

## *SCHOOL HOUSE NEWS*

- Dec. 2            BWF – 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Dec. 3            Report Cards distributed  
Dec. 4            Breakfast with Santa 9:00-11:00 AM  
Dec. 5            Grandparents' Tea 1:00-3:00 PM  
Dec. 6            First Reconciliation Workshop for Parents 7:00 PM church  
                    Care Steps - Pajama Collection  
Dec. 7            Other Children of God Dress Down  
                    Parish Holy Hour 7:00 PM (for families)  
Dec. 8            **School Closed**  
                    **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**  
Dec. 9            BWF 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Dec. 12           Care Steps Caroling  
Dec. 13           Reconciliation – Grades 3-8 10:15 AM  
Dec. 14           Christmas Show – Grades K-5 7:00 PM gym  
Dec. 15           Deadline for Royal Reporter articles  
Dec. 16           BWF 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Dec. 20           DARE Graduation – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade 8:30 AM cafeteria  
                    Band Concert – 7:30 PM BSA  
Dec. 21           ARF Grades 6,7,8  
Dec. 22           Classroom Christmas Celebrations 1:20-1:50 PM  
Dec. 23           **12:05 Dismissal**  
                    Red and Green Dress Up Day  
                    Prayer Service 11:00 AM  
                    **No EDP**  
Dec. 24-           **Christmas Recess**  
Jan. 3  
Jan. 4            School Resumes

### **Reminders:**

**Advent** – We will be observing Advent traditions in school during the four weeks of preparation and anticipation of the true meaning of Christmas Day. We encourage the practice of lighting the Advent Wreath at the dinner table when grace is said each evening. Advent calendars, learning the meaning and history behind Christmas symbols are wonderful discussions to have with your children during this time as well as sharing family traditions and memories.

**Report Cards** – Please sign and return them by Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Show** – All students in grades K through 5 are expected to attend. Students wear their Sunday best clothing. Students are to be in the gym, seated with their class no earlier than 6:40 PM. Parents are asked to hold their coats. At the end of the performance, one parent is to come to the class seating area to pick up their child. Please caution your children not to run up and down the bleachers.

**Other Children of God dress down** – is for Brendan Marracco, a wounded soldier. \$1 donation is required.

**Red and Green Dress Up Day** – Students must wear good clothes with the colors (either or both) red or green. The colors need to be obvious. Jeans, sweats, sneakers are not to be worn.

**Care Steps** – Families are encouraged to participate in both Care Steps events this Advent.

**Fundraisers** – If possible, please support our current fundraisers. All money raised goes directly to the school for your children. As always, we appreciate your help.

**DARE Graduation**– 5<sup>th</sup> Grade parents are invited to attend the Graduation Exercises.

**Open Houses** – Our next Open Houses are Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00-2:00 PM and Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00-11:00 AM. Classes are in session on Feb. 1. Please encourage your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members to come and see how much St. James School has to offer from early childhood years through middle school. If you referred a family and they register, we will be happy to refund your next re-registration fee valuing \$250.

**Middle States** – *After many months of preparation and planning, our Middle States visit for reaccreditation went extremely well. The team was most impressed with our curricular and extra curricular programs, our students and their work on display, the dedication of our faculty, and all that was offered at St James for the well rounded student. They especially remarked how our program focuses on the individual child and because of this, the great results of learning success takes place on all levels. Positive commendations were given on all standards under scrutiny. Our students shone and we were most proud of them. They mentioned in detail the communal spirit that permeated the atmosphere of both the Prayer Service as well as the environment of the school. Thank you to everyone who attended the Prayer Service. The students were just great as were our Royal Ambassadors who conducted tours. It was a wonderful experience for all. Our appreciation to the various leadership forces who attended the dinner and those who made time to be interviewed. We are most grateful!*  
*We have no doubt that the school will receive reaccreditation but the actual announcement is not made until the spring. Thank you for your good thoughts.*

**The faculty and staff wish all of our families a most blessed  
CHRISTMAS SEASON.**