

ASCENSION SCHOOL

Family Newsletter

Vol. 10, Issue 15

Dec. 11, 2009

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

Ecclesiastes 2:26

www.ascensionkettering.org/ascension-school/ Ph: 254-5411

Prayers for Parents...

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

Rachel Biltz
Jonathan & Laura Bistrek
Shawn & Nancy Blatt
Larry & Jamie Blevins
Jeff & Ann Bowling
Dave & Katecee Bowman
Tom & Kay Boyd
Dawn Kackley
Andrew & Nicole Braun
Chris & Kristi Brenner
Doug & Karen Brown
Mark & Colleen Brown
Charles & Sherry Browning
Keith & Julia Brumbaugh
Randy & Peggy Brun
Dennis & Lisa Brun

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.

Anti-bullying Program

Ascension has agreed to be one of two Catholic schools in the Dayton area to participate in an 8 week violence prevention anti bullying program with our Gr. 5 & 6 students beginning this winter and on through the spring Jan. 21 – Mar. 18 presented by Samaritan Behavioral Health.

The Ascension School staff continues to work with students on keeping a violence free environment here at school. We continue to take measures with individual students to teach and direct them to be violence free. In severe cases we refer students for outside help or recommend in some cases as a last resort, dismissal from our school. We have had success with some individual students with whom we have worked through difficult behaviors, but it is hard work. Of course parent and teacher communication and commitment are the keys to the process. Thank you all for your efforts and let's keep vigilant about noticing, reporting and dealing with bullying behavior.

BINGO Volunteers

The volunteers for Dec. 17 - Dawn Arrowood, Mary Murray, Karen Walker, Vanessa Roysdon. We thank the following volunteers who agreed to volunteer on Dec. 10: Sam Weitz



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.

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: Not all parents (especially single parents) are available for voluntary work at the school or Bingo. Because we cannot, we suddenly become ineligible for financial help? We are doing the best we can and only want the best for our children, (why we chose a Catholic school over public) however, it seems we are punished because we do not have the time to dedicate to the school and the additional activities.

Administrator's Answer: This school year we have encouraged every family to help with BINGO at least one time during the year. Helping with BINGO increases chances at winning one of three PTO prizes for tuition, however Education Ascension tuition assistance is available to every parish family, regardless of participation in BINGO. In other words BINGO participation is not required to request or receive tuition assistance through Education Ascension, or PACE or the Ohio EdChoice Scholarship Program.

There are some necessary steps in order for parish families to apply for tuition assistance. Parish families seeking assistance through Education Ascension must submit a request for tuition assistance through the PSAS (Private School Aid Service.) PSAS forms are available in the school office or may be accessed from the school website. All families seeking tuition assistance are also asked to complete registration with the PACE Scholarship Program (Parents Advancing Choice in Education). Registration with **PACE is completed and a family is placed on the PACE scholarship list once the family has returned all paperwork and attended an evening orientation session.**

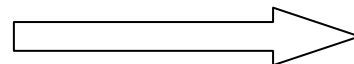
Unlike the EdChoice Scholarship Program, PACE is a privately funded scholarship program open to Montgomery County residents and even Green County residents who attend private schools in Montgomery County, like Ascension. In contrast to EdChoice, the PACE Scholarships are based entirely upon need. After making an appointment and visiting the PACE office at 40 South Perry Street during the day to register, a family must attend one of the PACE orientation sessions at the PACE office on the first Monday of every month at 6-7 pm. Please call the PACE office at 937-228-7223 to register for one of the orientation sessions.

There are currently 496 students in the Miami Valley served by PACE. The average K-8 scholarship is \$1,500. \$3,000 is the average HS scholarship once families are accepted usually after a wait of one to one and a half years. Like a fruit tree there can not be any fruit unless you first plant the seed.

Our aim is to assure an opportunity for a Catholic education for our Ascension parishioners and assist all families we can. The PACE opportunity is too good to pass up and as requests increase for Education Ascension funds families must take advantage of every opportunity and follow through.

A flyer will be out soon regarding a *Helping Families Better Afford Catholic Education* Seminar planned for Thursday, Jan. 26 here at Ascension to find out more about various ways hard working families can better afford Catholic Education.

(Over please...)



2010 After-School Bowling Program

Beginning Jan. 5 Gr. 3-8 Ascension students have the opportunity to be part of a weekly After-school Bowling program that will extend into April. Participation information and forms are enclosed. The mission of the program at Pla-Mor Lanes is to provide a safe, supervised and user friendly environment for children to enjoy physical activity, social interaction and exposure to the sport of bowling. The cost is \$15 per week, and will include: transportation to Play-Mor Lanes, cost of the bowling, rental shoes and food and beverage.



AfterSchool Care Possibility

Ascension School, in consultation with the School & Religious Education Committee, is examining the possibility of offering a daily After School extended care program in partnership with the YMCA from 2:30-6:00 each day after school at Ascension. The program would cost around \$80 a week and could begin this year as early as February. If your family is interested in this program please send a note or email to Mr. Devitt - devittb@ascensionket.org.

Altar Servers Still Needed For Christmas

There are still some openings to serve during Christmas and New Years. The openings as of this newsletter are: Christmas Eve at 3 pm or 5 pm - Christmas Day at 9 am or 11 am. - New Year's Eve at 5:30 pm - New Years Day at 10 am. To volunteer, please contact Deacon Vic at 253-5171 ext. 110 or vhildebrand@ascensionkettering.org

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).

No more Tot Shoppe

There have been a few questions from parents and students about the Tot Shoppe program that had been organized by 8th grade students the past few years. The Tot Shoppe was a nice program and had been a large group confirmation service activity of the 8th graders. However the confirmation service program has other directions for confirmation service now, so there will be no Tot Shoppe.

Christmas Poinsettias to Support Carroll Band

Carroll High School Band is selling Knollwood Gift cards for \$20 and Poinsettias Certificates from Knollwood Garden for \$10 each. The sale goes through Mon, Dec. 21 or until supplies last. Knollwood Gardens is having a Poinsettia Party this weekend Dec. 12, 13 so supplies will be going fast. Also they will be discounting Poinsettias an additional 20%. If you are interested please contact Christie Collins at 256-6537

Food Pantry Collection this Weekend

The December Food Pantry Collection is this weekend 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!

H1N1 Immunizations

Public Health of Dayton & Montgomery County will begin vaccinating the general public (in addition to the targeted groups) for the H1N1 flu virus beginning Mon, Dec. 14 from 1-7 pm at Hara Arena, 1001 Shiloh Springs Rd., Trotwood. Children under age 10 who received their initial H1N1 vaccination, on or prior to Nov. 16, are eligible to receive their second dose of the vaccine at this clinic. Two doses of the H1N1 vaccine are required for children under age 10 to be fully protected. Participants at the clinic will be required to complete a flu vaccination consent form. This form is available for download at phdmc.org and will also be available at the clinic. These vaccination consent forms are also available at local libraries in Montgomery County. After you are immunized, it normally takes about two weeks to be fully protected. Therefore, it is important to get vaccinated as quickly as possible. Additional information about upcoming H1N1 clinics can be found at phdmc.org or by calling the flu information line at 224-8796.

Calendar Update

Dec.	12-13	SU	Ascension Food Drive, All 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

After-school Bowling Program (Gr. 3-8)
School & Religious Ed Comm. Minutes

Return Date

Mon. Dec. 21
None

Quotation

"An admission of error is a sign of strength rather than a confession of weakness."

-Conventional Wisdom