



Rochester Central Lutheran School

RCLS PAW PRINT

December 11, 2008

Preparing for tomorrow with a Christ-centered education today!

RCLS is a ministry of Family of Christ, Grace, Holy Cross and Trinity Lutheran churches.

DON'T FORGET!

Friday, December 12—
Parents transport TO
school!

New Scrip Hours!!
7:15-9 am / 2-3:15 pm

Christmas Break -
December 22 — Jan. 4

Special points of interest:

- Sports Notes
- Box Tops for Education Contest
- Thank you! Mrs. Lindquist
- Scrip Hours
- Grace Lutheran Church Youth Cookie Walk and Snow Tubing
- Math League
- Roll-Up Sleds Needed
- Items to Collect
- GoodSearch & GoodShop
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Thank You Letter Received from Channel One
- Much, much, more!

MR. PAHLKOTTER'S THOUGHTS:

GIVING... Giving is a big part of our Christmas celebration as Christians. We exchange gifts between family and friends. We share Christmas goodies with co-workers and neighbors. Depending upon family traditions, gifts appear under the tree Christmas Eve or Christmas morning.

Why do we give gifts? Our world would have us believe that we give and receive gifts because it is expected, it makes us look good, we deserve it or out of a sense of social obligation. The commercials make the gifts the focus of the holiday and tell us that the joy of Christmas is what is found under the tree. Holiday music would tell us that gifts are given to those who have been good and not naughty. This kind of thought is the furthest from the truth. It is empty and makes the celebration of Christmas materialistic instead of an act of worship or an expression of Christ's love.

In looking at the account of Christ's birth, we find in Matthew 2:11 the following, *"On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, and of incense and of myrrh."* Gifts were a form of honor and worship for the Magi from the east. In Romans 6:23, we learn about God's gift to His children: *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Jesus, Himself, is a gift, *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..." Isaiah 9:6*

In 1 John 4:19 we learn that "we love because He first loved us." If gift giving is an expression of gratitude for what Christ has done for us and His love, possibly we could think of it as "we *give* because He first *gave* to us." He gave us the greatest gift of all, His life, death and resurrection. The priority is not the setting or means by which we give but rather the heart from which the gift is given.

Which act of Christian giving is greater? Is giving a gift to a friend, a colleague or classmate less Holy than giving to a homeless shelter? If the heart of the gift giving is Christ, I have great difficulty in making a judgment that one is better than the other. Possibly God is calling us to do both in response to His love. Maybe the question is "what are we truly giving...things... or Christ's love?" Both the friend and the individuals in the homeless shelter need His love. What is definitely not Christ-like is giving out of obligation, a sense of resentment or in such a way that we are not

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acting as good stewards of what God has given us. What is also not Christ-like is receiving with an attitude of greed, non-appreciation or the idea that somehow we deserve these blessings.

Why do I share this with you? Well, after a few recent in-depth conversations around the topic, I have been re-examining my own reasons for gift giving. I have discovered a renewed sense of meaning and clarification in this tradition. I pray that my thoughts will be received as my gift to you and will lead you to reflect upon your gift-giving traditions and to see these acts of giving as reflections of Christ's love and a response in faith. I pray that your Christmas gift giving and receiving will be spiritually enriched as you focus on the true reason for the celebration.

May Christ bless your Christmas celebrations with the love He gives us through the baby in the manger. Let us focus on the greatest gift ever given...Jesus.

In Christ,
Henry G. Pahlkotter, II
Principal



RCLS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION HOTEL BETHLEHEM TONIGHT!

Don't forget tonight's All School Christmas Celebration Hotel Bethlehem. The doors open at 6 p.m. and the performance begins at 6:30 p.m. at the John Marshall High School auditorium. Students are asked to arrive promptly at 6:15 p.m. and to report to their designated spot. Teachers will have signs to assist students. Those with parts in the drama are asked to report promptly at 6 p.m. to dress and then report to their designated meeting spot. Preschoolers will sit with parents until they are called forward. They will remain on the stage until the end of the program. Parents will then be asked to come forward and to get their preschoolers. Reserved seating will be marked on the right side of the auditorium for Mrs. Mack and Mrs. Henning's students and families and the left side for Mrs. Wetzel's students and families.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR 2 DOZEN COOKIES on a disposable Christmas plate for the afterglow immediately following the Christmas Celebration Hotel Bethlehem on Thursday evening. Please place them on one of the reception tables in the lobby. Thank you.

MID-QUARTER REPORTS GO HOME ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH: Students falling below a satisfactory level of academic performance within the classroom will receive either a paper or e-mail mid-quarter report on Thursday, December 18th, to alert parents of any possible concerns. Students performing at a satisfactory level may not receive a report. Thank you for being aware.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION CONTEST: Mr. Weinlaeder's classroom won the Box Tops for Education by hundreds of box tops. See the chart outside the teacher work rooms for more exact figures. Congratulations 6th Grade! The SMARTboard had been ordered and will be installed in January. Box Tops for Education will continue to be collected and it is possible that another winner may be declared if enough box tops are collected. Keep those box tops coming in!

THANK YOU to Mrs. Kris Lindquist for our newest office Christmas décor! Mrs. Lindquist made for the RCLS office a Christmas tree from a wide array of bits and pieces of jewelry. It is mounted on black velvet and looks fantastic! Next time you have a moment please stop in the office to look it over—we promise you will see something new and different every time you look at it! We love it! Thank you, Kris!

Effective last week the office has established **NEW SCRIP HOURS**. After monitoring for several months it was apparent that the highest Scrip sales occurred during the hours of 7:15-9 am and 2—3:15 pm. These times are currently on a trial basis and if necessary will be adjusted. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Remember your leaders,
who spoke the word of God
to you.
Consider the outcome of their
way of life and imitate
their faith.**

PRAYING FOR OUR FAMILIES

The week of December 15 we will pray for: Doug & Laurie Happel (Brian), Tim & Leslie Harms (Kamryn), Mark & Jill Harris (Jonathan), Ryan & Kristy Hawley (Johnmark), Mark & Sara Heaton (Chloe, Lauren), and Todd & Darla Heikes (Trista).

FRIDAY, DEC. 12 is a Parent-Transportation day coming to school only as the Rochester Public Schools have a late start day.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING was cancelled Monday evening (December 8) due to inclement weather. The meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, December 15 at 5:30 pm.

FRIDAY IS A PARENT TRANSPORT DAY (A.M. ONLY): Please do not forget to arrange for morning transportation to school on Friday, December 12.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet on Monday, December 15, at 6:15 pm.

MARKETING COMMITTEE MEETING: The Marketing Committee will meet Tuesday, December 16, from 3 until 4 pm.

HEALTH EDUCATION TEAM MEETING was cancelled Tuesday morning (December 9) due to the late start and inclement weather. The meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, December 16 at 7:50 am.

SIXTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK Grace Youth and the Grace Board of Missions and Evangelism are working together for the Sixth Annual Christmas Cookie Walk December 13! The event will be held from 3:00-5:00 pm (or until we run out of cookies!) in the Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. We are planning on having at least 700 dozen cookies available for sale. Hot cider and Christmas music will help set a festive tone! Matching funds will be provided by Thrivent.

GRACE YOUTH MINISTRY SNOW TUBING '09 All sixth through twelfth graders are invited to the GYM annual snow tubing event at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch on Saturday, January 10th. We'll meet at Grace at 5:00 pm, tube the hill from 6:00-8:00 pm, and return to Grace about 8:45 pm. The cost is \$15 per person which includes the bus ride, snow tubing, and light snacks/hot chocolate. Participants **MUST** be signed up by January 7 and have a Medical Release Form on file with Grace Youth. The sign-up sheet and Medical Release Forms are available in Miss Schauer's room.

MATH LEAGUE After a very challenging meet on Monday, November 24, the RCLS Blue team is firmly in third place. There is a total of 108 students from Rochester schools participating in Math League. Some of our team members hold the following positions: Marissa Wales is tied for third, Katie Piens is tied for 8th, Danielle Buettner is at 10th place, Melissa Parry at 18th, and Nathan Witte is in 21st place. The next meet is on December 15 at St. Francis Catholic School.

Needed for the K-4 classrooms are new **PLASTIC ROLL-UP SLEDS!** Most of the children in these classes enjoy sledding on our small hill during winter recesses. The sleds we have were donated years ago and are slowly falling apart and being discarded. If you should be out shopping (especially at the after Christmas sales) and might like to purchase some it would be greatly appreciated. You can generally find them at places such as your local hardware stores, Target, Fleet Farm, Shopko, etc. If you are not sure what kind of sled we need, just check out the "Sled Boxes" sitting outside most of the classrooms in the elementary wing. Thank you!

December 12	-Parent Transportation Day – morning only! -Mid Quarter
December 15	-Board of Directors, 6:15 pm
December 16	-Marketing Committee, 3 pm
December 17	-All choirs to sing at Chapel
December 18	-Mid Quarter Reports Available
December 19	-Christmas Classroom Parties
Dec 22—Jan.2	-No School—Christmas Break
January 5	-School resumes, normal hours
January 7	-Concert Choir to sing at Chapel
January 8	-Coffee & Tour, 7:45 am -Gr. 4 to Samaritan Heights
January 9-11	-Science Fair
January 14	-Grade 3 to sing at Chapel
January 16	-Parent Transport, afternoon only!
Jan 16-18	-Faribault BB Tournament
January 19	-No School/Martin Luther King Day
January 20	-Community Open House, 6:30-8 pm
January 21	-Grade 5 to sing at Chapel
January 22	-End of 2nd Quarter, 39 days
January 23	-No School/Teachers Work Day
January 26	-Board of Directors, 6:15 pm
January 28	-Kindergarten to sing at Chapel
January 29	-Partners in Christ Re-enrollment Meeting for Parents, noon or 6:30 pm -Report Cards sent home
January 30	-Family Dance Night, 6:30-7:30 pm
January 31	-Winona Mustang Classic (BB)

**View the RCLS calendar at www.rcls.net and click on view calendar.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART is coming up in February! Now is the time to start looking for donations! Jump Rope for Heart is a program developed by the **American Heart Association**. Money raised is used for cardiovascular research and educational programs.

Christmas is a great time to get together with family and friends and celebrate the healthy hearts we have, and remember those who don't have the same blessings!

Sponsor materials for Jump Rope for Heart will be coming home this week. Please use the opportunity of family get-togethers to ask relatives and friends for donations. **Donations can be collected between December 12 and January 12.**

If you have any questions about Jump Rope for Heart, please contact Mr. Nelson (# 289-3267 or conelson@rcls.net).

ITEMS THAT YOU CAN COLLECT THAT SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

- Box Tops
- Coke Rewards Points
- Milk Moola from Kwik Trip. Each label is worth 5 cents.
- Tyson Project A+. Clip and save labels from participating Tyson Products. Each label is worth 24 cents.
- Kemps "Nickels for Schools" specially marked milk caps. Each cap is worth 5 cents.
- Kemps proof-of-purchase labels located on the side of many Kemps dairy products.
- Land O Lakes "Save Five for Schools" milk caps.
- Campbell's Soup UPC labels.
- Nestle "Pure Life" purified water labels.
- Green School Project. Collect used printer, fax, and copier cartridges and used cell phones.

Encourage your extended family (grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc) and friends to save any or all of the above for RCLS.

What if you could support RCLS just by searching the web or shopping online? That's the idea behind **GoodSearch.com AND GoodShop.com!** Presently 70,000 nonprofit organizations are now on-board! We recently received a check for \$141.08 which represents the funds earned by our supporters who used the sites between October 2007 and September 2008. It equates to nearly 1.3 cents per search on their Yahoo-powered search engine and close to 3% of the purchases made through the 800+ online retail partners—from Amazon to Zappos. Just imagine what this could do with more of us checking out those sites!! As you do your holiday shopping take time to check out GoodShop.com. In addition to donating to RCLS, the **retailers are also adding money saving coupons to the site each day!** Thank you for your continued support of RCLS!!

MID-QUARTER is Friday, December 12. Mid-quarter reports will go home on Thursday, December 18. 5th – 8th grade parents are reminded to check grades on RenWeb.



THANK YOU LETTER RECEIVED

Dear Mrs. Bryngelson,

Thank you so much for coordinating the recent food drive for Channel One Food Bank and Food Shelf. After the pick up and weighing, your drive collected 1,284 pounds of food!

As our service through the Channel One Food Shelf has increased over the years, we often report the startling statistics of the number of households served on a monthly basis. While these numbers are helpful to gauge the overall picture of hunger in our area, it is easy to forget that the numbers represent individuals and families—our fellow community members who struggle to make ends meet.

Thank you again for your generous support through the school food collection!

All my best,
Julie Christensen, Volunteer Recruiter & Community Relations Coordinator

Congratulations to Miss Timm and her kindergarten students for collecting the largest number of food items! Your caring is awesome!

SPORTS UPDATES

Also, **RCLS will host** Hope Lutheran vs. Cannon Valley Lutheran in a high school basketball game on December 16 at 6 and 7 pm. This will take place after the 7th boys host Abdulle Academy at 4:30 pm. Please consider helping out with concessions or taking money at the gate. These profits will all go to Athletics.

“Congratulations” to the 7/8 Girl’s Basketball team for taking 2nd place at the Cannon Falls Tournament this past weekend! **The Lady Bobcats won 2 out of 3 games** at the tournament. The first game was a very competitive game, and in the end the Bobcats lost 10-25. The Lady Bobcats came back strong with improved rebounding and shooting, and determined to win, and won the second game 19-18 and the third game 21-18. The leading scorers for the tournament were: Megan Muras with 15 total points and Stephanie Murray with 13 total points. The top rebounder for the tournament was Megan Muras. Our current record stands at 3 wins and 1 loss. Our next game is this Saturday, December 13, as we travel to New Ulm for the second tournament of the season.

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Last Friday, the **Bobcat boys’** played host to Holy Spirit-Catholic. The 7th grade team lost 28-34. The Bobcats held a four point lead after the first quarter but were unable to hold onto the lead. Alex Gatzlaff led the scoring with 12 points while dishing out 3 assists. Michael Carl and Michael Ojeikhodion each contributed 6 points and 2 assists. The loss drops the 7th grade Bobcats to 0-1 on the season.

The **8th grade team** defeated Holy Spirit 58-25. Matthew Buettner led the Bobcats with 11 rebounds and 24 points. Lucas Ziemba added 15 points and 5 assists while shooting 5 for 6 at the free throw line. John Mattison had a team high 8 assists and 7 steals while also contributing 14 points. The win brings the Bobcats to 2-0 on the season.

On Tuesday of this week, the **7th grade team** defeated St. John’s 41-18. Michael Carl had 14 points while Michael Ojeikhodion had 10. The win brings their record to 1-1. The 8th grade team defeated St. John’s 57-36. Matthew Buettner scored 21 points in the win while John Mattison scored 16. The Bobcats are 3-0 on the season.

Matthew Captain, Elizabeth Kim, and Sarah Springer of fifth grade are December’s **ARTISTS OF THE MONTH**. Their works of art are pictures of angels. Elizabeth, Sarah, and Matthew first did a pencil drawing of an angel. Then they added color with markers and colored pencils. The finishing touches were made by adding actual texture of ribbon, lace, feathers, and cotton. Congratulations Sarah, Matthew, Elizabeth, and all fifth graders on their unique and wonderful angels!

