

Siena Circular



January 8, 2008

Yesterday is history.

Tomorrow is a mystery.

Today is a gift...that's why it's called the present.

Anonymous (Probably a divinely-inspired person)

Dear Parents,

As we begin each new year, we are often reminded of the pilgrimage character of our life on earth. We travel from one year to the next, from one moment to the next, treasuring and learning from the past as well as looking forward to the next destination on our itinerary. Yet, the present moment is all we have; we can live neither in the past nor in the future.

While the logic of living in the present moment seems obvious, the temptation is to do otherwise: often we dwell on the past or we wait for a better tomorrow. Most likely, we give in to both extremes on a daily basis; we complain that things used to be better or blame past events as the cause of our present condition, and we claim that the future will be better if and when such and such takes place.

Meanwhile, the present – the only moment we truly have – slips through our hands and we lose forever the opportunity and fail forever the responsibility to do the right thing at the right time. A retreat master once gave this piece of advice with regards to one's past difficult experiences: "Give up the hope of a better past"; and, concerning the future, he quoted Mother Teresa: "Let us give God a chance to show what He can do."

So I challenge all of us – faculty, staff, parents – to reflect on our personal lives as well as our collective experience at Saint Catherine's. At this time when many of us have just made our New Year's resolutions, perhaps we could ask ourselves how we can continue to contribute to our own families as well as our school and parish family *at the present moment*. My prayer for all of us is that we begin by asking God to help us focus on the present. Let us ask for and be willing to accept the grace to begin each day and encounter each person within our school and parish family with the sincere desire, coupled with concrete contribution, to build each other up in love and rally each other on our pilgrimage toward heaven. Saint Catherine's will continue to grow, but only one student, one teacher, one parent at a time.

With prayers for a grace-filled year,

Prayer Corner

Please pray for:

- Pope Benedict, Archbishop Gregory, Archbishop Donoghue, Father Doyle, Father Terry
- Pope Benedict's intention for January: That the Church may strengthen her commitment to full visible unity in order to manifest in an ever growing degree her nature as community of love, in which is reflected the communion of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- Pope Benedict's mission intention: That the Church in Africa, which is preparing to celebrate her Second Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, may continue to be the sign and instrument of reconciliation and justice in a continent which is still marked by war exploitation and poverty.
- Success of the SCS Robotics Team (competition on January 12)
- The Taylor Family (Mr. and Mrs. Mark Taylor)
- The McNally Family
- Noah and Olivia Zimmer's grandfather who recently underwent a kidney transplant

Calendar at a Glance

Wednesday, January 9

- School Mass (7A)

Thursday, January 10

- Stevi B's Night

Friday, January 11

- End of 2nd Quarter
- Scrip orders due @ noon

Wednesday, January 16

- School Mass (3A)

Friday, January 18

- 2nd Quarter report cards to be distributed
- Scrip pick-up from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

THANK YOU!

Dear Parents and Students,

Thank you for the many gifts, cards, and prayers which you had given to me so generously at Christmas. I had the pleasure of writing individual "Thank You" cards for each gift which came with a label or card. Unfortunately, a few of the gifts became detached from their cards, so I was not able to acknowledge the giver. Please know all of you were remembered in my prayers of gratitude during the Christmas season.

Sister Mary Jacinta

Dear Parents and Students,

I would like to thank you for all of the gifts I received at Christmas. It is my hope that you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr. Shirley

PEACEMAKERS

Coming Soon: "Peacemakers" is an anger management and peacemaking group for kids. This group is open to children ages 6-12. "Peacemakers" is designed to help kids better understand their anger so they can make healthy and successful choices and build strong relationships. The overall objectives are for participants to realize that they can control their behavior and develop practical skills and strategies to manage their feelings, which in turn will increase their self-esteem. This group will run during the scheduled school day for approximately eight weeks. If you have any questions or are interested in having your child attend, please contact:

Melissa Zipfel Williams at 770-419-8601 x 1413 or mzwilliams@scsiena.org

VISITORS

Please help us continue to ensure the safety of all by signing in and out at the front office and putting on a visitor's label when entering the school building during school hours. All *classroom* volunteers and visitors (excluding lunch room, recess, and Tuesday Folders volunteers) should wait at the front lobby while the front office staff notifies the teacher at whose classroom the volunteers/visitors are expected.

REGISTRATION & RE-ENROLLMENT

Registration and re-enrollment applications are available on our SCS website from January 3 to February 14, 2008. FACTS Tuition Assistance application forms are available on-line also. Hard copies of all forms are available through the school office upon request.

SCRIP PROGRAM

Please consider supporting our Scrip program. The forty-five participating families raised an impressive \$1,200 in December. Imagine our earnings if all of our two hundred twenty-three families were to participate! Please remember the proceeds benefit our students – your children!

Our next order deadline is Friday, January 11. Orders placed by that date can be picked up on the usual 3rd Friday, January 18, from 2-3pm. Please see the SCS website for specific instructions on how to order Scrip. For questions, please call Sharon Braun 770-420-7444 or Ann Contrucci 770-516-6211.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Our enrichment program will need to be put on hold this year. We have not been able to find a suitable candidate to fill the enrichment/resource position. Also, after spending some time learning from enrichment programs at other schools, the need for more time to develop an enrichment curriculum which fits Saint Catherine's is evident. Waiting until next year to begin our enrichment program seems most realistic. Thank you for your understanding and patience in this matter.

PARENTING SPEAKER: JOHN ROSEMOND

Calling all SCS parents! For ten bucks, reserve your seat NOW to hear **John Rosemond** on **February 26, 2008** in our gym at 7 pm. We've sold 50 tickets to this event so far for this outstanding parenting speaker and would love to sell out at 500. See the **flyer in the Tuesday Folder** for more details. After January 15, we will open up this event to the preschool and the parish as well as surrounding parishes...so don't miss out! Call Ann Contrucci 770-516-6211 or email theshirleys4@bellsouth.net for questions.

Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic School unites with family and community to provide an excellent academic and religious education, developing the whole child while encouraging individual talents and abilities in a Christ-centered environment.

In imitation of Saint Catherine, faithful daughter of the Church, we provide a formation grounded in truth through which we engage the culture, setting the world ablaze with the love of Christ.