

# ASCENSION SCHOOL Family Newsletter

Vol. 10, Issue 14

Dec. 3, 2009

"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

## Evaluation of Ascension – The Ultimate Question

Thank you for your input with the online Zoomerang survey to answer the *The Ultimate Question*. We had 135 responses with an overall rating of 8.44 out of 10 on the question, "How likely is it that you would recommend Ascension School to a family member, friend or colleague?" Then 77 of the respondents shared comments on the follow-up question "If you have not given us a 10 rating, what can we change, improve, or do to cause you to rate us higher next time?"

All of this feedback will be very helpful. The suggestions will be sent on to Enrollment Management Committee, the School and Religious Education Committee and other departments in the school to review and act upon to help improve our school.

In a similar way the results of the A+ evaluation of the School Walkathon have been processed. There were 82 evaluation surveys returned. On a scale of 1-5 in answer to the question "How well did this activity effectively further the mission of the school?" the event rated a 4.24 in the agree to strongly agree range that the event effectively furthered the mission of the school. The comments provided specific suggestions for the improvement of the activity.

With our successful experiment using the online Zoomerang tool we may consider putting further A+ evaluations online. Virtually all families have online access in some fashion to respond to the survey via the internet.

## Food Pantry Collection Next Weekend

The December Food Pantry Collection will be held next Sat. & Sun., Dec. 12 & 13. This collection is extremely important for the distribution of our annual Christmas baskets to families in our neighborhood. Special needs include canned beans, corn, cranberry sauce, peas, soup, and paper grocery bags. Cake mixes, cake frosting, and winter hats & gloves for all ages would also be tremendously helpful. If you are not able to help this weekend, there are always marked boxes for the Food Pantry in the brides' room, located just off the narthex. Thank you!

## Patriot's Pen Contest Winners from Ascension School

Merry Douglas, Chairman, Patriot's Pen Essay contest for the Ladies Auxiliary 9927 sends her congratulations to **Anna Schlegel** Gr. 8 from Ascension School who placed first in the judging of the local Patriots Pen Essay contest. Her essay has been forwarded to the District 3, for their judging in December. Anna will be honored at an awards program after the first of the year.

**Danny Barbaro**, Gr. 6 of Ascension School took second place in the same essay competition.



## Altar Servers For Christmas

Servers who would like to volunteer to serve during Christmas and New Years are asked to contact Deacon Vic at 253-5171 or [vhildebrand@ascensionkettering.org](mailto:vhildebrand@ascensionkettering.org). The Holy Day Mass schedule is: Christmas Eve at 3 pm, 5 pm and 10 pm. - Christmas Day at 9 am and 11 am. - New Year's Eve at 5:30 pm - New Years Day at 10:00 am.

## H1N1 Update

Mrs. Kozarec, Ascension School Nurse would like to thank the parent volunteers and the K-4 teachers for your patience and cooperation on Thursday when we did the 2nd phase of the H1N1 vaccine. She found it so nice to work with a group of people who are so supportive and understanding when we have to interrupt and take students from their classes. All the nurses were so impressed with the staff and the students of Ascension.

## The Administrator's Angle...

Some responses to the *Ultimate Question* raised a few questions or concerns that deserve some immediate attention and should be clarified so as to avoid misunderstanding. Over the next few weeks we'll take one concern or question at a time.

**Parent Question:** It seems that during the past 2 years or so, Ascension has had quite a few "substitute teachers" daily. What is this all about? Why so many and never has there been any explanation as to why. I am not paying all this tuition for my child's friend's mother to teach my child. Again, this is not occasionally, it seems to be more frequent every year.

**Administrator's Answer:** It is true there has been an increase in professional development days for our teachers paid with funding from the Catholic Education Collaborative (CEC) and the Education Ascension fund for teacher workshops in Curriculum Mapping, RTI, and catechetical certification courses. An example is the two early dismissal days last year when we had as many as six substitutes each day for our teachers as they attended an on site religious education certification course during their work day, instead of having to participate in this training spread over four evenings, on their own time, at sites between 10 and 25 or more miles away. The on-site catechetical sessions will be occurring again this winter on Jan. 14 and Feb. 8.

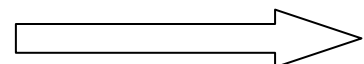
Substituting requires a college degree and substitutes are certified by the state of Ohio (as short or long term substitutes) and are not simply unqualified volunteers. We do draw some of our substitutes from the ranks of our parents - both dads and moms. Five of our current classroom teachers are parents of Ascension students, so being a parent should not have a lot to do with the professionalism of our substitutes or teachers.

For the first quarter this year professional leave days amounted to a total of 5.5 days for all the teachers – or only a quarter or .25 days per teacher. Last year our 22 teachers participated in a total of 65 professional development days during the year which averages to just under 3 days per teacher – less than 2% of the 180 school days in a year.

The objective of professional development is for the teacher to gain new skills while the substitute conducts classes as much like the regular teacher would without a loss of instruction. Teachers prepare for the substitutes ahead of time and do their best to provide meaningful instructional activities that are right in stride with what is going on in the classroom.

Of course there are illness related leaves and in some cases long term leave for medical reasons or maternity. Teachers are entitled across the archdiocese to 15 leave days, 5 of which may be for personal reasons. Ascension teachers over the past 10 years on average take less than half the leave days available to them.

(Over please...)



## Prayers for Parents...

This past week in our morning prayers we have kept the following parents in our prayer intentions:

**Nelson & Amelia Alba**  
**Noli & Aida Antija**  
**Ned & Kathleen Applegate**  
**Dan & Dawn Arrowood**  
**Leslie Loeffelholz & Shawn Bain**  
**Barry & Karen Baldwin**  
**Sondra Balog**  
**Steve & Kathy Barbadora**  
**Fred & Marianne Barbaro**  
**Doug & Karen Barney**  
**William & Lisa Baron**  
**Matt & Michelle Begley**  
**Mike & Maureen Bereda**  
**Tim & Lynn Bete**

So as we focus on the Catholic Call to Family, Community, Participation we will continue to pray for our parents. "Since we are bound to each other, we have an obligation to seek the Common Good (the good of *all* and the good of *each* individual); we are obliged to participate in working toward a just society." It will be our prayer intention that we can not only become stronger parents with our own children but also be empowered to step up for the greater good of the community.

As we open the new year Ascension School will once again be offering the **Common Sense Parenting** workshops. Please see the enclosed flyer.

## BINGO volunteers

The volunteers for Dec. 10: **Sam Weitz**  
We thank the following volunteers who agreed to volunteer on Dec. 3: **Cathie Stokes, Mary Murray.**



Karen Walker is our school coordinator for BINGO volunteers. Please call her at 293-3976 to make arrangements for the one night of volunteering for BINGO that all parents of school families have been encouraged and challenged to pledge.

## Child Protection Orientation Date Change

The Child Protection Orientation session originally scheduled for Dec. 14 has been changed to Dec. 15 at St. Luke Church, Kramer Hall, 7-8pm

## Carroll Math Placement Testing

Carroll math placement testing for 8<sup>th</sup> graders takes place at Ascension in January. Carroll teachers come to Ascension to proctor the testing and students do not need to go to Carroll unless they are absent on the day we give the test here. This takes place during the students' regular math time.

## Women's Guild Scrip Sale

Scrip is always available for your everyday purchases at restaurants, gas stations and other retailers. At this time of year, however, also think of holiday gifts. Scrip kept on hand include Kohl's (also can pay your account), Elder-Beerman, Speedway, Bob Evans, Panera and Kroger (which can be reloaded). A large number of other retailers are available from Great Lakes Scrip (glscrip.com). A partial list and order form are on the table in the narthex of the church or call Judy McManus (299-0997) or Phyllis Hildebrand (435-7114).

## Weather Reminders

As winter weather comes upon us in full force here are a couple reminders:

1. Students must wear hat, gloves and coat to school every day to be prepared for cold weather in any event, whether there will be indoor or outdoor recess or not.



2. Ascension follows the Kettering School District lead on school closings. Listen to the TV or Radio... if Kettering is closed then Ascension is closed. Ascension will also close if both Dayton and Beavercreek districts close, even if Kettering remains open.

<b>Dec.</b>	5-6	S-SU	Youth Ministry Aluminum Drive
	7	M	Child Protection Class, St. Albert, 7-8pm
	8-10	TU-TH	SOITA Conference, Dayton
	8	TU	Mass - Feast of IC, 9am Faculty Mtg, Rm202, 2:45-4pm
	9	W	IAT Mtg, Rm106, 3-4pm PTO Exec. Mtg, Rm202, 7pm
	10	TH	Gr. 7 Writing Sample Scoring Day, St. Christopher Gr. 4 Gingerbread House Day School & RE Comm. Mtg, POB1, 7-9pm
	11	F	Spelling Bee, PAC, 1-2pm
	12-13	S-SU	Ascension Food Drive, All Masses
	13	S	Welcome Coffee & Donuts after masses
	15	TU	Gr K-1 Three Little Pigs (String Quartet), WC118, 9:15-9:45am Faculty Mtg, Rm202, 2:45-4pm Child Protection Class, St. Luke, Kramer Hall, 7-8pm
	16	W	IAT Mtg, Rm106, 3-4pm Staff Mtg, Principal, POB4, 10am-12pm
	17	TH	Education Ascension Mtg, POB2, 5:30-6:30 Gr. 2 Ed outing to the Grand Court Nursing Home,
	18	F	Mass, 9am
	22	TU	Faculty Mtg, Rm202, 2:45-4pm
	23	W	No School, Christmas Vacation Begins

## Enclosures

Gr. 2 Ed Outing Permission  
Common Sense Parenting Flyer  
A Taste of Christmas  
Athletics Flyer

## Return Date

Mon. Dec. 7  
Mon. Dec. 14  
None  
None

## Quotation

*"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know; the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve."*

*Albert Schweitzer*