



A Message from the Principal

Dear St. Bruno Families,

I hope that you all had a wonderful long, long holiday weekend, with plenty of time for rest, recreation, and renewing family bonds. Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday, and I certainly enjoyed hosting my family of sixteen, including my son in his first civilian role in six years. It was a chance for us to indulge in a holiday meal, play charades, sing karaoke, play poker, and host our own version of "Dancing with the Stars." My niece and I "wowed" the crowd with our acrobatics, as I picked her up and danced around my living room. (And in case you are getting a "visual," let me tell you that my niece Katie is 27 years old!) I also debuted my violin talent by playing "Danny Boy" for my 80 year-old father. It was a great day!

The two weeks preceding our long weekend were full of activity, as always. On Monday the 16th our Girls' B Volleyball team finished the season with their ninth win, earning the distinction of being undefeated. Congratulations to the fifth and sixth grade girls, and their coach, Mary Sue Engle. That evening we had an open Parent Advisory Board Meeting at 6:30. Thanks to the three parents who attended, and voiced their questions and concerns. Among the topics discussed were: possible use of debit machine for Bingo, Dress Code policies (for students and teachers), nutritional value of hot lunches, suggested fundraisers, formation of Consultative School Board, creation of a Marketing Committee, and upcoming school activities. **It was decided by all present that we would strengthen our dress code policy on socks. Currently the handbook states that socks must be "crew" socks, but then goes on to stipulate that socks "must be 2" above the shoe and ankle line, and must completely cover the ankle." Some parents felt this was confusing, so to clear up the confusion we have decided that we only need to say "crew" socks, and leave out the details. Crew socks come well up the calf, and if you have any doubt about the proper height, Google "crew socks" and you'll see a great picture. The new, clarified rule for socks will be strictly enforced beginning on January 4th, when we return after Christmas vacation. Thanks to the visiting parents and the Parent Advisory Board for working hard to end the confusion. (Christmas might be a good time to purchase those new crew socks...great stocking stuffers!)**

Parent-Teacher Conferences were held on November 18-20th. Thanks to the teachers for working overtime on the 18th to accommodate parents who were unable to get off work prior to 4:00 p.m. Everyone I spoke to, both teachers and parents seemed very pleased with their appointments. Conferences can be a stressful time for teachers, but this year's went so smoothly. Thanks parents, for being on time!

On Friday, the 20th, we had our first Saint Family Activity of the year. Saint Families consist of one student from each grade working together on a project or game. After the families met and did a short indoor activity, everyone went outside for a picnic, and then had a little time to play board games. I hope all the students enjoyed the activity that Mrs. Daly and Mrs. Rodriguez planned for them.

On Monday, the 23rd, Bartolo Photography was here to photograph all students who missed the first picture day of the year.

On Tuesday, the 24th, the Student Council organized a Turkey Hunt for the younger students, out on the field at recess. Students were also allowed to wear fall-colored add-ons with the uniforms.

On the morning of Wednesday, the 25th, I attended one performance of the third graders' play, "The Day the Turkeys Went on Strike." Under the direction of Mrs. Lakey and Mrs. Walker, the third grade class did an outstanding job of singing and acting, and served to put all spectators in the mood for Thanksgiving. This play was one example of what your students do during our "Wednesday Afternoon for the Arts" activities. Thanks to the many parents who attended the show; it means a lot to the children to see their parent's smiling faces in the crowd.

At 11:30 the entire student body (including our kindergarten classes) joined together in the church for our annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service. The fifth grade class hosted this wonderful paraliturgy. Fr. Jim spoke to us about giving thanks, and expressed his thanks to St. Bruno School for their generosity in giving food items for the holiday. Due to the efforts of our school family, we were able to provide 35 families with beautiful Thanksgiving meals, including turkeys and hams. It was great to see so many parents in attendance at our prayer service. One of the main objectives of Catholic education is evangelization, and giving parents the opportunity to worship with their children helps us to meet this objective.

This morning many of our students will be able to go to Confession, with the rest going on Friday the 4th. Also today our second graders will travel to The Crystal Cathedral to see "The Glory of Christmas." On Friday the 4th we will hold our Honor Roll Assembly in the church at 12:15. Students in grades 4-8 will receive certificates for Principal's Gold, Gold Honor Roll, Silver Honor Roll, and the Golden Tiger Award. Please feel free to join us as we celebrate our scholars and excellent citizenship. (Students in grades K-3 will receive Golden Tiger Awards in their classrooms.)

Next week will find us practicing for the Christmas program several days. Student Council has organized a coloring contest for Christmas. On Tuesday we'll once again meet in the church at 11:00 to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, hosted by grade 6. We hope you'll join us in honoring our blessed mother at this liturgy. Wednesday the 9th is Website Wednesday, and all students will have the opportunity to have \$1.00 free dress. On Thursday the 10th, students will receive recognition for their efforts in the catalog fundraiser.

In closing today, I would encourage you to spend time with your families, celebrating the season of Advent. Find a time of the day, each day, when you can all be together, and do something special as a family. Maybe you will light an advent wreath, bake cookies, work on a craft, or pray together. Whatever it is you decide to do, your children will enjoy the time spent with you, and they will remember it in years to come. It's never too late to start a family tradition! God bless you all in this beautiful season of Advent; I'll keep you in my prayers, as always.

Peggy L. Vice
Principal