



# SUN TIMES

NEWS FROM SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL  
WEST DES MOINES, IOWA  
FOR JANUARY 2012

MISTY HADE, PRINCIPAL

ADAM TJEERDSMA, ASST. PRINCIPAL

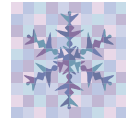
## NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

What an amazing time of year this is! I hope that you all enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. It was a joyous season to welcome Jesus into the world!

This Advent season was filled with many wonderful memories. Our second graders received their first reconciliation, third through eighth graders participated in reconciliation, the staff and students attended a prayer services to prepare for the journey to receive our Lord. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in an Advent music program, a second and third grade Christmas concert, a Middle School band and choir Christmas program. These students also performed some selections for the student body as well as a nursing home, and Merle Hay Mall. Lastly, we were able to collect mittens, hats, and socks for St. Joseph's Emergency Shelter, St. Mary's Family Shelter, and collected money for our St. Francis Habitat for Humanity.

As the New Year begins, so do new memories! We look forward to sharing all the excitement with you in the upcoming months.

Peace be with all of you~  
Misty Hade



## INCLEMENT WEATHER

Should inclement weather or an emergency situation occur which would result in the closing of school, we will utilize a number of methods to notify the public.

**Omninotifer-** Messages will be sent via this system to all contact phone numbers.

**Website-** A message will be posted on the **home page** of the district website.

**Television and Radio-** The school will notify the local television and radio stations, including 1150 AM KWKY.

**Please plan for early dismissals and let your child know, in advance, what they should do if school closes early.** If school is cancelled or dismissed early because of the weather, all activities will be cancelled.

## COLD WEATHER GUIDELINES

When the temperature and/or wind chill is at 0 degrees or below, students will NOT go outside for recess or carline. These are maximum wind chill guidelines. If at any time, the recess supervisor(s) believes it is too cold, they will bring students inside regardless of time or temperature.

Please ensure students have the appropriate clothing for the weather (coats, hats, gloves, etc.) as outdoor recess will occur unless the guidelines about have been met.

## FROM THE NURSE

Guidelines for cough drops/ chap stick at school:

- Students are allowed to keep cough drops and/or chap stick in their classroom.
- We will discourage eating cough drops like candy.
- There is always danger of choking on a cough drop, so we will encourage them to not put them in their mouths before PE, recess, etc.
- If you have questions or prefer not to have them given in the classroom, please see the nurse.

## IOWA ASSESSMENT TEST RESULTS

Our students in third through eighth grade completed the Iowa Assessment tests on October 7<sup>th</sup>. In the past, we have received the results of the assessment either before or after Thanksgiving. We received a call from Iowa Testing Services informing us that our results will not be sent until January. The delay is due to the change in the assessment format, and affects all schools in the state of Iowa.

## RELATED ART NEWS

**Media Center- Mrs. Head**

Thank you to everyone who shopped at our Scholastic Book Fair. The fair was very successful this year. The library profit was \$2,358.21! The money will be used to continue to build and maintain our library collection. The support of the SFA parents, the Home/School Committee, the administration and the school and parish staff has helped us build a library to be very proud of.

Happy New Year and thanks to all of you!

## *Music 5-8/Sr. Vikki*

*Happy New Year! We're off and running into our new experiences. January is always a fun beginning to the rest of our school year as new programs are begun along with new units of study.*

*Our sixth grade will begin work on their mini-musical, HARMONY HIGH! This is a fun, musical look at different school experiences as students sing their way through every class and even detention! You won't want to miss this performance set for March 13th at 7:00 in the Gym.*

*Seventh and eighth grade will begin their unit on Broadway and look specifically this year at the musical GODSPELL. We will be studying the various components of Musical Theater all culminating in a performance of this musical on April 26<sup>th</sup>.*

*Fifth grade will begin a unit on Guitar learning simple chords to songs they are already familiar with. On January 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>, RJ Hernandez will return to all 5-8 music classes to share the music of Mexico. We had tried to schedule him in December but we were so busy performing it just seemed a better fit for January.*

*MS Chorus now turns their attention to music for Catholic Schools Week and the Show Choir Workshop held at DCHS in March. This is always a fun experience as we join forces with all MS choruses from our schools as well as the DIMENSIONS Show Choir at Dowling. It's a busy afternoon of rehearsals followed by an evening performance open to the public.*

*Lots to do! We'll keep you posted on our progress! ☺*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

## JANUARY

- 4<sup>th</sup> Liturgy/ 8:45 AM
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Geography Bee Finals at 3:30 PM
  - 7<sup>th</sup> DCHS Placement Test 8:00 AM
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Liturgy/ 8:45 AM  
Curriculum Enhancement 3:30 PM
  - 12<sup>th</sup> CYC Roadshow 10:00 AM
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Mission Day
  - 14<sup>th</sup> DCHS Placement Test Make-up
  - 15<sup>th</sup> Confirmation Gathering 6:30-8:30
  - 16<sup>th</sup> No School/ Professional  
Development Day for teachers
  - 17<sup>th</sup> Honor Band at Simpson
  - 18<sup>th</sup> Liturgy/ 8:45 AM  
Wellness Meeting 3:45 PM
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Confirmation Rite of Enrollment  
during 4:30 Mass
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> All City Band Concert
  - 24<sup>th</sup> Spirit Wear Day!
  - 25<sup>th</sup> Liturgy/ 8:45 AM
  - 26<sup>th</sup> Kindergarten registration night  
7:00 PM in Parish Hall
  - 29<sup>th</sup> Catholic Schools Week Open House  
12:15-2:00 PM  
Knight of Columbus Spelling Bee  
3:00 PM
- Catholic Schools week- January 29 –  
February 3!**
- 31<sup>st</sup> 7/8 grade to Des Moines Playhouse



## FEBRUARY

- 1<sup>st</sup> 11:30 Dismissal
- 4<sup>th</sup> Bid for the Kids- Auction