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SAINT MARY – SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL - WILLIMANTIC, CT  
**A MAGNET SCHOOL FOR VALUES!**

January 4, 2012

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Vol. XLIV, No. 17

Dear Boys and Girls: Welcome back to school and a happy and blessed New Year to you and your families! New beginnings mean new beginnings—a real no-brainer. Right? With the coming of a new year there are opportunities for starting something new. How many New Year Resolutions have we all made in the past and have broken repeatedly? A goodly number, I am sure. Well, Boys and Girls, let me challenge you to start something old instead of something new. Let's start by taking those Ten Commandments, several thousand years old, and doing something special with them. Let's really, really try to be advocates of the Golden Rule so that we can truly have a school climate in which everyone feels loved and safe. Remember our motto: **S**tudent **A**wareness **F**or **E**veryone. **If it's mean, intervene!** These are not just catchy acronyms and slogans. They are meant to help us have the kind of school on which Jesus can look down at us, smile and say, "Well done good and faithful students—enter into the Lord's presence." We are all on the journey. Make yours faith-filled and loving toward all. Join the safe team. Be there for others and be sure to check out the thought of the week at the end of this newsletter. It's all about others and Jesus, our Model, was (and still is) all about others.

Enclosures (8): Scrip Order forms, Silpada Jewelry flyer, Donnelly's Apparel coupon, MaryKnoll Booklet, Applebee's Pancake Fundraiser, New form for Box Tops for Education, Willimantic Little League Registration forms.
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**Day change for January School Mass**—Our school Mass for January will take place tomorrow, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, at St. Mary Church at 9 a.m. Please come and join us. (faculty and staff preparing)

**Congratulations to Jenna Balogh**, Class of 2011 at SMSJ—Jenna made high honors at E.O. Smith for the first marking term. **Way to go, Jenna!**

**Report cards do not have to be brought back signed;** however, we would appreciate the envelopes back for future terms.

**Scrip Program** – Thank you to all who are supporting the school through this program. Next order date—Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>.

**UPCOMING EVENT AT THE OLD ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL BUILDING—**

An open house for all St. Joseph Parishioners will be held Saturday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the 4 p.m. Mass and Sunday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, between the 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. Masses and immediately following the 11 a.m. Mass. If you missed the Alumni open house last weekend, do come this weekend.

**Art Fee:** We are so grateful to have Mrs. Church in our art department this year with her creative genius and talent. Just a reminder that many of you have not paid the \$10/per student art fee. If you are not sure, call or drop a note to Mr. Huard. He has a record of those who paid.

**IMPORTANT WINTER WEATHER DIRECTIVES:** For school cancellations, watch Channel 3 or 8. We always follow the Windham Public School System for early dismissal, late starts and cancellations. There is no PreK session on late start days and there is never any latchkey program on early dismissal days. If we are in school and that white stuff starts falling, tune into your internet or TV sources to check for early dismissal. Please let us know if your child should take the bus or will be picked up in the case of early dismissal. **With regard to outdoor recess, we follow the district directives, i.e., students will go out to recess in weather above 20° F. Therefore, please see that they have hats and mittens/gloves (and boots in the case of wet weather.)** Students will not be wearing boots in the classroom; therefore, in wet winter weather, please keep a pair of shoes in school for those days. Girls are allowed to wear the uniform pants at this time of the year; this includes kindergartners. Navy blue tights are also permissible at this season. **[And one more thing: Boys and Girls, when your moms and/or dads tell you to wear a winter coat, hat and gloves, I know your response will be, “Thank you for caring.” Please obey your parents in this all-important health issue. Just do it!]**

**Box Tops for Education—**Those little cut out coupons are worth saving. We just received a check for \$727.40 for the school. Thank you, especially, Mrs. Balogh and fourth graders, for all your cutting and trimming.

***Thought for the Week***

*“It is courage that counts. And it counts much more when you employ it on behalf of others, for purposes beyond personal advantage.”*

*John McCain, U.S. Senator*