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Principal's Thoughts

The season of Advent begins this Sunday which also signals the commencement of a new liturgical year. The four week period of Advent is a time of preparation and prayer so that we can fully embrace the anniversary of Jesus' birth. We are also told to open our hearts, to be ready for the time we will encounter Jesus again. The word Advent comes from a Latin word meaning coming or arrival. The theme for the first week of Advent is Hope. One purple candle, known as the prophesy candle, is lit on the Advent Wreath to remind us God's promises, as described in the Old Testament, that Jesus would be born; a savior for the world.

Included in your envelope is an article from the Catholic Register with suggestions on celebrating the Advent Season with your family and a children's Advent Calendar with daily activities to help the children prepare their hearts as well. Here is a link to register your email so you can receive daily reflections to nurture your faith development too:

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html>! The Advent season gives us the opportunity to take time to focus on the real reason for Christmas rather than the materialism that marketers want to lure us toward!

*The season of Advent
restores this horizon of hope,
a hope which does not disappoint
for it is founded on God's Word.
A hope which does not disappoint,
simple because the Lord never disappoints!
Pope Francis*



<https://clipart-library.com/clipart/advent-clipart-18.htm>

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BREAKING NEWS

- **Holiday Bake Sale!**
 - The Student Council is sponsoring a Christmas Bake Sale on Thursday, Dec. 7th.
 - Items will range from \$.50 to \$1.00.
 - Thank you for supporting their fundraising efforts!
- **Scrip Special Orders**
 - The last day to place special orders for Christmas will be Friday, December 8th.
 - Don't forget to use scrip for your Christmas shopping! This is a perfect time to make a dent in your fundraising goal!
- **Mark Your Calendars-Parish Christmas Dinner**
 - The St. Agnes Parish Christmas Dinner will take place on Saturday, December 9th at 6PM in the Church Hall.
 - Please consider attending this special event with your family and friends. A flyer with all the details has been placed in your envelope today and posted on our website.
- **Christmas Concert News!**
 - **Costumes**
 - The children are getting very excited to perform for you!
 - A flyer detailing the items needed for their concert attire can be found in your envelope today.
 - **Tickets**
 - Don't forget to purchased your tickets for our Annual Christmas Concert scheduled for Thursday, December 14th at 1:30pm and 7:00pm.
 - You can pre-order your tickets or buy them at the door. An order form has been posted on the website.
 - If you have already pre-ordered your tickets, they have been placed in your family envelope today. Please check your envelope thoroughly, the tickets are small and can easily fall to the bottom.
 - **Audience Participation**
 - Please bring a battery operated candle to the performance with you. We have something special in mind and need your participation!
- **Book Fair Stocking Stuffer**
 - Mrs. Cesca is offering gift certificates for the Book Fair that you can purchase now.

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- An order form can be found in your envelope and is due back no later than December 12th. All certificates will be sent home on December 13th in an envelope addressed to you.
- **Simbang Gabi-Advent Novena**
 - In preparation the Christmas season, the St. Agnes FilAm Community will once again host Simbang Gabi from December 15 through December 23, 2023.
 - Mass will be celebrated each night at 7pm in the church. A light reception will be held following the mass on the last day, December 23rd.
 - All are invited to these festive nights of Simbang Gabi as we herald a joyous Christmas Day.”
- **You Are Invited to a Christmas Event**
 - Our very own Sharon Sobel Idul, artistic director of the Black Diamond Ballet, extends an invitation to bring your family to the Nutcracker Ballet December 8th- 17th!
 - A flyer with a QR code to purchase tickets has been provided in your family envelope and posted on our website.
- **We Found the Leak!**
 - The leak has been located near the last repair, in the grassy area near 2nd grade.
 - Please pray this pipe will last until Christmas break when we will have the leak repaired.
- **Dennis Uniform-Going, Going, Almost Gone!**
 - We will NOT be renewing our contract with Dennis Uniform next year and will transition to Custom Design Company in the summer.
 - The uniform will remain the same so students will be able to continue to wear any Dennis uniform items for the next few years.
 - In the meantime, should you receive any clothing items other than the Dennis brand, do NOT accept this delivery. The company has been trying to substitute brands!

Weekly Schoolwide Learning Expectation: 4.1 – An effective communicator who is able to listen actively to others.

St. Agnes School Mission Statement

St. Agnes School, in partnership with the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Oakland educate children in the Catholic faith and nurture their minds, bodies, and souls, inspiring them to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, achieve their highest academic and creative potential, and actively serve and enrich the community.

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- **Santa is Hungry!**

- Our Annual Breakfast with Santa will take place this Saturday, December 2nd at St. Agnes.
- A flyer with a QR code to purchase tickets has been posted on our website.
- There will be a Christmas tree raffle in case you are interested and need to decorate your home.

- **Holiday Gift Guide Reminders**

- **Sip 'n Shop Event**

- The Wish Gift Boutique shopping event will take place this Thursday, November 30th from 5-7PM.
- The online shopping code: STAGNES can be used if you are unable to join in the fun.
- We appreciated the 20% of all sales that will be donated to St. Agnes School!

- **See's Candy Yum-Raising Shop is Open**

- This sale ends this Friday, December 1st.
- The flyer with the QR code is posted on our website.

- **Stocking Stuffer Idea**

- Give your student the gift of non-uniform dress for the week of January 22-26, 2024. Deadline to purchase is December 23rd.
- A QR code to purchase has been included on the flyer that is posted on our website.


- **A Dine Out is Coming!**

- Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 6th to Dine Out with St. Agnes families at Bambino's on Farm Bureau Rd.
- Present the coupon, included in your envelope, at the time of purchase and St. Agnes will receive a 20% donation of your pretax total!

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	IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS
11/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scrip Sold 9AM-11AM• School Board Meeting 6:30pm- Ministry Center• Wish Shopping Night 5:00pm-7:00pm
12/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scrip On Sale 9AM-11AM• See's Candy Sale Ends
12/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakfast with Santa-Church Hall• Work Party 9am-1pm• Christmas Parish Concert-7:30PM
12/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st Sunday of Advent (Mk 13:33-37)
12/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reconciliation-Grs. 3rd-8th (Formal)
12/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spirit T-Shirt Tuesday• Parish Reconciliation 5PM-6:30PM
12/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dine Out-Bambino's• Minimum Day-12:00 Dismissal
12/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Council Bake Sale
12/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass-9AM (Formal)• Last Day for Christmas Scrip Special Orders
12/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parish Christmas Dinner-6PM