

From the Principal's Desk

December 2011



Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

With all the activities that take place during the month of December, it hardly seems possible that we can refer to the Advent and Christmas seasons as a time of peace. Many people become irritable because of crowded stores, or are exhausted from the number of social gatherings. Many are depressed because their loved ones are no longer with them to celebrate. Some of this is unavoidable. However, we must never forget the reason we celebrate Christmas in the first place. A number of years ago a slogan was quite popular, and today some say that it sounds a bit trite. I would suggest that it is more appropriate now than ever before: *"Jesus Is the Reason for the Season."*

Let us remember that Jesus came into our world to bring peace, healing, and reconciliation. He came to tell people of the world how much they were loved. He made all people feel special. He asks his followers today to live as He lived. May this Advent and Christ season be for all of you a true time of peace, healing, and reconciliation. May our Lord bless you with His presence, His grace, and His Love.

Wishing you the blessings of this holy season!

Rosemary Pierre

Parent Partnership – SUPPORT

In addition to providing emotional support for teachers, other crucial "home ways" make a positive difference in the education of children. Parents advance their children's education when they provide the following kinds of SUPPORT:

S - Supervise homework. Establish a time, place, and space where the child reports for school work, even if he announces that there is no assigned homework on a given day. Check work for completeness and neatness. In the primary grades in particular, check also for accuracy and mastery.

U - Unite with school authority by complying with the school handbook and by backing up teacher decisions.

P - Provide honest, respectful feedback to both student and teacher. Inform teachers about stresses in the child's life that may impact learning or socialization.

P - Promote responsibility and maturity in your child through chores, checklists, deadlines, and reasonable standards of performance.

O - Organize the household for school success. Provide a box for each child to store schoolbags, projects, PE shoes, etc., in readiness for the next day. Establish habits of adequate sleep that begin with a quiet atmosphere and soft lighting at least 20 minutes prior to bedtime, with no electronic media in use during that time. Plan nourishing meals, school lunches, and snacks that limit sugar intake. Teach personal hygiene skills like teeth brushing and hair care. Determine a time for daily bathing.

R - Regulate a balanced schedule to include schoolwork, play, extracurricular interests, family time, leisure, and prayer time. Limit TV on school days and limit extracurricular interests to two per year.

T - Teach your child to name, claim, and tame personal behavior; in other words, to accept ownership for his/her choices by admitting to a choice, accepting consequences without shifting blame to others, and apologizing when necessary.

