Dear Queen of All Saints Families,

Happy December and Season of Advent! I hope you had a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving break, and you enjoyed the time celebrating with family and friends. The students were welcomed back to school on Monday with a special Mass celebrating the first Monday of Advent. The beautiful wreath in the church reminds us that Advent is the season in our liturgical year where we observe a time of expectant waiting and preparing. In Latin, the word Advent means "coming." What a beautiful opportunity we have this time of year to focus on the coming of Christ! Let us renew our faith as we wait in joyful hope, filled with peace and love, for the coming of Christ.

During Advent, we remember and are thankful for our many blessings. Our 3rd-grade class, in partnership with Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child, collected new and gently used items for children ages 2-10, including toys, games, books, clothing, school supplies, and toiletries. The students, along with their 5th-grade friends, packed the boxes and gathered together to pray a special blessing over the items and the children who will receive them. The 19 boxes of collected items will be delivered to children in various countries, helping spread joy to children around the world. We are blessed to be S.A.I.N.T.S dedicated to faith and service.

The Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten classes will be leading their annual sock donation drive to donate new socks to those in need. They will be collecting NEW socks starting Thursday, December 5 through Monday, December 16. Please bring your donation to your classroom for the homeroom teachers to collect. Thank you for participating in one of the seven spiritual works of mercy where we are asked: “to clothe the naked.”

Pope Francis says, "Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down." During this first week of Advent, may we strengthen our hope in each other, in our human kindness, in our desire to put others before ourselves, and in seeing the beauty of this season and the opportunity for its impact on our lives.

With Blessings and Gratitude,
Lucia Prince

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13
Veterans Day Thank You Letter

We received this letter of appreciation from John Larson, the Acting Chief of Voluntary Services at the VA Northern California Health Care System. The handmade blankets our students created are an example of how we live our school’s mission statement. As members of the Queen of All Saints community, we strive to actively serve and enrich the community every day.

Santa’s Workshop Opening Soon

Santa’s Workshop will be open beginning Monday, December 9th and will remain open until supplies last. We will be open in the mornings from 7:30-7:55 am in the Library & Media Lab.
**Transitional Kindergarten & Kindergarten Annual Sock Donation Drive**
The Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten classes will collect **new socks** from Friday, December 6th until Monday, December 16th. Please bring your donations to your homeroom teachers.

**FACE Christmas Card Contest**
Thank you to all of our students who entered an illustration for a Christmas card that FACE will be using to send Christmas greetings to all of their donors. Congratulations to Angelo Massis (2), Marcos Reyes (7), Carlos Bermudez (4), and Elijah Santos (8) for their beautiful drawings that have been chosen by the FACE committee.

**PACE News**
**Breakfast with Santa is this Saturday!**
Join us for a delicious breakfast and a special visit from Santa. We will have two seating options: 8:30-9:30 AM or 10:00-11:00 AM. There will be a special performance by Kindergarten and 1st Grade at 9:30 AM. All pre-orders were due today.
We need volunteers to make this event possible. Please use this link to volunteer: http://bit.ly/Bfastwithsanta2019

**The DoubleGood Online Fundraising Options Available Now**

Our Fundraising Event Is Live!

This code **MUST be used by Saturday, December 7th.** The code will allow you to create an account for your family with a personalized link. Once you have created a link, the online option is open for **four days only.** This is a great opportunity to increase sales. Popcorn will be delivered directly to the purchaser.

The DoubleGood Popcorn Fundraiser helps Queen of All Saints families reach their annual fundraising goal and share the joy of delicious popcorn treats. 50% of the total amount sold will be credited toward your annual fundraising obligation.

**Our next PACE meeting will be in January 2020.**

**Advisory School Board (ASB) News**

**Saints Spirit Store Online**

Have you checked our Spirit Store? With colder days and nights approaching, this is a great time to purchase personalized hoodies, jackets and more. Show your Saints’ pride with many new items now available in adult and youth sizes. Go to the Saints Spirit Store at:

https://www.sportpacks.com/QueenOfAllSaints

Five percent of each purchase goes back to our school. Go, Saints!

**Memorial Brick Campaign**

Would you like to give the gift of honoring a loved one this holiday season? Order a memorial brick in their name, or for your family this Christmas. We will continue to accept brick orders for Phase 3 until March 2020. Order online or fill out a form and bring it to the office.

https://www.engravedbricks.com/campaign/QAS

**Bake Sale**

Our next Family Mass and bake sale hosted by 4th and 7th grades will be held on February 9, 2020.

**QAS Alumni**

Mark your calendar for Thursday, January 30th in the Hennessy Room for an Alumni Social. Keep up-to-date with all things Alumni in our Facebook group.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/QueenofAllSaintsAlumni/

**Happy Birthday To You**

Reserve a special "Happy Birthday" shout out on the school marquee (Bacon Street side). Use this form to reserve your date https://forms.gle/QIgf6RVyeaiLyKLqV9
Social Sharing
Follow, Like & Share us on social media!
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/QASConcord/
Twitter: @QASConcord
Instagram: queenofallsaints_concord

Get Involved
Serving on ASB is a great way to get involved, be a part of the school's continuing development, and earn volunteer hours. If you are able and interested or have questions, please reach out to Erleen Richards at erleen.richards@gmail.com for more information.

The Advisory School Board will hold its next meeting in January 2020.

Waiting and Watching - Sermons4Kids
Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. Mark 13:33 (NIV)

This week marks the beginning of the most exciting time of the year when we begin the countdown to the day when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. I always look forward to this time of year and all of the beautiful music, lights, and decorations of the Christmas season. One decoration that we will see everywhere during this season is the star. The reason we will see so many stars during the holiday season because a star was so very important to the very first Christmas.

I'm sure that all of you know the story of the wise men. You know about how the wise men, sometimes called Magi, saw a star in the sky and followed that star to find Jesus.

The Magi studied the stars and planets night after night looking for signs that might predict the coming of a great leader. I wonder why the Magi choose this particular star to follow? Did they just say to themselves, "Hey that is a really bright star? Why don't we follow it and see where it leads us?" I don't think so. God's prophets had written about that star hundreds of years before. They had told when and where it would appear and that it would announce the birth of the Messiah. I think that perhaps the wise men had heard about those prophecies, so when they saw the star, they knew where that star would lead them.

If the Christmas story ended with the star leading the wise men to Jesus, it wouldn't bring much hope to us today, would it? Well, it doesn't end there. In fact, it hasn't ended at all! The Bible tells us that just as surely as Jesus came to be born in a manger, he is going to come again. The next time Jesus comes, he will take us to heaven to live with him. Now, that is a message of hope! That is what this season is really about! Just as the wise men were watching and waiting for the star that would lead them to Jesus, you and I are watching and waiting for his return.

Dear Jesus, during this season when we look back and remember your birth, we are also watching and waiting for your return. Amen.
CYO News

CYO Basketball season has begun. We would love to see our Queen of All Saints families support and cheer on our students.

3rd Grade QAS vs. St. Frances               December 7, 9:00 AM at St. Francis
4th Grade QAS vs. St. Anne                  December 7, 12:00 PM at Timber Point Elementary
7th Grade Boys QAS vs. St. Anne             December 8, 12:00 PM at Timber Point Elementary
7th Grade Girls QAS vs. Holy Rosary         December 8, 6:15 PM at Holy Rosary

Upcoming Admission Events at Carondelet

HSPT Prep Course (8th-grade only) - December 14th at 9:00 am ($75 registration will close as soon as max capacity is reached). We are partnering with East Bay Prep test preparation center of Concord to offer an HSPT prep course for boys and girls. This 3-hour workshop will focus on HSPT tips and test-taking strategies and is open to any prospective Catholic High School 8th grade student.

Invitation to Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School’s Reindeer Run

Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School will host the Third Annual Reindeer Run on Saturday, December 14 at 8:30 a.m. It is a 5K run/walk taking place at Crab Cove in Alameda for students, parents and community members of all ages! All proceeds benefit the Alameda Food Bank. The morning includes Christmas music played by the SJND band, photos with Santa and an award ceremony for top runners in each division.

Weekly Calendar/Upcoming Events

Friday, December 6        8th Grade Dance at Queen of All Saints
Saturday, December 7      Breakfast with Santa
Monday, December 9        3rd through 6th Grade Reconciliation
Thursday, December 12     Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe’s Junior High Skit; Church 2:15 PM
Saturday, December 14     2nd Grade participates in First Reconciliation; Church 10:00 AM
Monday, December 16       2nd Grade Visits Bayberry Care Center
                            7th and 8th Grade Reconciliation
Wednesday, December 18    2:30 Dismissal
                            Communal Reconciliation Bilingual; Church 7:30 PM
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