



Bear Facts

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

Communication+Responsibility+Organization+Service+Sharing



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Decorating, baking, buying a tree, buying gifts for everyone and wrapping them... these are just a few of the things that distract us during Advent and take our minds off of what Christmas is really about. It all just seems to hover over us until Christmas Eve, but when it comes, we are relieved and excited to spend time with our family. But until then, we just worry. During Advent we are supposed to be joyful and wait for the coming of Christ.

I like to think of Advent as reliving the Christmas story, taking the journey again with Mary and Joseph and all the shepherds and wisemen. We all hear the story every year, but every year it just gets more exciting. As you grow older, you understand it just a little bit more than the year before.

So, if you have a couple minutes here and there, pull out your Bible and take some time to read the Christmas story. Just remind yourself what Christmas is really about, and who knows, maybe you'll understand just a tad bit more than you did the last time.

"Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever: His kingdom will never end."

Merry Christmas!
Chloe Ruiz
Principal for the Day

Grades 3-8,

Join Bethany's Youth Group for ice skating on *Sunday, January 8th at Glacial Gardens.*

- Drop off is at Glacial Gardens between 1:30-1:40. We will ice skate from 1:45-3:45.
- Plan to pick up from Glacial Gardens between 3:30-4:00.
- The cost is \$9.00 which includes entrance and skate rental, but you may want to bring some extra money with you for snacks/drinks.
- The rink is Glacial Gardens at 3975 Pixie Avenue, Lakewood, Ca.

You must RSVP to attend, so please RSVP by Thursday, Jan. 5th.

Contact the church office at 562-421-4711 if you are planning to attend. If you don't already have a permission form on file, then please bring a completed form with you; these are available on our website. This is always a fun winter time event! We look forward to seeing you there.

School Bulletin #15
December 20, 2011



☺Dec. 20-Minimum Day-School Dismisses at noon

- ☺Dec. 21-Jan. 3 Christmas Break
- ☺Jan. 4-School resumes
- ☺Jan. 13-PTL Family Movie Night
- ☺Jan. 16-Martin Luther King Holiday-No School
- ☺Jan. 20-Jr. High Dance
- ☺Jan. 22-Bethany's Annual Life Sunday-Troubadour sings 10:55
- ☺Jan. 23-Meet the Masters-Rembrandt
- ☺Jan. 27-End Quarter 2



Send us your Christmas shopping receipts! We get **DOUBLE POINTS** in January, so we'll log them for you then!

Chapel Leaders

Parents, you are always welcome to join us for chapel!
Jan. 4-Dr. Fink
Jan. 11-Mrs. Moorman
Jan.18-Mrs.Dahlin

Christmas Season Worship Services



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Saturday, Dec. 24th at 5, 7 and 11

Christmas Day Festival Service

Sunday, Dec. 25th at 10 AM

New Year's Eve Worship Service

Saturday, Dec. 31st at 7





The FISHin' Hole
Opportunities to Serve

Are you handy with a jigsaw? If so, we have a project for you! Contact Dr. Fink for details.

*"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."
Col 3:17*

Oops! We forgot to acknowledge Rilei Johnson who raised \$300 in our Jog-a-thon! Rilei and her friend went to lunch with Dr. Fink last week.

Thanks for your support, Rilei!

Christmas Caroling: Do you need a unique Christmas gift for someone nearby or would you like to jazz up a Christmas party that you are hosting? Choir for Hire has the solution! We are an affordable choir/instrumentalist group of 8th graders looking to earn funds for our Washington DC trip. We will go to the house you indicate and sing/play Christmas carols as a group of carolers. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Kriebel at (562) 420-6160 or ccoc@aol.com. Merry Christmas!



Your receipts make our holidays extra happy!

We get \$1 donated to our school for every \$20 Fresh&Easy receipt we collect through Dec. 31!

Shop at any Fresh&Easy and bring us your receipts!

Congratulations to 2nd

Grader Shunsuke Namiki! He has been working very hard for several years to sing with the Vienna Boys Choir. Last month, he was called on stage to audition with their concertmaster and has received word that he has been accepted into this internationally famous choir.

We are so proud of you Shunsuke!

MUSIC ACADEMY

Consider yourself invited to attend the Winter Recital on Sunday afternoon, January 29, at 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Piano, organ and voice students will be performing, bringing honor to God with His gift of music. Please join us for a brief afternoon of music. Refreshments will be served afterward.

SECOND SEMESTER OF THE MUSIC ACADEMY: Enrollment forms and brochures are available in the school office. Enrollment forms are also available online at the school's website. All students planning to continue from the first semester must submit a new enrollment form. New students are welcome and encouraged to enroll at this time. Openings are limited and fill up quickly. Please return completed forms to the school or church office no later than Monday, Jan. 30. Lessons begin in February, Friday students on Feb. 3rd. Contact Maureen Kurkowski with any questions: 562-421-4711 or mkurkowski@bethanylutheran.org.

USED BOOK COLLECTION. Is it time to clean off the bookshelves at home? Our school's Student Success Program is collecting used books, suitable for children through adults. There will be a collection box ready to receive those books in the narthex and school office, Sundays or weekdays. Watch for the **SSP Used Book Sale** sometime in the Spring of 2012. Questions – contact Jim Kurkowski 714-527-7012 or jkurkowski@ca.rr.com.



Are you still shopping for that perfect gift? Do you need some stocking stuffers? SCRIP will be sold on Wednesday and Thursday, December 21 and 22, in the school office. The school office will be closed on Friday, December 23.

Make sure you have enough grocery SCRIP for your holiday meals and baking. Gas cards will probably get used up quickly during Christmas vacation, so buy extra gas cards, also. You will be pleased with your SCRIP tuition rebate in May if you use SCRIP for your groceries, gas and other everyday shopping.

After Christmas you might be tired of cooking, so stop in the school office and pick up restaurant and fast food SCRIP. Going to the movies? Save money on the cost of admission and purchase our \$8 movie tickets. The school office will be open Tuesday, December 27 thru Friday, December 30.

If you have not purchased SCRIP this year, make it one of your New Year's resolutions to buy SCRIP regularly in 2012!