



CONNECTIONS

January 5, 2012

Letter from the Principal

Dear St. Benedict School Families,

Welcome back to school after the long Christmas Break. I certainly hope that everyone was able to relax, recharge, and prepare themselves for 2012. For those of you who are looking to extend the festive goodwill that often typifies Christmas don't forget that, according to the Catholic liturgical calendar, "Christmas Time" lasts until January 9th! That means you still have time to celebrate.

As you probably know, from the school's standpoint we are entering in to some of the most valuable teaching and learning time of the entire year. Typically, the students and teachers are able to cover a tremendous amount of material between Christmas and Easter Break. That means it is likely that you will see an increase in the work and activities that your students are participating in here at school. As you well know, this can also be a very gloomy and rainy time in the Northwest. The combination of foul weather and extra work isn't always the greatest for any of us! Being aware of the situation and communicating any difficulties to the teachers is important to help keep us all happy and learning.

On a related note, this week and into next the teachers will be asking students and/or parents to monitor homework levels around the building. As was mentioned in an earlier *Connections*, the staff is reviewing and, if necessary, revising the homework policy. We will be working on this issue through the month and presenting our ideas to the School Commission for comment as well. If you have any homework concerns that have not been brought to your teachers please do so.

Finally, I do have some sad news to share. While we were away from school, Fr. Steve's mother, Gloria Maestri Sallis, passed away after a short illness. For the past several days Fr. Steve has been home in Arkansas with his family mourning her loss. In addition to the funeral Mass that has already been said for her at her home parish, there will be an additional memorial Mass said here at St. Benedict Church. This Mass will take place Saturday, January 21st at 10:00 AM. You are all invited to come and support Fr. Steve and celebrate Mrs. Sallis.

Brian Anderson, Principal,
St. Benedict Catholic School

Important Dates

Friday, January 6

- School Attends Mass: 9AM

Friday, January 13

- School Attends Mass: 9AM
- Family Movie Night: 6:30 PM

Monday, January 16

- No school in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- Extended Day Closed

Thursday, January 19

- Spring musical auditions: 7:00 PM
- School Commissions Meeting: 7:00 PM

Friday, January 20

- School Mass: 9AM (Gr. 2)

Friday, January 27

- Free Dress & Pizza Lunch

Sunday, Jan 29— Saturday, Feb. 4

- Catholic Schools Week

4811 Wallingford Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103
Phone: 206-633-3375
Fax: 206-633-3236
Extended Day Phone: 206-633-0507,
ext. 109

Submit *Connections* articles to Lisa Wrenn at lowen@pointb.com by 3:00 PM on Tuesday. *Submissions are dependent upon space and priority.*

School Open Houses

Please encourage friends or families who might be thinking about enrolling their children at St. Benedict school to attend any of the upcoming open houses:

- Sunday, Jan 29 at 11:45 AM
- Thursday, Feb 9 at 9:15 AM
- Thursday March 29 at 9:15 AM

Tuition Assistance 2012-2013

The 2012-2013 Fulcrum Foundation application for tuition assistance has been posted to the Fulcrum Web site and online applications are now being accepted. The application can be found by clicking on the following link: <http://fulcrumfoundation.org/tuition>. Copies of your application, tax forms, and other supporting material MUST be completed and returned to the school office by February 15, 2012. The Fulcrum Tuition Assistance Application will also be used in determining distribution of St. Benedict School tuition assistance.

Application Information Fall 2012

Do you have a child to enroll for Fall, 2012 Kindergarten, Pre-Kindergarten or Pre-school?

- **Parents of current Pre-school students** need to complete an application stating the days you wish to enroll your child for Pre-K Fall, 2012.
- **Parents of current Pre-Kindergarten students** who wish to enroll for Kindergarten 2012 must complete an application.
- **Parents of current students** who wish to enroll a sibling who is not attending St. Benedict must complete an application.

All application forms for new students must be accompanied with the birth certificate and (if applicable) baptism certificate and the \$125 application fee by FEBRUARY 1, 2012 to qualify for priority registration! Please call the school office for an application form or download the application form at www.stbens.net. Those applying for grades 1-8 must also have a Teacher Recommendation form completed (available on our website or in the office) as well as send in copies of report cards and tests.

Grandparents and Special

Friends Day - February 3

Friday, February 3, from 8:30–11:10 AM is Grandparents and Special Friends' Day. This is a wonderful opportunity at the end of Catholic Schools week to share our great school with family or friends. In this week's Thursday packet, you will find two postcards to mail to your grandparent or special friend and invite them to our school. If you need more postcards, they are available in the school office.

The schedule for the day will be as follows:

8:30 AM	Classroom visits
9:00 AM	Join the students at Mass
10-11:00 AM	Program and Reception at the school

St. Benedict Band-New Schedule

Beginning on Monday, January 9, band practice will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays (instead of Tuesdays and Thursdays). Students in band will be practicing in the St. Cecilia room of the Benedict House instead of the Auditorium. Students will be escorted across the street to and from band. These changes will help our program be even stronger. We are having a great year so far and I look forward to more good things!

Sean Richarz, Band Director

Father/Daughter Dance -

Save the Date!

Save the date for the Father-Daughter Dinner and Dance which will be held on Saturday, February 4. More details to follow.

CYO Volleyball

CYO Volleyball season is just around the corner! January 13th is the registration deadline, and matches begin February 25. Girls and boys grades 5-8 are eligible to participate. St. Benedict partners with Christ the King. If we do not have enough athletes between our schools and parishes to form teams, we try to find a spot for registrants at neighboring CYO programs. Registration forms are in the school office or online at stben.net. Please send e-mail to Stbenssports@gmail.com for additional information.