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Principal's Thoughts

Peace is defined as a state of tranquility or quiet. As we know, peace can take place in a variety of places: in our minds, souls, community and world. We often pray for peace in our world but how often do we pray for inner peace? Advent is a time designated to find peace within and to nurture our personal relationship with God. The Church encourages us to be "counter-culture" by not giving into the media messaging that our Christmas joy comes from clothing, jewelry or cars we gift our loved ones. This is not an easy task but we find strength knowing that only God can give true peace! During the school day, we too are refocusing and concentrating on the season of Advent. The children in grades 3-8, attended Reconciliation this past Monday. We began with a mini Retreat experience in the classroom before walking over to the church to speak with the priests. After the children received Reconciliation, they returned to their classrooms to complete their prayer experience. I was impressed by their reverence and calm. The priests too, commented on how prepared and thoughtful the children were in speaking with them. The Christmas Concert this year is titled: Light a Candle for Peace. We hope this performance will fill your hearts as we then embark on our Christmas vacation. We look forward to seeing next Thursday and hope you enjoy the show!

Just Breathe

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
Since as member of one body
You were called to peace.
And be thankful.
Colossians 3:15*



PEACE



- **Holiday Bake Sale Tomorrow!**

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- The Student Council is sponsoring a Christmas Bake Sale tomorrow Thursday, Dec. 7th.
- Items will range from \$.50 to \$1.00.
- All proceeds will be donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Thank you for supporting their fundraising efforts!
- **Scrip Statements**
 - A statement reflecting your current scrip purchases and progress toward your goal has been included in your envelope.
 - There are 4.5 months left to achieve your goal and the Christmas season can surely help you!
- **Scrip Special Orders**
 - The last day to place special orders for Christmas will be THIS 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!
- **No Kids Club Next Friday**
 - Kids Club will not be offered Friday, December 15th in order to allow the staff can all gather to celebrate Christmas.
 - Thank you in advance for your understanding.
- **Book Fair Stocking Stuffer**
 - Mrs. Cesca is offering gift certificates for the Book Fair that you can purchase now.
 - An order form can be found on the school website and is due back no later than Tuesday, December 12th.
 - All certificates will be sent home by December 13th in an envelope addressed to you.
- **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!

Christmas Concert News Peace

- **Costumes**
 - A flyer detailing the items needed for the students' concert attire has been posted on our website.
- **Tickets**
 - Don't forget your tickets for our Annual Christmas Concert scheduled for next Thursday, December 14th at 1:30pm and 7:00pm in the church.
 - You can pre-order your tickets or buy them at the door. An order form has been posted on the website.

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- 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.
- After today, tickets can be picked up at the Concert.
- **Audience Participation**
 - **Please bring a battery operated candle to the performance with you. We have something special in mind and need your participation!**



- **Dine Out Today!**
 - Dine Out with St. Agnes families at Bambino's on Farm Bureau Rd today.
 - Present the flyer, posted on our website, at the time of purchase and St. Agnes will receive a 20% donation of your pretax total!
- **Stocking Stuffer Idea**
 - Give your student the gift of non-uniform dress for the week of January 22-26, 2024.
 - The deadline to purchase this is December 23rd.
 - A QR code to purchase has been included on the flyer that is posted on our website.

Weekly Schoolwide Learning Expectation: 4.2 – An effective communicator who is able to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.

Christmas Celebrations

- **Baby Jesus Mass**
 - All St. Agnes Parish and School youth (Grades K-8) are invited to participate in the Christmas Eve Mass (Baby Jesus Mass) at 4PM.
 - Please [sign up online](#) or return the bottom half of the flyer (included in your envelope) to the Ministry Center by December 11.
 - Questions can be directed to Michelle Koski (650) 759-8847 or Marion Armstrong (925) 381-1817
 - Here is the link to the online sign-up: [Sign-up for the 4 pm Christmas Eve Children's Liturgy - aka - Baby Jesus Mass](#)
- **Mark Your Calendars-Parish Christmas Dinner**
 - The St. Agnes Parish Christmas Dinner will take place this 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 posted on our website.
- **Simbang Gabi-Advent Novena**
 - In preparation the Christmas season, the St. Agnes FilAm Community will once again host

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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 posted on our website.



Thank you to the Breakfast With Santa co-chairs: Erika Barragan, Sandra Cano and Michael Crahan and their crew for a fabulous event! The decorations were festive and the food was amazing. Thank you to our cooks and jr. high student elves! Of course Santa was the main event and we are so glad he could take time from his busy schedule to be with us! Congratulations to the winners of the Christmas tree raffle! The trees were amazing!

	IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS
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
12/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2nd Sunday of Advent - Peace
12/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$2.00 Non-Uniform Dress or Spirit T-Shirts• Last Day to Order Book Fair Coupons
12/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christmas Concert 1:30 & 7PM- Bring a Battery Operated Candle
12/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coffee Social 7:45AM• Minimum Day-12:00 Dismissal• No Kids Club!• 8th Gr. Dance – St. Francis



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12/16

• Christmas Vacation Begins

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.