

WILDCAT NEWS

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School

National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



December 2009

From the Principal...

On this chilly day of December 1, we celebrate the Advent Season as we prepare for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our classrooms are adorned with Advent wreaths, Advent calendars, Jesse trees and Nativity Scenes. This month we also celebrate many beautiful feast days which include the lives of St. Stephen, St. Lucy, St. Nicholas and Juan Diego along with the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe. We especially look forward to our Christmas Programs on December 10th and 11th. Both Christmas Programs will be available on one DVD for \$25.00. You can pre-order or place your order the night of the performance.

This month is very busy around the school. Our Girls and Boys Basketball Teams are in full season with a packed schedule. They appreciate your support and there is no doubt the games are always exciting. Please refer to our December calendar of events for more details.

As a reminder all outerwear must be dark blue. It is not necessary for the jackets to be from the uniform store, many parents have found jackets at Academy, Target, etc. This is very important in order for all of us to be able to identify our students and to maintain a safe and controlled environment. Thank you very much for understanding.

As always, we welcome your volunteer time you spend with us here at school. It's exciting to see you enjoying lunch with your children and dropping in on those special classroom events. Our doors are always open for your assistance (or just enjoyment!) in the cafeteria or on the playground.

The statue of St. Andrew honoring our beloved Fr. Kim has arrived. The statue will be blessed during the school liturgy on Friday, December 4th. Our 8th grade class of 2009 took on this beautiful project, and chose St. Andrew the Fisherman knowing of Father Kim's passion for fishing. The students raised funds to purchase the statue but help is needed to make the final payment. If you can assist in making this happen, your contribution is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Faculty, Staff and Administration, we extend to you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With God's Blessings, Jackie Palermo

IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE:

<u>December 2009</u>	
1	Boys and Girls Basketball Games-Home
2	Boys and Girls Basketball Games-Away Scrip Order Form Distributed
3	Spiritual Life Committee Meeting
3-5	Holy Spirit B Teams Basketball Tournament
4	School/CDC Liturgy (In Honor of Fr. Kim) <u>K-8th 2:00 pm Dismissal</u> <u>CDC Open Until 6:00 pm</u> Phone Book Collection Ends Scrip Orders Due by 12 Noon
5	High School Placement Tests
5-6	Scrip Sales After Weekend Masses
6	Second Sunday of Advent
7	Praises for Parents
7-8	6th-8th Geography Bee
8	School/CDC Liturgy (Immaculate Conception)
9	Little Flowers and Virtues Club Meetings
10	K-2nd Christmas Concert 7:00 pm-Church
11	Scrip Orders Due by 12 Noon 3rd-8th Christmas Concert 7:00 pm-Church
11-13	Holy Spirit A Teams Basketball Tournament
12	Parish Christmas Pageant Practice
12-13	Scrip Sales After Weekend Masses
13	Third Sunday of Advent 2nd Grade Singing at 11:30 am Parish Mass
14-15	Parish Advent Reconciliation Services and Individual Confessions
15	Saint Bowl
16	CiCi's Pizza Night in the Forum Qtr. 2 AR Points Due by 4:00 pm
17	CDC Christmas Program 10:00 am-Church
18	School/CDC Liturgy <u>K-8th 12:00 Noon Dismissal</u> <u>CDC Open Until 6:00 pm (sack lunch & drink)</u> CDC Class Parties: 9:30am K-7th Class Parties: 11:00-12:00 8th Grade Christmas Luncheon: 11:00 am-Café Qtr. 2 Ends (46 days)
19	Parish Christmas Pageant Practice
19-20	Scrip Sales After Weekend Masses
20	Fourth Sunday of Advent
21-31	No School/CDC Closed
24	Christmas Eve Parish Christmas Pageant Practice Parish Masses: 3:00 pm (Children's) 5:00 pm/7:00 pm/Midnight
25	Christmas Day Parish Masses: 10:00 am/11:30 am (Spanish)
31	New Year's Eve Parish Vigil Mass 7:00 pm (Mary Mother of God)
January 2010	
1	New Year's Day No School/CDC Closed Parish Mass 10:00 am (Mary Mother of God)
4	CDC and K-8th Classes Resume

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Selma, Texas 78154

School:

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Fax: 210-651-5516

Email: principal@olphselma.org

Child Development Center:

Phone: 210-651-6819

Fax: 210-651-3179

Email: cdc@olphselma.org

We're on the Web:

www.olphselma.org

School Principal:

Jackie Palermo

School Vice-Principal:

Mary Newquist

CDC Director:

Claudia Ogrin

Pastor:

Fr. José De La Rosa

Associate Pastor:

Fr. James Seiwert

School Council President:

John Trayhan

PTC Board President:

Monica Hoover



Child Development Center (CDC) Corner

Spikey Mikey Field Trip

On Wednesday, December 9th we will be having an in-house field trip. Spikey Mikey the Magician will be here at 10:00 am to entertain the children!

Scrip/HEB Cards

The PTC will have **TWO** more Scrip Orders before Christmas. The orders must be in by Friday, December 4th and/or 11th. The Scrip orders have been an ongoing success this year. Thanks for all your support. Last months sales brought in a **profit of \$1,500.**

As always, the HEB cards are for sale everyday at the front desk of the school and CDC. The PTC also sells HEB cards and a few other cards they might have available after weekend Masses the first weekend of each month. Joyfully, during the month of December the PTC will have weekend Mass Scrip Card Sales the first three weekends of the month, December 5th-6th, 12th-13th, and 19th-20th.

Don't forget to Shop Scrip before you shop!

Phone-Books Wanted Contest/Fundraiser

OLPH needs your old phone-books! Once again, the 6th grade class is collecting phone-books for a competition sponsored by HEB. The school/CDC can win up to \$1,500!

Please bring your books by Room 402 or drop them outside the exterior door of the old music room, Room 102, under the covered porch.

Hurry! The contest/fundraiser ends Friday, December 4th.

Mrs. Stacey and Mrs. Maria's Classes

The Thanksgiving Mass with Mrs. Stacey's and Mrs. Maria's class was beautiful. All the children did a really great job. Thanks to the 3rd grade class for making all the props and letting us participate in Mass with them. We had fun!

Seton Home

This year the Child Development Center is adopting Seton Home for Christmas. Seton Home is an organization that helps unwed teenage mothers. Seton Home is asking for single and double strollers, newborn items for boys and girls, and stocking stuffer items for the teen moms. We will be collecting items until Friday, December 11th. The items will be delivered to Seton Home on Tuesday, December 15th. Items can be "new" or "gently used". Monetary donations will also be accepted. Please make checks payable to Seton Home.

Church and School Christmas Programs

K-2nd grade school students will be having their Christmas Programs on Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 pm in the Church. 3rd-8th grade students on Friday, December 11th at 7:00 pm in the Church.

You are invited to celebrate the season of wonder, awe, and love at the Christmas Pageant of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church on December 24th. The Church Christmas Pageant practices will be on the 12th, 19th, and 24th. Rehearsal for the 3:00 pm Children's Mass on December 24th will be at 11:00 am. If you have not registered, please call Vilma at (210) 651-6913.

CiCi's Pizza Night (Forum)

This month's CiCi's Pizza night is on Wednesday, December 16th starting at 4:00 pm. Come show your school support and your child's class can a pizza party for having the highest attendance!

CDC Annual Christmas Program

Family and friends are invited to join the OLPH Child Development Center of Our Annual Christmas Program on Thursday, December 17th in the Church. The program starts at 10:00 am.

Child Development Center (CDC) Corner Continued...

Christmas Parties

This year the children will be having their Christmas Parties in their classrooms on Friday, December 18th. Each teacher will be sending home a note regarding the party and gift exchange. Your help before, during and after the party will be deeply appreciated.

No Cafeteria Service



There will be no cafeteria service on Friday, December 18th. The elementary school will be dismissing at 12 noon. If your child will be staying for lunch, a sack lunch and drink will be needed.

PK3-8th Grade No School

Please mark your calendars! The CDC will be closed from Saturday, December 19th to Sunday, January 3rd. The CDC will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2010.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Many, many thanks to the wonderful parents, students, and staff who supported the annual OLPH School Thanksgiving Food Drive. The boxes were included with the Parish Food Drive and reflect combined efforts to touch the lives of families during the holiday season! We should all feel a great deal of pride in the fact that these families received a gift from us due to your generous response to God's call, "Feed my sheep!" May God continue to bestow upon you all the blessings of His holy season of Christmas!

December Birthdays

There are quite a few birthdays this month. Help us wish them all a very Happy Birthday!

Nancy Edwards-1st	Betty Tannehill-18th
Jackie Altenberger-12th	Yolanda Turnage-19th
Judy Gallucci-12th	Mariamda Perez 21st

Sister's Pantry Update

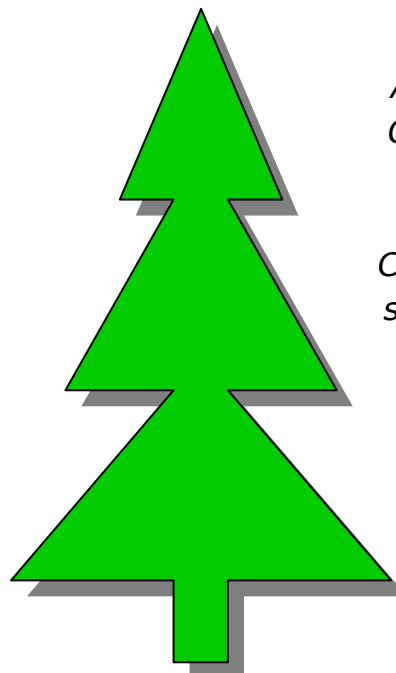
Special Thanks to Our Lady of Perpetual Help CDC Family. The great support shown us recently in showering us with gift certificates of so generous amounts (over \$2,500) is a testimony of the kind of people you are. You certainly let God's light shine through you. Know that we are filled with awe at this great outpouring of generosity. No words could adequately express our sincere gratitude except the simple words, "God Bless You, and keep you the beautiful people you are."

*In Christ's Love,
Sister Rosemary, Sister Stephana, and
Sister Clementine*

2010/2011 School Year Waiting List

If you have a younger child that will be three by September 1st and you wish to enroll him/her for the 2010/2011 school year, please call the CDC office. This will insure that you get a registration packet.

The waiting list for new families will start on **Monday, January 4th at 7:00 am**. Please leave your name, your child's name, address, telephone number, and your child's date of birth.



*All of us at the
CDC would like
to wish you a
very Merry
Christmas and a
safe and Happy
New Year!*

*See you all in
2010!*

PTC CORNER:



Torch Tokens

Lighting the way...to a brighter experience at our Catholic School. Thank you to everyone who purchased a token and good luck! The first drawing will be held on January 1, 2010.

Scrip Gift Card Program

Stop Before You Holiday Shop! First purchase Scrip and HEB cards from the school or CDC... it's so easy...

~ Buy HEB and select gift cards after Mass on the weekends of December 5th, 12th, and 19th.

~ Return order forms with payment to the school or CDC offices on Friday, December 4th and/or 11th.

If you are in need of another order form, you may stop by the CDC or school office and pick one up or you may print order forms off of the school website www.olphselma.org. If you have any questions about the Scrip Gift Card Program please, contact Claudia Ogrin at (210) 651-6819.

Help Sell Scrip/HEB/Texas Shine

If you can help with weekend Mass sales, please contact Alice Pfeiffer at epfeiffer@satx.rr.com.

PTC Meeting

Attend and win! The next PTC meeting will be held on **Monday, January 11th at 7:00 pm** in the school cafeteria. Remember there is free childcare available, you can win a Scrip Gift Card just for attending and your child's classroom can win one also for having the highest attendance.

Got 30 Minutes to Spare?

Make a huge difference in your children's school! There are countless ways to make a difference and one of the most beneficial and rewarding ways is volunteering your time. Each and every month there are plenty of gratifying opportunities. Please contact any PTC Board member or Mrs. Newquist for information.



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the OLPH Catholic School and CDC Food Drive. Students were asked to send in various non-perishable food items and during Mass on Friday, November 20th all items were collected. After Mass all food collected was distributed to parish and school families in need at Thanksgiving.



PHONE BOOKS WANTED

OLPH wants your old phone books! The 6th grade class is collecting phone books for a competition sponsored by HEB. The school/CDC can win up to \$1,500!

Please bring your books by Room 402 or drop them outside the exterior door of the old music room, Room 102, under the covered porch. Also, you can take them to HEB and drop them in the special **Phone Book Bins** and then be sure to tell Miss Weems how many you dropped off.

**Last day to drop off phone books is
Friday, December 4th!**

SOUNDS OF JOY

We are very excited to announce the next group of children that will be showcasing their wonderful love and passion for our school through their singing ability. Our 2nd graders will sing at the 11:30 am Sunday Mass on December 13th.

This is a great way for the parishioners at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church to see what fantastic talent we have here at our school.

CLASS PIZZA PARTY

Congratulations **2nd** Grade! You won a pizza party for the highest attendance during the November CiCi's Pizza Night.

CICI'S PIZZA NIGHT (In the Forum)

Please join the school and CDC community for an evening of food, fun, and conversation. The next CiCi's Pizza Night will be held on **Wednesday, December 16th** starting at 4:00 pm.

CiCi's Pizza in the Forum donates a portion of all sales that evening to the school and CDC. In addition, the class with the highest attendance will receive a pizza party. We hope to see you there!

P.E. DEPARTMENT

Just a quick note to let everyone know that with our *Campbell Soup Labels for Education* from this past school year. We were able to purchase two beautiful mats that Velcro together for our P.E. Department.

Also, we would like to thank everyone who participated in our last activity, **C'motion**. The response from the students was overwhelming. Just ask the 1st grade who changed their entire schedule just to be there!

In addition, with the completion of the **volleyball** and **soccer** seasons. We are proud to announce that our A volleyball team ended in 3rd place and our soccer team ended right in the middle of the district. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who played or helped in any way, especially Mr. Paller, Mr. Fox and Miss Schuh. And special congratulations go to **Adam Laskowski** and **Seth Tabor** who received the all district award for soccer, and **Lauren Guerra** and **Theresa Reyna** for all district volleyball.

BEE PREPARED FOR THE SPELLING BEE

Every year the winner of the OLPH School Spelling Bee competes in the San Antonio Express News Spelling Bee. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication, but our students always rise to the task and try their best to succeed. This year students can start practicing spelling words early, especially with the Spelling Bee right around the corner! Students and parents are encouraged to visit www.spellingbee.com to view various word lists for 1st-8th grade. These words will give your child/children the chance to practice spelling before the event. The login for this website is tomlinj@olphselma.org and the password is **olphwildcat**. The pamphlet we received last year is also available online at the website. In addition to the students becoming familiar with these words for the Spelling Bee, the practice will also help them for the PSIA in March 2010.

2009 TORCH CLUB WINNERS

Congratulations to the following Torch Club Winners:

November 1:	\$50	Richard Family
November 8:	\$50	Sturdivant Family
November 15:	\$50	Thomas Waters
November 22:	\$50	Peter & Barbara Collins
November 26:	\$100	Tracy Koehler
(Thanksgiving)		
November 29:	\$50	Robert Boughton

LIBRARY NEWS



2ND QUARTER AR GOALS

Second quarter AR goals must be achieved by Wednesday, December 16th by 4:00 pm.

1st Grade = 4 points

2nd Grade = 5 points

3rd, 4th and 5th Grades = 10 points

No AR testing Thursday-Friday, December 17th-18th.

OVERDUE BOOKS

Please check around the house, under the beds, on bookshelves at home for overdue books. Notices will be sent home at the beginning of December. Any student with an overdue book **WILL NOT** be able to check out books over the Christmas holiday.

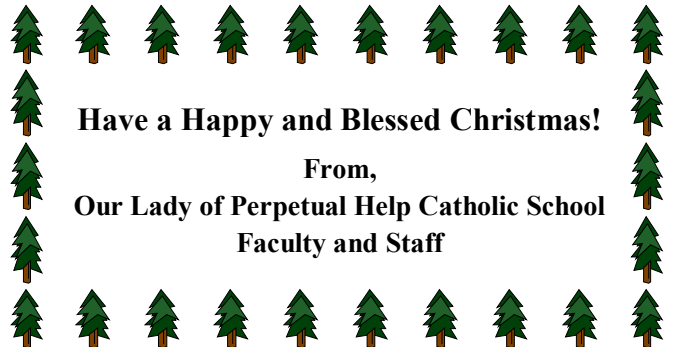
FREE FIESTA TEXAS TICKETS

Students in Kindergarten-6th Grade can earn a FREE ticket to Fiesta Texas. Reading logs were sent home during library time. Students have from December 2009 to February 26, 2010 to read for six (6) hours and keep track on their reading log. When done, turn your reading log into Mrs. Martinez in the library. Reading logs will be sent off and tickets will be sent to the school in April.

OLPH Library webpage - www.olphlibrary.pbwiki.com

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES
TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE
JANUARY NEWSLETTER:
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2009**

**E-mail articles to Theresa Berger at
bergert@olphselma.org or drop articles by
the school office**



Have a Happy and Blessed Christmas!

**From,
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School
Faculty and Staff**