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

December 21, 2011

St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor

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Dear Boys and Girls: “Come, Lord Jesus, Come and be born in our hearts.” We have been singing this carol all during Advent at our daily prayer service and our PreK showcased it at Lessons and Carols. Let’s think about what we are asking in this age-old song. Do we want Jesus to be born in our hearts? Are our hearts truly open as we sing in the last verse? When Jesus came to be born in our hearts at our baptism, we then had very pure hearts, free of all sin. Will we be able to say on Christmas day that Jesus is coming into a pure heart? Will Jesus find a fit resting place for His Body within us when we go to receive the Eucharist this Christmas? We can make this happen! On Monday, students in grades 3-8 received an invitation to become pure of heart through the sacrament of Reconciliation. Days, times and churches were listed for your direction. We encourage you to take advantage of this sacrament of peace. **Bring your parents with you.** They, too, might want to have pure hearts on Christmas day. What a Christmas gift for the Christchild this will be!

Enclosures: January Calendar and Menu, Christmas letter from the principal—What????!! Only three enclosures?
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REMINDER: Early dismissal this Friday (12:45p.m.). No Latchkey available.

Lessons and Carols-Thank you, Students and Parents, for making this presentation such a wonderful preparation for the Birth of Christ. The wheels are already turning to make next year’s presentation even more beautiful. Parents, be thinking about the possibility of having the entire presentation video graphed so that all can sit back and take in the depth of the words from Scripture and the carols. Pictures after the event would be welcomed, but no one will have to try to jockey a position to get pictures of their children while performing. Something to think about—your opinion, please.

Christmas Choral Presentation last night—WOW! For those who attended, I need say no more. Your children blew us away as they sang their hearts out to us. Thank you, Mr. Hinckley and Mrs. Ellis and all who supported us with programs, lights, accompaniment, etc. Congratulations on a job very well done!

Cookies, Cookies, Fudge and more cookies—Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who baked and to the ladies who put them altogether: Mrs. Greb, Mrs. Arriola and Mrs. Arel. What a great act of love and creativity was displayed by all of the bakers. At this very busy time of the year, your generosity in baking for the staff is most touching. God bless you for such selflessness.

Honor Roll Students for the first term—4th grade: Courtney Doherty and Alexander Greb for making principal’s list; Kyla Bennett, Lian Hazard, Priscilla Mateo—1st honors; Carl Baker, Nicolette Chowanec, Meghan Holland, Sophia Rakovan, Sonya Surface—2nd honors. **5th grade:** Bethany Lafontaine, principal’s list; Nathan Doherty, Sadie Kristopik, Meadow Pallein, Saige Papior, 1st honors; Amelia Beauregard, Kaylee Dominic, Abbey Engler, Brenna Lynn, Natalie Hovanec, Jakob Morell, Cole Paquin, Lavinia Surface, Bryan Hall, 2nd honors; **6th grade:** Alexia Bettencourt, principal’s list; Jordan Balogh, Lily Covey, Jesse Kirsch, Anhkhoa Nguyen, Bodhi Woodworth, 2nd honors; **7th grade:** Brittany Clark, Kienan Giller, Olin Green, David Lafontaine, Adam Morell, Azaria Rodriguez-Ortiz, Vanessa Vazquez, 2nd honors; **8th grade**—Principal’s list—Joseph Irizarry, Caleb Nuhn; Rebecca DeMarchi, Devin Godbout, Nathaniel Quintana, 2nd honors.

Congratulations to all for your hard work and achievements!

Honor students from SMSJ continue: Congratulations to Kaylee Moran, Class of 2010, honors with distinction at East Catholic High School; Margaret Shea, Class of 2011, high honors at St. Bernard School; Bobby Daly, Class of 2009, 2nd honors at St. Bernard. If any other of our former students, now in high school, have made honors for the first term, please let us know so we can congratulate you as well.

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. Look for the next order date in future newsletters.

UPCOMING EVENT AT THE OLD ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL BUILDING—Alumni of St. Joseph School are invited to a reunion/open house in the old school on Friday, Dec. 30th from 6-8 p.m. or Saturday, Dec. 31st from 10 to 12noon. An open house for all St. Joseph Parishioners will be held Saturday, Jan. 7th, immediately following the 4 p.m. Mass and Sunday, Jan. 8th, between the 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. Masses and immediately following the 11 a.m. Mass.

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 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.

Thought for the Week

Ask any decent person what he or she thinks matters most in human conduct: five to one the answer will be "kindness."

-- Kenneth Clark