



CONNECTIONS

December 1, 2011

Important Dates

Friday, December 2

- School Attends Mass: 9 AM

Friday, December 9

- Awards Assembly: 8:45 AM
- Free Dress and Pizza Lunch
- Family Movie Night: 6:30 PM

Thursday, December 15

- Christmas Program: 1:30 & 7:00 PM in the Church

Friday, December 16

- Early Dismissal: 12:00 PM
- Extended Day Open until 6:00 PM

Monday, December 19, 2011— Monday, January 2, 2012

- No school – Christmas vacation
- Extended Day Open December 19-23 and 27-30, depending on enrollment

Tuesday, January 3

- School resumes

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.*

Letter from the Principal

Dear St. Benedict School Families,

Starting last Saturday night, the Catholic Church began its celebration of the Advent season. Advent has long been a time for reflection, evaluation, and preparation for the Christmas season that is fast approaching. As you will read, during this season, the life of our school closely aligns with these traditional Advent virtues. It is a time for us all to reflect and evaluate many aspects of our lives!

Yesterday was the end of the first trimester (it has gone by very quickly). Over the next week, the teachers will be working to close their grade books and complete report cards. You should expect to see these assessments from the first trimester included in next week's Thursday envelope. Additionally, we have received the results from the October ITBS tests. These will also be included in next week's Thursday envelope for grades 3–8.

The school staff is actively reflecting and evaluating itself as well. In the last week, I completed a first round of formal classroom observations for all the teaching staff. In addition, the staff has spent time during our staff meetings evaluating various aspects of the school. So far we have focused on how effectively we fulfill the school's mission. We will continue to self-assess beyond the Advent season, we have already started to look at the school's homework policy as well as other aspects of school life.

If you are a member of St. Benedict Parish, it is time for you to evaluate your circumstances and recommit yourself to Stewardship. You have received a letter from our pastor requesting you to make your annual renewal of Stewardship of Treasure. If you have not already done so and you wish to continue receiving a subsidized tuition rate, you must turn in a pledge card! In addition to having a pledge card on file, families that receive subsidy from the parish are expected to attend Mass regularly and actively participate in the life of the parish. Additional pledge cards are available in the parish and school offices.

Have a wonderful end of the week,

Brian Anderson, Principal

St. Benedict Catholic School

Candy-Gram Sale Begins!

Starting tomorrow, students may purchase Candy-Grams (candy canes with a message) for \$1 each. Sales will be on Dec. 2, Dec. 9, and Dec 13. See enclosed flyer.

Spring Musical Auditions

This year's spring musical will be "Once Upon A Mattress." This Princess and the Pea production is a hilarious spin on the familiar classic fairy tale. This adaptation has been designed specifically for youth performers. Performances are April 26th-28th. Auditions for 6th-8th grade will be Thursday, January 19th at 7:00 in the school auditorium. Fifth grade will audition separately during the school day. Audition packets will be available in early January.

"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST"

Make plans to attend "Glory to God in the Highest", this year's all-school Christmas Program. The program will be held in the church on Thursday, December 15 at 1:30 pm and 7 pm. All K-8 students are required to attend both performances as part of their music class. Pre-school and Pre-K will attend the evening performance only. Beginning and Intermediate Band will perform at the afternoon performance only. If your student is unable to participate due to prior commitments, please send a note or email to Ms. Rivord and the classroom teacher. Thank you!

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.

Parents Needed for Speech Tournament Judging

Need easy and entertaining volunteer hours? The St. Ben's Middle School Speech Team needs to provide a few judges for the Jan 21 speech tournament at Seattle Prep. Contact Lisa Berendts at lisaberendts@gmail.com for details.

Christmas Could Come Early if You Purchase Scrip. . .

Imagine not having to arrive early to the Christmas Program in order to scramble for decent seats to watch the star or stars of the show, your child or children! Purchase some scrip and you've got a shot at 6 front row tickets to the evening performance of the Christmas Program. It's a perfect spot for a video camera!

All special orders are due no later than December 7th in order to deliver them to you by December 15th (and to be counted for the contest).

Forms are available on the website, at the sales table, in the Thursday pouch and by contacting scrip@stbens.net ordanaeb@gmail.com <http://www.stbens.net/parents/scrip-program/>

Remember the Scrip contest runs through December 9th!

Class	% Part	\$ Sales
PS	24%	\$ 2,960
PK	19%	\$ 1,853
K	53%	\$ 3,263
1	20%	\$ 920
2	38%	\$ 3,783
3	30%	\$ 2,365
4	32%	\$ 1,903
5	42%	\$ 1,873
6	28%	\$ 1,508
7	23%	\$ 408
8	16%	\$ 585

Holiday Scrip Contest

The scrip contest is underway and off to a great start. The Kindergarten class is in the lead with no close competition as of yet.

We're doing our best to get inventory levels up in order to keep up with your scrip needs. If you know you may have a large order coming our way, be sure to contact scrip@stbens.net to give us a heads up. During the holiday season it takes longer than usual to get our orders turned around. Any advance notice on large orders is appreciated and very helpful in turning your orders around as quickly as possible.