



Saint Denis – Saint Columba School

... A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

TO: PARENTS AND GUARDIANS
FROM: SR. KATHLEEN MARIE, CR
SUBJECT: WEEKLY HAPPENINGS
DATE: FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 3, 2017



*Jesus, I Trust in You
Make our Hearts like Yours!*

Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent

This **Wednesday, March 1st** we begin the Holy Season of Lent, which is a time of prayer, fasting (sacrifice), and alms-giving (acts of charity). During this season, we are strongly urged to participate in Mass and receive Holy Communion daily, to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to attend Lenten Devotions and the Stations of the Cross, to read the Scriptures prayerfully, to perform acts of self-denial and works of mercy.

The specific discipline of the Church in the United States regarding penitential days is as follows:



- The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- The other Fridays of Lent are DAYS OF ABSTINENCE (no meat)
- The Fridays of the year, outside Lent, are designated as DAYS OF PENANCE, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance. This may be physical mortification or acts of religion, charity or Christian witness.

All are welcome to attend the **Ash Wednesday Prayer Service for the school community at 9:15 a.m. this Wednesday, March 1st**. As a school we also will be praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 9:00 a.m. in the church if you would like to join us. Happy Lent!

On Friday, March 3rd we will be celebrating as a faith community our Lenten school liturgy. You are welcome to join us as we gather for mass as a school community at **10:00 a.m. in the Church**.

The Importance of *i-Ready* and Weekly *i-Ready* Homework

You, our school families, entrust us at SDSC to provide your children with the best education possible. Because of this we have made a significant investment of funds and staff training to provide our students with *i-Ready*, an individualized online instruction program for both Math and Reading. This program provides three educational advantages for our students. It reinforces topics taught in the classroom and enables the students to practice them until they achieve mastery. It self-adjusts to give students remedial assistance in areas of weakness while simultaneously growing their areas of strength. It provides our faculty with immediate results so that they can address student needs.

We expect our students to complete *i-Ready* instruction lessons both at home and in school each week. *i-Ready* is only as effective as the commitment of teachers, parents and students. There is a homework component to this program. Those students who do not have adequate computer access at home will continue to be provided time after school to complete their lessons. In addition, students who are unable to complete the lessons at home in a timely manner will be required to stay after school to do so. Parents, please understand that this is not a punishment or a detention. Instead, it is an opportunity for the students to take full advantage of this great educational program. If you have any questions about the *i-Ready* instructional program requirements, please contact Sr. Kathleen.

We at SDSC continue to work hard to assist our students in achieving their potential in both Math and Reading. The students in grades Grades 4-8 are to complete a minimum of 2 lessons per week per subject. The students in Grades K-3 are to complete a minimum of 30 minutes in Math and 30 minutes in Reading each week. Sr. Kathleen is available on most Wednesdays after school and can meet with anyone who needs computer time to work on their *i-Ready*.

First Communion Parent Meetings

There will be a St. Columba First Communion Parent meeting on Sunday, March 12th at 9:15 a.m. and on Wednesday, March 15th at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria for parents of children making their First Communion this year. Parents are invited to attend only one of these meetings.

News from the Lunchroom

- Lunch Menu Change for Thursday, March 2nd – Italian Meatballs with Dinner Roll and Green Beans on the side.
- Chips sold for \$.50 on Tuesdays

Re-Registration for 2017-2018 School Year

A couple of weeks ago your children received a packet of information regarding tuition and busing for the 2017-2018 School Year. If you haven't done so already, please be sure to return the parishioner verification (if applicable) and transportation forms by this week. If you have any questions, please call the school office.

You should have also received a separate email for each of your children who will be attending SDSC in the Fall. This email was sent from support@tads.com. It included a brief overview of the registration process and a link unique to your child's information for enrollment, including related payment due and grade level for 2017-2018 school year.

Re-Registration fees are applied to each student registered and are due at the time of re-registration. A *reduced Re-Registration fee rate is offered to those students who are registered by **February 28, 2017**. You must complete this process by this date to receive the reduced re-registration rate (after this date the re-registration fee is \$100). Please use the link in each email you receive in order to see the correct information for the 2017-2018 school year. Payments are to be made per student. Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education and for continuing to trust SDSC with the education and growth of your children!*

Wrap our School in Love

Please help in the support of the local, non-profit organization, **Love Holds Life**. Their mission is to help children in the Hudson Valley area battling cancer and their families with financial support for medical treatments and other expenses not covered by their insurance. For only \$1 you can buy a Valentine Heart in honor of a family member, loved one, friend or just to show support for a good cause! Each heart you buy will be displayed throughout our school. Buy one or a few, and let's see how far we can spread our loving hearts!

Congratulations to Class of 2017 Scholarship Recipients!

Congratulations to the 14 students from the SDSC Class of 2017 who are recipients of academic merit scholarships to Our Lady of Lourdes High School and John F. Kennedy Catholic High School! Together, these students garnered a total of 9 full and 11 partial scholarships worth more than \$406,000. We are proud of them and grateful for the dedication of their SDSC teachers! Please join us in congratulating these talented students:

Sedem Apedo	Ryan Connolly	Catherine Mulvey	Kyle Silverio
Jennifer Bellino	Moira Kennedy	Matthew Ong	Brianno Susco
Tyler Beresford	Abigail Krebs	Gianni Parlapano	
William Boulton III	Noelle Roman	Robert Polidoro	

Mid-Hudson Valley Honor Band Concert

We are very proud of Tyler Beresford, Sedem Apedo, Senam Apedo, and Seyram Apedo, Jillian Beresford, Rebecca O'Connor, Ava Oliveri, and Alexandria Oliveri, who will be participating in this year's in the 2017 Mid-Hudson Valley Honors Band Concert at Our Lady of Lourdes High School on March 4th at 2:00 p.m. These students represent the "best of the best" musicians from our area schools. They rehearse for over 12 hours and perform an amazing concert. We congratulate them for a job well done – and thank them for representing SDSC so proudly!

TICKETS AVAILABLE for our SDSC Drama Production of "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL"



St. Denis-St. Columba School Drama Club will proudly present "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL" on Friday, March 24th at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, March 25th at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are available online at <https://search.seatyourself.biz/webstore/webstore.html?d=1&domain=stcolumba>. Tickets are \$10 per person. It's a show you do not want to miss and it's great for young children! The students have been working very hard to prepare for it. Get your tickets now!

Calling All Photographers...

Do you have great photos from your child's class? Help represent your grade and share your candid school photos—they could be included in the SDSC 2017 Yearbook! To submit photos for consideration in the yearbook, go to community.lifetouch.com and register with Access Code: JESBRT

Lifetouch will then email an activation link. Click the activation link to log in and upload your photos. *Only yearbook staff will have access to submitted photos.* If you have any questions please contact Larissa DeVito larissadevito@yahoo.com or Maryanne Silverio mascas2@gmail.com. Thank you for sharing!

Early Yearbook Orders

Parents interested in pre-ordering the SDSC 2016-17 Yearbook can do so at www.lifetouch.com. Simply use the Lifetouch code accompanying your student picture forms.



St. Columba School and Church Garden

We are excited to launch our beautiful new School and Church Garden in 2017! We are looking for people interested in planning, planting, weeding, harvesting or donating materials and supplies. Our garden will be used as an educational resource for our students and as a source of fresh produce for the parish St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. If you are interested in helping, please contact the school at 845-227-7777 or rtkrebs@stcolumba.net.

SAVE THE DATE: Home Run for Catholic Schools - Renegades Game on June 22nd

Home Run for Catholic Schools is a partnership between the Hudson Valley Renegades, a Minor League Baseball affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays, and Catholic Schools. Now in our 7th year, this is an opportunity for Catholic school students and their families to come together for a night of baseball and fun! Last year we sold close to 1,000 tickets! The date is Tuesday, June 22, 2015 at 6:35 p.m. The Renegades will play the Staten Island Yankees, an affiliate of the New York Yankees. The Renegades play Minor League Class A Baseball in the New York-Penn League. Students and families can begin purchasing tickets on line soon. For Saint Denis-Saint Columba School – go to <http://www.gadesgroups.com/> and enter “deniscolumba” as the password. Each school will receive \$3.00 per ticket sold. Each ticket holder will receive a free Renegades cap. The school that sells the most tickets (*remember, use the code*) will be invited to have a pre-game catch on the field and will receive a visit at their school from Rascal, the team mascot. Rascal loves to visit Field Day!

ESSAY CONTEST - An Essay Contest will determine who will throw out the First Pitch. Many baseball players tell us that their Christian Faith is important to them:

Albert Pujols: “My life is not mostly dedicated to the Lord, it is 100% committed to Jesus Christ and His will.”

Mariano Rivera: “I know that following Christ is the most important thing in my life.”

Mike Piazza: “I truly believe my whole professional career has been a blessing from God.”

Clayton Kershaw: “You’re not doing it for yourself, you’re not doing it for your coach, you’re not doing it for your teammates – you’re doing it to glorify God.”

Matt Holliday: “When we have our priorities in order, we feel the love God intended us to feel, for Him and for our families.”

Essay Contest is: ***Why Is Your Catholic Faith Important To You?*** and ***Does Your Faith Make A Difference When You Play Sports?*** Essays should be one page typed. Each school must have their own contest then submit one essay for consideration to the Office of Regional Superintendent – Mary Jane Daley. Deadline for submission is May 1st. The winner each of the last six years had their essay published in *Catholic New York*.

THREE SINGING CONTESTS:

1. *The National Anthem* – groups of five voices (minimum) or more are invited to compete to sing the National Anthem at the beginning of the game
2. *God Bless America* – soloists ONLY are invited to compete to sing God Bless America during the 7th inning stretch.
3. *Take Me Out To The Ball Game* - groups of five voices (minimum) or more are invited to compete to sing right after "God Bless America."

Each school will have its own contest and then may enter ONE group and/or ONE soloist in EACH contest.

FIFTH ANNUAL ALTAR SERVER NIGHT

In conjunction with Home Run for Catholic Schools, we will also host our fifth “Altar Server Night!” Servers can participate in the parade under their own banner and run the bases after the game. See the Renegades for group sales. For example, each year I ask the local Funeral Director to cover the cost of food vouchers for all the servers. It is a great way to say Thank You!!!

To Everything there is a Season and a Time for Every Purpose under Heaven

Let us continue to keep in our prayers the many among us who are sick and suffering.

A TIME TO HEAL

Anne Culkin (*mother of Cathy Martin and great grandmother of Michael O’Hearn*), Geri DiNoti (*parishioner*), Janice Prostack (*sister of Sr. Kathleen*), Kelsey Berger (*cousin of Winogradoff children*), Loretta DelliCarpini, Louis Pissani, Chelsea Grace (*daughter of Spanish teacher, Mrs. Lyons*), Paulo Ampil (*Kyle Silverio’s grandfather*), Carmella Ficaro (*great grandmother of Isabella and Ava Breining*) and the many who are sick and suffering in mind, body or spirit at this time



How far can we spread our loving hearts across
SDSC for local children fighting cancer?

Help support the local organization,

Love Holds Life

Buy a Heart(s) in honor of a family member, loved
one, friend, or just to show your support!



Name _____

Class/Teacher _____

of Hearts you'd like to purchase (\$1ea) _____

Please detach and return form, along with payment to the office.