

From the Director

Happy New Year!

The New Year, like a newborn child, brings so much hope and joy. We welcome the days to come in this new year as God's gifts, carrying God's blessings. Our teachers are excited to guide and nourish all the ways our children will continue to grow and learn. We also look forward to all the opportunities for our school community to flourish and enjoy the time we've been given together for the second half of the school year.

January 6 is The Epiphany, one of the most important Christian celebrations in the liturgical year. With this celebration, God's love for us is revealed in the many ways Jesus healed and shared God's Word. Those gifts are alive today in the sacraments, the Catholic mass, and the Bible. For us to truly accept Jesus as our Savior is an epiphany!

Our own birth and baptism come to mind with the dawning of the new year. Every day we can explore ways we can connect more deeply with the Lord, our families, and our community. Listen to His subtle guidance in our hearts, and look for the miracles even in the smallest places!

As the kids return to school and we all return to our routines, let's look to each day as the beginning of something new God has in store for us. Our "To-Do" lists sure demand a lot of attention, but there's also a lot we can choose "to do" to live each day with great joy and purpose!

May God bless you always,
Kathleen Bies



Reflection

"...No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him."

-1 Corinthians 2:9

May the light of Christ shine brightly in your hearts and brighten the way for all your days in the New Year.



The Epiphany

The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord originally commemorated three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11). Most liturgical churches emphasize the visit of the Magi on January 6th and celebrate Christ's baptism on the first Sunday after the 6th. During this time in the liturgical year, the Catholic Church focuses on events from Scripture revealing the mystery of the Epiphany: how God came to us by becoming one of us. Jesus Christ was born into this world to be the Lord and Savior of all humanity, God Incarnate, and King of kings. God's love for us came alive through the birth and life of Jesus, and still lives in His Word.

The word epiphany means "shining forth," "manifestation," or "revelation." White, the color of purity, holiness, and joy is the traditional liturgical color for the Epiphany, the first Sunday after the Epiphany (the Baptism of our Lord), and the last Sunday after the Epiphany (the Transfiguration of our Lord). For the other Sundays of the season, green is normally used. Green represents the new life that Christ gives us in baptism, as well as the spiritual growth we experience during the season as we strive to follow His ways.



AZ 100 YEARS

CELEBRATE THE ARIZONA EXPERIENCE



The Grand Canyon State turns 100 years old on February 14, 2012. When the Arizona Territory became the State of Arizona on February 14, 1912, the event brought national attention to a rugged, colorful and fairly undiscovered area of the country. As the 48th entry into the Union, Arizona was sparsely populated -- only 200,000 residents despite its large land mass. One hundred years later it is home to 6.5 million people, with Phoenix being one of America's ten largest cities. During Catholic Schools Week the students at SMG will be creating special art work in celebration of AZ's 100 years. All art work will then be on display during rodeo days for everyone to enjoy. Also during rodeo days we will enjoy a special cake celebrating Arizona's Centennial. Then for the next two weeks students will learn about what makes Arizona special from Missionaries to the Southwest, Native American Heritage, Mexican Heritage, and significant people, places, and events.



Thank you for participating in Fry's "COOL CASH" Program!

By scanning our SMG bar code once, you've been helping St. Maria Goretti raise funds for our school and parish by using your VIP card every time you shop at Fry's!

This year the program runs
September 1, 2011 through April 21, 2012

Our "Cool Cash" Goal!
¡Nuestra Meta de "Cool Cash"!

\$ \$100,000

We Did It!!! ¡¡¡Lo logramos!!!

Way Cool! ¡¡¡A todo dar!!!

Booyah! ¡¡Hurra!!

We Are Red Hot! ¡¡Estamos al rojo vivo!!

Way To Go! ¡¡Qué padre!!

Phat! ¡Buenísimo!

We're Good! ¡Sí la hacemos!

Sweet! ¡Buena onda!

Keep Going! ¡Sígale!

Positive Progress! ¡Progreso positivo!

Nice Job! ¡Buen trabajo!

Thanks! ¡Gracias!

Here We Go! ¡Ahí vamos!

Cool Cash Kick Off Inicio de Cool Cash

Thank You FRY's SHOPPERS!

Progress Chart
Tabla del Progreso

Fry's For Your School
VIP card **COOL CASH**
With Your V.I.P. Card

Gesell Developmental Assessment January 17 - 24

Our school is administering the Gesell assessment to be used as a tool to help you determine placement for your child next year. If your child is currently in Pre-K and if you are interested in scheduling a screening for Kindergarten placement, please sign up as soon as possible. The fee is \$25.00, and the assessment is approximately 30 minutes. If you are planning to enroll your child in public school for Kindergarten, **please let your Pre-K teacher know**, as there will be no need for your child to take the Gesell. If your child took the Gesell last year either at our school or another school, there is no need for them to be assessed again.

Results will be discussed with parents during your teacher conference in February.

There will be a *mandatory* parent information meetings for parents of all children registering their child for the Gesell Assessment. All parents must attend one of these meetings.

January/February School Calendar

1/5 Staff Meeting

Kindergarten Early Release
No Lunch Bunch or Extended Day

1/5 & 1/6 Mandatory Parent Meetings

Gesell Assessment Information
9:15am, John 23rd Hall

1/16 No School

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

1/17 & 1/24 Gesell Screening

Pre-K Children Assessments
During School Hours
Parents Need Not Attend

1/29 Catholic Schools Week Mass

11:00am School Mass

2/2 & 2/3 Rodeo Days

2/2 Staff Meeting

Kindergarten Early Release
No Lunch Bunch or Extended Day

2/9 & 2/10 Conferences

No School preschool
Kindergarten Early Release

2/13-2/17 Fall Registration

2/20 No School

President's Day

Faith. Academics. Service.

Catholic Schools

Catholic Schools Week † January 29 - February 3, 2012

The theme for Catholic Schools week focuses on three priorities that Catholic schools establish that make them stand out from other educational institutions. Children are taught faith – not just the basics of Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. Academics, which in Catholic schools are held to very high standards that help each child reach his or her potential. Service, the giving of one's time and effort to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship.

SMG will celebrate Catholic Schools week starting with a special mass on January 29 at 11:00am. During the week our service project will be collecting gently used shoes for Project Humanity who will donate the shoes to children in Kenya. Thousands of children in Kenya go without shoes, constantly exposing them to the elements, to worms and other diseases. It is difficult to walk the miles to school or to work without them. ***If you or your children have any shoes you would like to donate to the orphans in Kenya, we ask that you place a new pair of socks in each shoe and place them in the donation boxes that will be outside each classroom.***

Also the week following this mass we'll be having special activities for students, staff, the community and families...ending with Rodeo Days on Thursday and Friday.



School Enrollment 2012-2013

St. Maria Goretti Preschool & Kindergarten

In-School Enrollment For Returning Families is

2/13 – 9:00 am

Enrollment for the rest of the week is as follows:

2/14 – Alumni

2/15 – SMG Parishioners

2/16 – Outside Parishes

2/17 - Open

Packets will be mailed to families currently attending St. Maria Goretti School with registration information and forms prior to In-School Enrollment.

Eighty to one hundred percent of our Kindergarten children come from our preschool where we offer classes for 2-5 year olds. We feel truly blessed to have something special here at St. Maria Goretti School! The children learn to follow the Light of Jesus everyday. They go forward, taking this special gift of the Holy Spirit graciously given to our children, out into the world of elementary school. Truly, a Catholic education at SMG promotes Academic Excellence, Moral Values, and Lifelong Service.

Supporting Catholic Education in Arizona CTODP is now Catholic Education Arizona

CEA (Catholic Education Arizona) money is used for tuition assistance right here at Saint Maria Goretti for our Kindergarten students, and every dollar is desperately needed. We can't do it without you, so spread the word to those you know, even corporations, who pay AZ taxes! Given the challenge of the economy, affording families the choice of a Catholic education is more important than ever before.

Make a difference in the lives of catholic school students here at SMG, school code 172. This contribution will cost you nothing as long as you are a taxpayer in the state of Arizona. Here is how simple it is:

Make your contribution to CEA-either by check or credit card.

File your Arizona taxes (form 140) and take the credit, dollar-for-dollar, off your tax liability. For example if you contribute \$500 to CEA, you pay \$500 less to the Department of Revenue. For those of you who itemize deductions on your Federal return, you can also include the \$500 under your charitable contribution, thus reducing your Federal liability.

Contributions made to CEA code 172 for SMG in 2011 will be applied to your 2011 AZ taxes, AND, these contributions will be available for tuition assistance for Kindergarten students attending SMG for the 2012-13 school year. You can make your contribution as one lump sum payment in 2011, or as monthly payments starting in 2011 until April 15, 2012, and your payment(s) will still be applied to your 2011 AZ taxes.

We urge you to seriously consider making your contribution. Forms are available online at CatholicEducationArizona.org



THE DIOCESE OF PHOENIX
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Faith in Education

Faithful Family Participation Request from the Catholic Schools Office

For parents registering their children for the 2011-2012 school year, please note: in order to receive the school's reduced Catholic Tuition rate, your pastor must determine whether your family meets the criteria set by your parish for Registered, Active, Participating members. The definition of registered, active and participating varies by parish, but usually includes attending Mass regularly, as well as contributing with an envelope to the offertory along with supporting the ministry life of the parish. If you have questions about your family's status, please contact your parish office directly.

To be considered an SMG Faithful Family member and to receive the preschool in-parish tuition rate or the level one kindergarten tuition rate, parishioners must be registered, active and participating members for a minimum of six months prior to registering for school and submitting their form for verification. Verification forms are available in the school office.