

# SAINT MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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**Mrs. Linda L. Cherry, Principal**  
**542 Cypress Avenue**  
**Garden City, SC 29576**

December 9, 2011

Dear Parents, Guardians, Teachers and Staff members,

Happy Ending to the Second Week of Advent!

**THANK YOU:** The “Help 4 Kids” van arrived on Thursday and was filled with the many gifts, clothing and food donations through the generosity of our students, families, staff and parishioners. With media members present, pictures were taken and an article prepared. The Spirit of Giving, the real meaning of Christmas, was evident at Saint Michael Catholic School. Thank you for all of your donations and assistance, so others less fortunate can experience the love of Jesus at this time. You are all wonderful!

**CHRISTMAS VACATION AND CALENDAR CHANGE:** As noted on the school calendar for the year, next week is a full week with normal dismissal times Monday through Friday. The school office will close at the end of the day on December 16<sup>th</sup>. When the calendar was prepared last year, January 2<sup>nd</sup> was marked as the date to return to school. We noticed that with the New Year Holiday falling on a Sunday, the following Monday (January 2<sup>nd</sup>) is the official national holiday. As a result, with input from the Board and Father Ray’s approval, **we will be returning to school on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.** In order to make up that extra day off, **we will be in school on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>; however, will be closed as scheduled, on March 16<sup>th</sup>.**

During the Christmas break, maintenance work will take place within the building as well as cleaning. During this time we will also be sanitizing to get rid of any germs that might be around from colds, etc. so we can all begin with a “fresh/new” 2012.

**TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR 2012-2013:** After several months of review and support of the School Board and School Finance Committee, and with Father Ray’s approval, beginning with the 2012-2013 school year we will have a third-party company review applications for tuition assistance. This will assist us in allocating our tuition assistance funds fairly to those with proven/determined need. Detailed information will come in my January newsletter.

**GATOR BITES-CHANGE IN DAY OF ARRIVAL:** With the Tuesday packets going out on the same day the Gator Bites were to be posted, we have seen some difficulty with getting everything coordinated for the same day of the week. While we may have had the Gator Bites ready to go out, sometimes additional information was submitted late and a delay occurred. In discussing this with the PTO Officers, as well as Angela Victoria and Nancy Esposito who put the professional document together, we are going to move the Gator Bites day to Thursday beginning January 5, 2012. In this manner, news that is timely will go out in the Tuesday packet in addition to E-Mail alerts. The Gator Bites coming out on Thursday will include weekly information and any other new additional information. Between the Tuesday packets and the Thursday Gator Bites, we hope to keep everyone informed. Let me take this time to thank Angela and Nancy for all of their time devoted to the Gator Bites. We are blessed to have them.

**SACRAMENTS:** On Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, our Catholic students will have the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Father Ray and Father Bill, following our 8:00 Student Mass. We are so blessed to have both priests available and willing to celebrate two Sacraments with us that day.

**GOOD NEWS AND CONGRATULATIONS:**

- Fifth-graders, Abigail Behrens and Ashlyn DeKleva, won recognition for their entries in the Mississippi Poet Society Contest. We were the only school in SC to win recognition at this competition.
- Eighth graders, Anthony Altomari, Ana-Maria Muntean, Michelle Pitoscia and Catherine Truluck have been nominated as Junior Scholars following their performance on the PSAT held in October!
- Jaan Nandwani, grade six, has been accepted to the People-to-People Ambassador Club of 2012. Jaan will be a student ambassador traveling overseas and reaching out to others, in the summer of 2012. She will be busy raising funds to support her summer program.
- Molly Keegan, grade seven, won a scholarship for tap at a recent dance competition in Greenville.

**ROBOTICS COMPETITION:** Our Saint Michael Catholic School Robotics Teams will be competing in the Regional Competition on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Our teams will vie against others in the state. The competition will be held at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology in Florence, SC beginning with opening ceremonies at 8:45. Competition and Judging run throughout the day with the Awards Ceremony at 3:00. If you are interested, it is open to the public. Good luck, teams and coaches!!

As the Advent Season winds down we await Jesus' birth on Christmas Day as much as His own Mother, Mary. With His birth bringing joy to our world, I wish all of you and your families a blessed Christmas and holiday season. May your travels be safe; your gatherings be fun and may the Holy Family bring joy to all of your homes.

Sincerely,



*Mrs. Cherry, Principal*