



Bear Facts

The Weekly Newsletter of
Bethany Lutheran School
Long Beach, CA
www.bethanylutheran.org



Communication+Responsibility+Organization+Service+Sharing

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



I read a great book a few years ago called "Unplug the Christmas Machine." The premise of the book is that we need to actively battle the commercialism and frantic pace of this season and learn to keep it simple so we have time to quietly reflect on the Reason for the Season.

I have the sense that in this economic down-turn, we are all taking stock of what's really important in life and perhaps trimming down our Christmas wish-lists, shopping excursions, etc. But as I look at my December calendar and my to-do list, it sure doesn't look like my machine is unplugged. I'd have to squeeze quiet reflection time in between meetings, Christmas parties, basketball games, shopping and....you get the picture and I'm sure your life is no different.

Maybe the answer is to actually put it on our calendars to "make a date" with the Creator of the universe, then use that time to thank Him for the gift of His Son and ask for wisdom and strength for the season. I know that however/whenever we do so, we will be blessed with peace for our busy souls.

God's blessings on your Christmas preparations.

*Serving Him with you,
Dr. Fink*



Worship Opportunities

*Bethany's 40th Annual
Christmas Concerts*

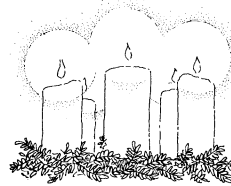
December 13 at 1:30, 4:00 and 7:00

"Savior of the Nations, Come"
Grades 6-8 Advent Service
7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
Thursday, December 24th at 5:00, 7:00
and 11:00 PM

Christmas Day Festival Service
Friday, December 25th at 10:00 AM

New Year's Eve Worship Service
Thursday, December 31st at 7:00 PM



You have a chance to win a
\$1,000 BJ's gift card! Read the SCRIP
column to find out how!

ALLELUIA!



School Bulletin #14

December 8, 2009



- ©Dec. 9-Red Bucket items due, Advent Service 7:00
- ©Dec. 11-Parents' Night Out
- ©Dec. 13-Christmas Concerts
- ©Dec. 14-PTL Board
- ©Dec. 16-Gr. 6-8 Service 7:00
- ©Dec. 18-Minimum Day

SCHOOL CENTS

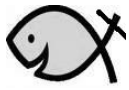
We are collecting food and funds for the Big Red Bucket food drive. Can't remember what to bring? Check the Bethany website!

*"Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for Me."
Matthew 25:40.*

Are you available at 3:00 on Friday? Bethany has been entered in a drawing (with only two other schools!!!) for a \$500 gift card! We need Bethany supporters to be at the Lakewood Mall Center Court to watch the drawing and sign in at guest services for an extra 1000 points each. Need someone to watch your kids for a few minutes after school? Check the back of the newsletter for a coupon.

Our worship leaders for upcoming chapel services:
Dec. 9-Mrs. Boerrigter's class
Dec. 16-Grades 6-8
Jan. 6-Pastor Moorman





The FISHin' Hole
Opportunities to Serve

Have you been helping out in your child's classroom? Make sure you fill out a FISH slip so you get credit! For your convenience, you can also fill out a FISH form online!

Thanks for getting involved in your child's school.

On Christmas morning, watch for two Bethany students, Mycayla O'Bryan and Katelyn True, in the Disneyland parade hosted by Ryan Seacrest. The girls have been cast as extras/dancers.



Parents-

We need your help this Friday, 12/11! Please meet at the Lakewood Mall Center Court to cheer on our PTL President, Alice Hansen, as she participates in a drawing for a \$500 gift card for our school! Be sure to sign in...we'll get 1000 points per person!

We know this will make it difficult to pick up your kids on time, so we'll watch them for you until you get here (hopefully by 4:00!) Just fill out the coupon below and send it with your child(ren) to the office.

I'll be at the mall on Friday, supporting our Bethany PTL. Please watch my child(ren) in Mrs. Boerrigter's room (#217) until I get there to pick them up.

Child(ren)'s Name(s):

Parent's Name:

Here at Bethany, we don't do gift exchanges at our Christmas parties. Instead we prepare individual Personal Hygiene Kits for distribution by Lutheran Social Services of Long Beach. Each kit is a gallon zip lock bag containing: a bar of soap, a washcloth, a tube of toothpaste, a toothbrush, a small size shampoo & a comb. At school the children will create a Christian Christmas message, to which they add their first name only, and these will be included in the kits.

Please put these items on your grocery list and try to involve your children in the preparation task. Send the kits with your children any time in the next two weeks.

The Scholastic Bookfair is happening this week! The youth group of Bethany Lutheran church is once again sponsoring this Holiday bookfair for your gift-giving needs! We are open before and after school, so come in and find some great deals for the Christmas season and beyond!

Support our DC Trippers:

Join us for pizza this Wednesday at **Round Table** and bring the flyer attached to today's newsletter.

Need to get out to do some Christmas shopping? The 8th graders are providing a **Parents' Night Out** on Dec. 11. Check out the flyer sign-up sheet attached to today's newsletter!

Finally, we are SO EXCITED to have the **In-n-Out** burger truck visiting us in January! Order forms went home last week. We need to sell LOTS of tickets, so we're inviting parents to come and join us for lunch that day, too. Extra order forms are available on the school website.

*Upcoming restaurant fundraisers:
Dec. 21-23-Marie Callendars
Jan. 13 -In-n-Out Burgers!!!!*



Washington



That's right, we have FOUR BJ's Surprise Gift Cards that could be worth \$1,000! They are each worth between \$5 and \$1,000 (that's what the surprise is). We are having a drawing on December 14 at 9 am and there will be four winners. Everyone that places a SCRIP order that includes \$50 of restaurant gift cards between December 8 and 14 will be entered in the drawing.

BJ's has also provided us with 16 BJ's Pint Glasses with the BJ's logo. The first 16 people that place an order from either the Christmas Special Order Form or the Regular Special Order Form can ask for a BJ's logo pint glass. First come, first served.

Have you noticed the new items we have available? We finally have Ruby's SCRIP! Look over the SCRIP forms and see what else is new.

Teacher Wish Lists are available in the school office! Do you need an idea for the perfect gift? We know exactly what your teacher would like to receive. When you give SCRIP/gift cards you are also supporting Bethany as well as earning a tuition rebate. You select the perfect gift and everyone benefits.

Calendar Change:

We like to match our calendar to LBUSD, if we can. There had been some confusion about the holidays in February, but we have now confirmed that LBUSD will be closed on these dates (and so will Bethany):

February 8 and 15

Please note on *your* calendars!