

# Ascension School Family Newsletter

Vol. 11, Issue 16

Dec. 16, 2011

*"For God gives those who please Him wisdom, knowledge, and joy."*

*Ecclesiastes 2:26*

[www.ascensionkettering.org/ascension-school/](http://www.ascensionkettering.org/ascension-school/) Ph: 254-5411

## Accreditation Update

This fall we have been gathering data from surveys of parents students and teachers in order to create a profile of our school. This is the first step on the accreditation process. Our next steps are to review our mission, beliefs, and vision and create student performance learning goals.

**The teachers will be meeting on Fri. Feb. 17 and Mon. March 19 to work on the accreditation process. There will be no school on these days.** This is a change to the school calendar so please make a note of it. A new revised school annual calendar is enclosed. We have a waiver from the state Dept. of Education to use these two instructional days for the purpose of developing our accreditation plan self study. There will be no school on those days and they will not be days that need to be made up at the end of the school year.

## Presidential Active Lifestyle Award and Family Activity Night

A reminder to continue working on the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award over the holidays. Each student has been asked to perform one hour of exercise each day for six weeks. All you have to do is tally how much exercise each student is getting per day and write it down on the sheet that was provided in the Nov. 16 family envelope. If for some reason you have lost your activity log, please contact Kelly Nadeau at [jknadeau@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jknadeau@sbcglobal.net). Students must return their activity logs in the Jan. 6 family envelope. We encourage families to participate with students to set a good example and to make our entire school family healthier. Please mark on your calendars, the Family Activity Night on Fri, Jan. 13. This will be a fun, energy-packed evening where our families and school can exercise together, learn some nutrition tips and celebrate our students accomplishments with the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award.



## From the School Nurse - Topic: Head Lice

There have been a few cases of head lice in school in the last couple of weeks. Everyone should be aware of this and be reminded to check your children periodically for head lice. Anyone can get head lice and it is important to stay on top of the situation this time of year with coats, hats, and scarves being used. If you find head lice on your child it is important to notify the school so the nurse can be informed. When the nurse is in the building she will follow up with the student and parent. Then any student that has close contact with the student with head lice i.e. cubby mate, sits next to them or a sibling will be screened for head lice. When a case is confirmed a letter is sent home with the students in that particular class and with the sibling's class if they are found to have head lice too.

Please try to remember to check back packs every night. We all have busy schedules but that is the quickest and easiest means of communication for a situation like this. Enclosed in today's envelope is a copy of the parent letter sent home and a head lice checklist to use if your child should ever have head lice. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Kozarec anytime - days at Ascension are Mondays and Thursdays.

## Parking Lot Safety Dismissal Procedure to Change Jan. 3

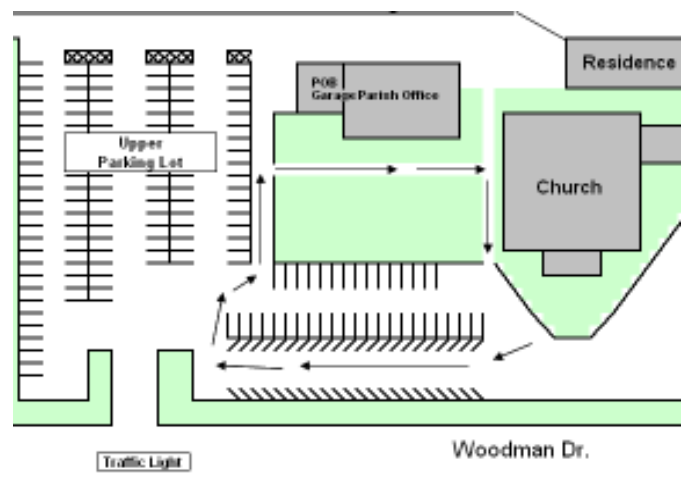
There continues to be some unsafe situations as parents with younger children in tow are walking through the parking lot to the front of the church to escort their children. They are weaving in and through the buses that are pulling away. This is unsafe.

In consultation with Mark Rasor, Kettering Safety Director who regularly works with all the Kettering public and private elementary schools on just these very issues and is an excellent resource the staff has proposed a new procedure. Our goal is to make this process safer for all - the students, the parents, and the staff. The end result is a new procedure.

**A new Parking Lot Safety Dismissal Procedure will go into effect Tues., Jan. 3.** This information needs to be passed on to any authorized people who may be picking up students.

1. Parents & authorized pick up drivers will continue to park in the upper lot.
2. **All parents & authorized pick up drivers are to stay at their car. There is to be no gathering in front of church, in the parking lot, or in front of the Parish Office Building. Drivers may stand outside of the car, but need to be next to their vehicle.**
3. Grade level teachers will walk their students up to the parking lot, going up the left side (closest to Woodman), then make a right at the end of the middle row and walk to the sidewalk in front of the Parish Office Building. When students see or hear their driver they will go directly to the vehicle. When making the turn, students whose parents are in the recess "kickball" section of the parking lot go also to their parents.
4. As teachers come back via the sidewalk in front of the Parish Office Building to the sidewalk at church, if they have any children who didn't find a driver, then they will wait there on the sidewalk in front of church to be picked up after the cars are dismissed, or be brought to the school office.
5. Teachers with stop signs continue to dismiss traffic at the signal of whoever has the sign in front of Parish Office Building. **Cars must remain in place until the signs are turned to slow and then proceed with extreme caution.**
6. Teachers with stop sign signals will begin wearing highly visible yellow reflective vests to make themselves better seen, official and safer. Adults who are picking up are warned that teachers are authorized to take license plate numbers and stop cars that move prior to the signs turning.

Map shows path of students as they are brought to the cars.



*Over Please...*

### International Student Joining Ascension School

We welcome Jiwoo Kim to Ascension School. Jiwoo is an international student from Korea. Her uncle Changhee Lee is a liaison officer at Wright Patterson Air Force Base and his family welcomes Jiwoo for her stay with us until May 2012. Jiwoo is in Gr. 5 and will join Mrs. Roudebush's homeroom class on Mon. Dec. 19.

Ascension School is among only a few Catholic Schools in the Dayton area eligible and authorized through the federal SEVIS program to accept students on F1 education visas.

### World Language at Ascension

The informational meeting for Ascension parents and students for the pilot Gr. 7 & 8 World Languages course to be offered by Ascension through GRACE Catholic Virtual Education Program attracted a good amount of interest. Registration packets are enclosed for Gr. 7-8 and should be returned by Weds, Dec. 21. This is an optional program sponsored by Ascension that will be conducted outside the school day.

### Technology Resources - INFOHIO

Students are involved in many projects and can use online resources in most cases to assist them in their research. The State of Ohio offers free access to many research services that require username and passwords. There is a link on our school website to INFOhio: [www.infohio.org](http://www.infohio.org)

Many of resources may be freely accessed through INFOhio without usernames and passwords. Some of the resources may require a group username and password for access:

Username: **learn**  
Password: **infohio**

### Catholic Schools Launch Facebook-Based Tuition Giveaway

School parents in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati can now use their Facebook accounts for more than just keeping up with old friends. The Catholic Schools Office recently launched a Facebook-based tuition giveaway that offers \$17,500 in tuition credits and prizes to families who will send their children to Archdiocesan Catholic schools next year. Both current and prospective families are eligible to win. Entrants must go to <http://facebook.com/mycatholicsschool> to register. Deadline for registration is noon Friday, Feb. 3, the last day of Catholic Schools Week, and the drawing for winners will be held that day.

The idea of using social media comes directly from the Holy Father himself. In a 2009 message celebrating the 43<sup>rd</sup> World Communications Day, Pope Benedict XVI called the new technologies a "gift to humanity" and challenged users to "endeavor to ensure that the benefits they offer are put at the service of all human individuals and communities." According to Dr. Jim Rigg, Supt. of Catholic Schools, the tuition giveaway is part of an overall effort to increase awareness about the good news of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. "We have to improve our efforts to reach out to all those who could benefit from a Catholic education," he said. "Social media can be a wonderful tool for connecting our schools and families."

For more information, contact Chris Pastura at 513-421-3131 ext. 2724 or [cpastura@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:cpastura@catholiccincinnati.org). The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati is the 38th largest Catholic diocese in the country, with almost 500,000 Catholics, and has the eighth largest network of Catholic schools in terms of enrollment. The 19-county territory includes 214 parishes and 113 Catholic primary and secondary schools.

On a separate note, a third Video Update for the Vision for Catholic Schools to the Archdiocesan website has been posted. This video features the St. Remy Initiative at **Ascension School** in Kettering. Families are invited to view the update at:

[www.catholiccincinnati.org/education/lighting\\_the\\_way](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/education/lighting_the_way)



### TerraCycling

TerraCycle has discontinued the Ziploc collection in our location, so we will no longer be saving and collecting ziploc bags. We continue to collect empty juice pouches, chip bags, writing instruments, Elmers Glue sticks/bottles, scotch tape rolls, and coffee bags. If you are collecting any of these items for us at home, please separate them by collection item before you send them in; especially the juice pouches, which should be completely flattened, stacked, and sent in a sealed ziploc bag. For more information about TerraCycle and how these collections help our school, please visit [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net).

### BINGO Volunteers

We thank **Peg Brun** and **Jamie Blevins** for assisting with BINGO on Thur. Dec. 15. Volunteers are still requested for Thursday BINGO nights Dec 22, 29 & Jan 5 in the PAC from 630-8:30. To sign up please call the coordinator of our BINGO volunteers, Jessica Costello at 554-8813 or [jgreen14@woh.rr.com](mailto:jgreen14@woh.rr.com).



### Father Daughter Dance

This year's Father/ Daughter dance organizers are still looking for a DJ to help with the event scheduled for Feb. 17. If anyone knows of a DJ that may be interested in helping please contact Brenda Kosir (426-1533 [pbspfkosir@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pbspfkosir@sbcglobal.net)) or Dawn Koesters (431-0354 [waltsworld@sbcglobal.net](mailto:waltsworld@sbcglobal.net)).

### March for Life Essay Winners

DJ Sommers, TJ McManus, and Maria Schlegel will be going to the March for Life Washington DC trip as winners of the Ascension Knights of Columbus Right to Life essay contest. The Knights of Columbus were able to send one more student due to the generosity of a Brother Knight who donated \$195. Thanks to all who submitted an essay.

### Calendar Update

Dec. 22	TH	Christmas Vacation Begins, No School
Jan. 3	TU	School Resumes
		Faculty Mtg., Rm202, 2:45-4pm
5	TH	JOOI, WC 119-120, 2:30-4:00, PTO Exec. Mtg, Rm202, 7-9pm
6	F	Mass, 9am Geography Bee, PAC, 1-2pm
7-8	S-SU	Youth Ministry Aluminum Drive
8	SU	Welcome Coffee & Donuts after Masses
9-13	M	National Vocations Week
9	M	1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation Parent Mtg., WC118, 4:30-6pm or 7-8:30pm
		Child Protection Class, St. Albert, 7-8pm
		PACE Orientation, Pace Office, 6-7pm
10	TU	ACRE testing Gr. 5 & 8, am Education Ascension Grants Due Faculty Mtg., Rm202, 2:45-4pm
12	TH	School & RE Comm. Mtg, POB1, 7-9pm
13	F	St. Remy Retreat Mass, 9am Presidential Fitness Family Night, 7pm PAC Quarter 2 Ends
14-15	S-SU	Ascension Food Drive, All Masses
16	M	MLK Holiday, No School

### Enclosures

Revised School Calendar  
School & Religious Ed Comm. Minutes  
Head Lice letter & check list  
INFOhio Electronic Resources flyer

### Return Date

None  
None  
None  
None

### Quotation

*"Do not be anxious about what you have,  
but about what you are."*

*St. Gregory of Nyssa*