

# ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL

Newsletter  
November 29, 2017

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www.st-stephen.net



## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Guardians,

*May you have the Spirit of Christmas which is Peace,  
The Gladness of Christmas which is Hope, and  
The Heart of Christmas which is Love.*

On behalf of all of us at St. Stephen School, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a peace-filled New Year.  
*Sincerely, Joanne Mallozzi, Principal*

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### Value of the Month: **Generosity**

True generosity is an offering; given freely and out of pure love – no strings attached, no expectations. Time and love are the most valuable possessions you can share.

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**Thank you** to those who generously donated a Christmas Tree for the School! The faculty, staff and especially the students were so excited when they arrived on Monday morning!

**School Safety** - The Worcester Fire Department has visited the school twice to hold practice drills. During both drills, the students and staff evacuated the building in under two minutes. The firefighters were pleased! We have also had a **Lockdown Practice** which went extremely well! We will continue to practice safety procedures to be prepared.

Our **Christmas Concert** will be held on Friday, December 8th at 12:30 in the Church. All are invited to attend. In an effort to avoid the issues that took place during and after last year's concert, we have stated the school's rules for this day. **Please take a few moments to read the enclosed letter carefully and share with any family and friends that may be attending.** We hope to see you on this very special day.

Our **Mass of the Immaculate Conception** held on Friday, December 8th at 8:30 keeps our focus on preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ by meeting him wherever we are in our own lives. We hope many of you will be able to join us.

**LifeTouch** will be returning on December 14, 2017 for picture retakes. Anyone who is unhappy with the quality of their pictures are welcome to have them redone.

**Lunchroom Help Wanted:** We are in need of volunteers to help out in the lunchroom. If you can help, we would greatly appreciate it!

## This Week's Brown Envelope Inserts...

- December Calendar
- January Lunch Order Form
- IMPORTANT**: Christmas Concert Information
- Gingerbread Shop Information
- Milk Orders

## Coming Up...

- Friday, 12/1 – NO SCHOOL – System-wide Professional Development Day
- Monday, 12/4 – Wednesday, 12/6 – Gingerbread Shop
- Thursday, 12/7 – Progress Reports
- Friday, 12/8
  - Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass @ 8:30 AM
  - Dress-Up Day – no charge
  - Christmas Concert @ 12:30 in the Church – Please see enclosed letter
- Friday, 12/15 – Chill Out, Grades K-8 - \$1
- Friday, 12/22 – ½ day of school – Pre-K, 11:15 dismissal, K-8, 11:30 dismissal – NO EXTENDED DAY.
- School Resumes Tuesday, January 2, 2018.
- Wednesday, 1/3 – Next Newsletter and Brown Envelope

*Thank you - The Sweetheart Dance* was held on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> in our church hall. The girls and their sweethearts had a wonderful evening. Many thanks to the members of the Sweetheart Dance Committee and Mrs. Abraham who worked so hard to make this night special. Thank you to all of our parents and students who gave of their time and talent to make the evening a night to remember.

**To the volunteers:** Please remember to come to the school to log your volunteer hours.

**Gingerbread Shop** - The Gingerbread Shop will be open Monday, December 4 through Wednesday, December 6 for students who would like to purchase gifts for family members. If your child is participating, please send money to school in an envelope with your child's name and grade clearly marked on the outside. Pre-K students will bring home instructions from their teachers regarding the Gingerbread Shop.

**S.O.S. - "Save Our Subscriptions" ~ Our Annual Magazine Drive** kicks off in January.

## REMINDERS....

**School Pictures** - If you have any questions regarding the recent school pictures, please call LifeTouch at 1-508-485-9805.

**Inclement Weather** - We will make every effort to send a Connect Ed Message to notify parents of school delays and closings. Just in case you don't happen to receive the message, we also recommend that you listen to WTAG, 580 AM and WSRB, 96.1 FM on the radio or tune into the major TV news stations. St. Stephen School follows Worcester Public Schools delays and closings. If you are not receiving the Connect Ed Messages from the school, it is important that you contact Mrs. Mangaudis to update your information. If there is a 1 or 2 hour delay, ½ day Pre-K is cancelled for the day.

**We continue to experience problems at dismissal.** It is VERY important for the safety of all of our students, that parents/guardians adhere to the system in place for parking and exiting the school yard at the end of the day. This information is posted on our website as well as in the Parent/Student Handbook.

**Outdoor Clothing** - With the cold weather upon us, we want to remind parents to send children to school with jackets, hats and mittens. The children will be going out to recess during the winter months.

**Parents and Guardians, please label your child's sweaters and other articles of clothing.** If your child comes home with another student's sweater, please return it to school. We will make sure it is returned to the owner.

**Sick Children** - With the colder weather upon us and cold and flu season around the corner, we want to remind parents about the school's policy for children who are ill. Sick children should not be sent to school. *Children who have vomited within the last twenty-four hours or who have a fever must be kept at home.*

**Coat Collection** - We are still collecting new and gently used coats. The coats collected go directly to those in need in Worcester. Coats can be placed in the box near the office.

**Volunteer Opportunities** - Throughout the coming New Year, there will be different events and activities that will require parent volunteers to ensure a successful outcome. Your ideas, talents and time are always welcome! For many of these upcoming events, there are tasks to be done that require minimal time and effort. If you are interested in helping, have an idea to share or you just want to get involved in some way, please join us for the next Parent Forum scheduled for Friday, January 19 at 9 AM in the school or call the office. You are an integral part of the school community.

**Tardies - A Serious Issue** - Tardiness is a serious problem. We understand that some children are difficult to get up in the morning and that getting everyone out to school and work is challenging. However, it is essential for the well being of our students and the smooth running of our school that children be here on time. The first bell rings at 7:40. Students are late if they arrive after 7:50.

Together with you, we are forming a lifetime of habits for our students. Being on time means that they have an orderly and productive start to their day. Being late not only puts them behind from the start but also disrupts the teacher and students in their class. If being on time for school is a priority now, being on time for work will be a priority later.

This is such an important issue that when we send transcripts to another school, the numbers of tardies and absences are included along with academic information.

*We wish you all a Blessed  
Christmas*



As a reminder, our parish follows the guidelines of the national Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People approved by the US Bishops and the policies of the Diocese of Worcester in screening those who work with children in our care and in helping victims of abuse find healing. If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a Church employee or volunteer in the past, please contact Judith Audette, Victim Services Coordinator for our diocese at 508-929-4363 (direct line and confidential voicemail). If you are concerned about a current case of abuse, please contact the local civil authorities immediately.