OLD MISSION MONTESSORI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

In this Christmas Season we Christians welcome our Lord, who comes as a tiny child, in mercy, gentleness, and compassion. But make no mistake. This newborn is our God and Lord, our savior and our judge. And so we sing out loud, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!" In the words of Psalm 96, "O sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the world with justice, who comes to judge the people with truth."

To announce God's epiphany—the glorious appearing of heaven on earth—we give gifts and greetings. We drive away the winter with lights and flowers. We gather around the shining tree of life, and we open our homes to every guest.

But the keeping of Christmas is not easy. On the day after December 25th, the *after*-Christmas sales begin, as if Christmas were over. But it's not over. It's just begun! We Christians have to rely on our own resources when it comes to keeping our festivals. And we have so many days to keep. There's the feast of Stephen, when "Good King Wenceslas looked out." There's St. John's Day, when people toast each other's good health. There's the feast of the Holy Innocents, the sad day of the season. Christmastime includes the New Year celebration, when we ring out troubles and ring in blessings. Then there's Epiphany, the merriest day of our merry Christmas time, when we follow a star to our heart's desire.

The Christmas season ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Usually that falls on the second Sunday in January. But the season echoes again on February 2nd, Candlemas, when we praise Christ, the light of the world. Think how much we'd miss if we ended Christmas on December 25th!

Advent and Christmastime—the preparation and the celebration—bring us from the old year to a new. The Christian year is not a circle, leading nowhere. Rather, our years form a twisted spiral, like the ladder of angels in Jacob's dream. The ladder of the year leads us out of time, ever upward into God's bright eternity.

DATES TO REMEMBER!

- **Monday, December 14th**, "**A Christmas Carol**," performed by our 6th grade class, 6:30 p.m., McKeon Center, **EVERYONE IS WELCOME**
- **Tuesday, December 15th, FREE DRESS**
- **Wednesday, December 16th, FREE DRESS**
- **Wednesday, December 16th**, Annual Christmas Program, Primary through Senior Elementary, 6:30 p.m., Serra Center
- **Thursday, December 17th, FREE DRESS**
- **Friday, December 18th, MASS UNIFORM Required**
- **Friday, December 18th**, 11:00 a.m. All School Mass, **12:30 pm dismissal, NO PM EXTENDED CHILD CARE**
- **Monday, January 4th**, Students return to school
- **Monday, January 18th**, Martin Luther King Day, **NO SCHOOL**

Early OMMS Christmas Gift *for all students, faculty and staff…*

FREE DRESS DAY…

on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week!

DON'T forget to wear your ***uniform*** for Mass on Friday, our last day of school before our Christmas Holiday!

AS WE PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

Our hope is that you always REJOICE in this season, stop to experience the WONDER through the eyes of a child!

Enjoy being together as a family remembering the many 'GIFTS' that

Our LORD has bestowed upon each of us, our gift of LIFE,

our gift of one another, and most importantly our gift of HIS LOVE through HIS only son JESUS CHRIST!

May you unwrap YOUR gifts often to recognize and receive the true treasures often hidden within and certainly not available for purchase within any store! Share your gifts with your family and friends throughout this miraculous season and during HIS gift of a Blessed New Year!

From all of us at OMMS

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

Christmas Food and Gift Baskets

Once again, we are calling upon our OMMS family to help us in giving to our "adopted families" for Christmas. Non-perishable food items and gifts may be brought into school anytime this week. We would ask that if you have offered to bring in items needing refrigeration, you wait and send them in on Friday morning, our last day of school. May God bless all of you for your continued support of the less fortunate in our community.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our annual Christmas Program is scheduled for this Wednesday, December 16th, in the Serra Center. The children are asked to be in their classrooms at 6:00 p.m. and the program will begin at 6:30 p.m. For this year's performance, all children are asked to dress in festive Christmas colors (green, red, silver, gold, black, or white).

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER….

Our ***6th graders*** accompanied by an array of students in different levels at OMMS took ***center stage*** last night giving an amazing performance in the McKeon Center. Without the assistance of a sound system everyone took on the challenge by projecting their voices and enunciating every line to deliver a heartwarming story in what has become a Christmas tradition at OMMS. "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens is a favorite with numerous as well as interesting characters to enhance the story. Our students enjoyed the opportunity to present their interpretation to the audience, often changing characters themselves! On behalf of our 6th graders and our significant volunteer student performers we would like to thank everyone for attending and socializing afterwards with a cup of Hot Chocolate and a nibble or two! Thank you also to our 6th grade parents who took the time to prepare the tasty treats to warm and nourish our insides after being visited by such ghostly SPIRITS of the past, present and future!

If you are still not in the Christmas Spirit we are certain *you will be* after our Annual Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 16……we certainly look forward to sharing the evening with everyone!

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

Big thank you to Ms. Susan for all your time, enthusiasm and love shared with our 6th graders in the production of "A Christmas Carol." What a fabulous show. *The 6th Grade Parents*

OMMS Box Top$ for Education

It's time to turn in your **Box Top$ for Education**. They will be counted and sent off during the holiday break, so please turn in your Box Top$ to your child's classroom or the office by Thursday morning. I'll be making the rounds after school on Thursday to pick them up. Also, it would facilitate packaging them if they are not expired and trimmed to size. Thanks for your support in this and have a very merry Christmas, your Box Top$ coordinator, Dee Shokes.

Christmas Caroling

We would like to thank our students who participated in a wonderful community outreach this month. A number of our classrooms visited seniors in our community and sang Christmas carols. The audiences were thrilled to have the children visit. Thank you to all the students who sang and the parents who drove us. What a great way to spread our Christmas cheer!

Lost and Found

Please be sure to check our Lost and Found outside the main school office if your child has "misplaced a jacket, lunch box, sweater, etc." Any unclaimed items will be laundered and donated to Social Concerns.

2010 Planner Sale

Our parish is selling Planners to "organize your inner and outer life." This unique week-at-a-glance planner has the Liturgical daily readings and quotes from Catholic teachings, scholars and Saints. These planners are available for sale in the Parish Office for only $15.00.

The Perfect Christmas Gift!!!

Are you still looking for that perfect Christmas gift, but you don't think it will arrive on time? Look no further than the school or parish offices to purchase your "Late Nite Catechism" comedy night tickets. This evening of laughter presented by Old Mission Montessori School will be sure to please. This event will take place on February 12th. Please call the school office at (760)757-3232 or e-mail OMMSlatenight3@cox.net for more information.

Eva Shaw, Professor and Author, Visits our School

by

Pheleep Sidhom

(5th Grade, Room 206)

Eva Shaw, Ph.D., author and college professor of writing came to our school on December 8th, and all the students from senior elementary got a chance to listen to her talk about being an author. She gave us some hints on writing stories:

1. If you hear something you like, write it down so you can use it later in a story.
2. You don't always have to start writing a story from the beginning. You can start from the end and go backwards.
3. If you think the end of a story is cheesy or you think you can make it better, rewrite the story in your own way.

Professor Shaw also talked to us about some of her books like, What to Do When a Loved One Dies or her gardening book, Shovel It: Nature's Health Plan. Some of her books are bestsellers. Eva Shaw has written many biographies for celebrities, top-level educators, entrepreneurs, and health professionals. She has also written numerous magazine articles. She has starred on talk shows and has been a guest expert for national news program.

Professor Shaw told us about publishing her books. She said, "To be an author, you can't be a quitter," because most of the time an author's books don't get approved the first time, so they have to send it to more than one publisher.

Professor Shaw took us through the process of publishing. First, she'd have to send an inquiry note to a publisher asking if they would like this or that topic in a book. When she gets a letter accepting her topic, she writes her story and gives it to her literary agent who sends it to a publisher. Next she waits for another letter which tells her if her book is accepted or if it's not. If it's accepted, the publishers give her money for the book and then they own it. Finally, the printing company makes many copies and distributes them to book stores throughout the United States.

Buick Invitational Golf Tickets

Chip-in for Charity provides our school with admission tickets to the Buick Invitational Golf Tournament scheduled for January 25th – 31st. The ticket price is $17.00. These tickets are good for any day of the tournament. The regular priced ticket is $26.00! Not only is this a great savings for golf enthusiasts, but with each $17.00 ticket sold, the school will receive $15.00. We would ask that each family attempt to sell or purchase two tickets. In doing so the school could raise over $2,000.00! Tickets are available in the school office. Thank you for your support.

Christmas at the Mission

Come together on December 19th, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., with the community in an evening of celebration for the holidays as our Historic Landmark, Mission San Luis Rey, is illuminated with the glow of a thousand lights and luminaries. Listen to the sounds of the season as you are greeted by carolers in the Old Mission Church. Discover the gourmet offerings of North County's restaurateurs. The ticket price is $35.00 and you may **RSVP** to Tina Ortiz at (760) 757-3651, ext. 127.

Prayer Corner

Please keep the following members of our school family in your prayers:

~ Michael Valeriano's aunt, Susana Iquique
~ Cadence's Dad, Mark Cristobal
~ Dushawn Powell
~ Carol (Armen) Madden's brother, Bill
~ Anthony Glodek
~ Samantha and the Cartmill Family
~ The Arguello Family
~ Michael Lindsey
~ Mr. Tom's mother-in-law
~ Mrs. Jeannie Foss
~ Mrs. Susan Custer
~ Connor McWayne's Grandma
~ Yosuico Family
~ Natalie and Allison Rubio's Great Grandma, Marseille
~ The Rocha Family
~ Blanche Lindsey
~ The Vorndran Family
~ Our deployed men and women of the armed forces