



Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015

We, the Catholic School of St. Eugene, dedicate ourselves to keeping Christ in our vision by nurturing spiritual growth and academic excellence in our students, their families and the community in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Faith.

Thoughts and Prayers

April Ferguson, sister of Tara Allison, who's battling stage 4 colon cancer. **Mia Lucas**, former CSSE student, as she heals from surgery and 10-plus weeks of recovery and rehabilitation.

Dates to Jot Down

- Today: School Mass, 8:15 a.m.
- Tomorrow: Christmas parties, 2:15 p.m.
- Friday, 25: Happy Birthday, Jesus!
- Dec. 21- Jan. 1: Christmas break
- Jan. 4: First day back to school
- Jan. 15: Dads' Club Texas Hold 'Em Tournament, 7 p.m.

Drexel House Students, Parents to Visit Nursing Home

Middle school parents and students, as you know, each house is doing a service project this year. Drexel house is sponsoring December, and we have chosen to visit Tuscan Village Nursing Center, which is right behind the school, from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., this Saturday. We will visit and play games with many of the residents who live there. It is a come-and-go event, or you can stay the whole time. Just make sure to grab a slip from Jordan or Olivia Thomas to get house points. Also, parents, if you plan on attending, please let Ms. Petromilli know. What a great way to bring joy to others at such a special time of the year!

Extended Care Staff, Kids Spread Cheer with Ornaments

Guess who is spreading the Christmas spirit? Extended Care staff and children, that's who! These wonderful people have hand-decorated wooden Christmas ornaments as a gift for each and every student this year. In addition, they made extra ornaments that will be presented to the kids at OU Children's Hospital to add Christmas cheer to their tree! Extended Care wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas!

Hoop! There It Is! Eagle Basketball Needs Your Help

It's the most wonderful time of the year -- basketball season! St. Eugene will host games on six more Saturdays of the basketball season, and we need volunteers to help in the gym. Middle school students can earn house points working in the concession stand, and high school students can earn service hours -- or cash money -- for their time. To sign up, contact Susan Wagner at slw424@gmail.com.

Rediscover Jesus and Get Your Book at Mass

A St. Eugene family is making a copy of Rediscover Jesus available to every family in the parish at all Christmas Masses. The book is part of The Dynamic Catholic Parish Book Program (DCPBP), which is the most successful New Evangelization initiative in the United States today. More than 10 million books and CDs have been distributed through the program, and since its inception, the DCPBP has brought more people back to the Catholic Church than any other program in America. "How well do you know Jesus?" asks the book's author, Matthew Kelly. "I think about this often, and I always come to the same realization. I don't know Jesus anywhere near as well as I would like to know him. The desire is there, but life gets in the way. There are times when I seem to be making great progress, and other times when I wonder if I know him at all. But I always arrive back at the same inspiring and haunting idea: If there is one person that we should each get to know in a deeply personal way, it is Jesus -- the carpenter from Nazareth, the itinerant preacher, the Son of God, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the Lamb of God, the new Adam, the Messiah, the Alpha and the Omega, the Chosen One, the Light of the World, the God-Man who wants good things for us more than we want them for ourselves, the healer of our souls." Get your copy at any Christmas Mass and start reading and growing.

Go All In at Dads' Club Texas Hold 'Em Tourney Jan. 15

Put that poker face on and make plans to play in the Dads' Club Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 15, 2016, in the meeting rooms. The buy-in is \$80, and all proceeds will benefit the Bereavement Scholarship Fund. There will be first-, second- and third-place prizes awarded. To sign up, please contact Matt Hughes at hughesm55@msn.com or 405-361-2361. Fabulous food and drinks also will be provided.

Altar Servers Needed for Christmas Masses

Altar servers are needed for all Christmas Masses. If your child is interested in serving, please contact Owen Canfield at OCanfield@oklahoman.com.

CSSE Tardy Count for the 2015-2016 School Year

Number of Tardies for the week of 12/7/2015: 57
Tardies Year-to-Date Total: 670

Keep Practicing Those Spelling Bee Words

Spelling bee lists have gone home for grades first through eighth. Classroom spelling bees will be held sometime in February or March, and the Archdiocesan Spelling Bee will be April 13. Access the spelling word lists and the spelling bee rules and procedures from the Archdiocesan website at www.archokc.org. Click on offices, education, Catholic schools and then spelling bee.

Consider Joining a Small Community of Faith

This is an invitation. An invitation to grow closer to Jesus. An invitation to grow closer to members of our St. Eugene Community. Consider joining a Small Community of Faith. During the first week of the new year, more than two dozen small groups will continue meeting for an hour or so, once a week -- at the church and in living rooms -- to talk about the second half of the book of 1st Corinthians. It's a six- to eight-week study with a discussion guide written by our very own Deacon Bill Bawden. Please prayerfully consider joining one of the many groups offered at several times throughout the week. To sign up, go to www.steugenes.org and scroll down to find the link. Enter your name, phone number and email address. And from the list of group leaders, times and locations, choose the one you'd like to join.

Youth Group To Meet Again After the New Year

Join us for youth group from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Jan. 4 – our first day back to school after the break. We will share our faith and have food and fun. See you next year!

"Add" First in Math to Christmas Break Plans

If your child has not logged on to www.firstinmath.com, please help them do so over the Christmas break. This is an educational website that will help your child master fundamental and advanced mathematical skills. At the end of the school year, students who earned the most points or "stickers" will be recognized. Please contact your child's teacher for usernames and passwords.

Ink Cartridge Fundraising Efforts Discontinued

Beginning in January, we will no longer accept used ink cartridges for fundraising purposes.

Catholic Schools Week Just Around the New-Year Corner

Please mark your calendars for some important and exciting dates for our upcoming Catholic Schools Week. More details and dates will be released in January.

- Friday, Jan. 29 - Fine Arts Night
- Sunday, Jan. 31- CSSE Open House
- Monday, Feb. 1 - Volunteer Reception after morning assembly
- Tuesday, Feb. 2 - Parents are encouraged and welcome to come and eat lunch with their children.
- Wednesday, Feb. 3 - Holy Hero's Day - Students will be allowed to dress as a saint. Start thinking of a costume!
- Thursday, Feb. 4 - Schoolwide Mass, and our CSSE Alumni of the Year will be recognized.
- Friday, Feb. 5 - House Dodgeball Tournament at 2:15 p.m.

St. Eugene Socks Make Great Stocking Stuffers

If you're looking for a few more stuffers to top off your stockings, consider some stylish St. Eugene socks. There are four different styles to choose from in a variety of sizes. Contact Ashley Bass at 405-206-8906 or ashleybass@cox.net.

Giving Thanks

Thank you so much for blessing the children by giving to the toy drive for Catholic Charities. You have helped to fill the hearts of many with joy! A special thanks goes also to those who gave the gift of their time to take all of the toys to Catholic Charities.

The PTO sends a BIG thank you to all the parents who donated gift cards for this week's Christmas Teacher Luncheon!

"Wish List" Trees Are Up – Take a Star & Grant a Wish

The teacher "wish list" Christmas trees are up! Please remember to stop by your child's classroom or have your child take a "star," so our teachers can get great things for their classrooms. Many of the requests are simple -- like pencils, pens, erasers or gift cards from Walmart, Target or Lakeshore. Please help take care of our teachers who take such great care of our kids.

A Beautiful Christmas Prayer

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance. Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you, shepherds, innkeepers, wise men. Help us to rise bigger than we are. Amen.

Christmas Program DVDs for Sale in School Office

DVDs of the evening Christmas performance, featuring grades first through eight, are available in the school office for \$10. There are 20 DVDs, but more can be made if necessary.

From the Principal's Desk

At the end of each quarter of the school year, we reflect on the progress and areas for improvement we recognize in our students. As an educator, I strongly feel the need to reflect upon my own successes and areas for improvement. As I joined St. Eugene this summer, I asked parents to fill out a survey and promised to send one out each quarter to monitor my progress. I appreciate everyone who filled out the first-quarter survey. I will use this second survey and compare it to the first-quarter survey for trends. Please take a moment to share with me your feelings about my performance thus far by using the following link, <http://goo.gl/forms/DxoZWfTxCh>. While I will not publish this survey, I will use it to help me discern my strategies as your principal. I greatly appreciate your support and feedback.

"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI)

As a Catholic school, we are blessed to have the freedom to share and discuss our faith on a daily basis. We have spent each day since our return from Thanksgiving discussing Advent and the preparation for Christmas at morning assembly and in the classroom. As we prepare for the coming of the Christmas season, I want to express my sincere hope that you have a relaxing, faith-filled break. Thank you for entrusting us with the education of your child. Merry Christmas!

Theme for the School Year: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."