,2018-Jan 4,2019

Classes Resume on Monday

January 7, 2019!