

St. Columbanus School  
122 Oregon Road  
Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

December 2015

Dear Parents,

November was a very busy month for all of us at St. Columbanus School. It brought us the eighth grade TACHS examination, the book fair, our second Family Mass, report cards and parent conferences, our Thanksgiving food collection and the Thanksgiving holidays. I wish to add how proud I am of the academic performance of our students during the first quarter. In grades four through eight, several students (over 50%) received Honors or High Honors. The names of all the students who received Honors or High Honors are displayed in the main office hallway.

Now we move on to December where we'll be having Secret Santa, Trim-a-tree, the Christmas Concert and several Christmas parties all in recognition and in celebration of Christmas. Trim-a-tree donations this year will be for "Friends of Karen" and "Birthright" and are due by Monday, December 7. It is, however, important to remember that the Season of Advent comes before the Christmas season and deserves proper recognition. Advent is the season in which we prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ at Christmas and is the season in which we prepare ourselves for the Lord to come again at the end of time. In the end, the Season of Advent leads us to the real meaning of Christmas; not the highly commercialized one that others may want you to believe in.

Please note that school will be open on Tuesday, December 8. It is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We will be attending Mass with the parishioners at 12:05 PM followed by lunch on this day.

As we get deeper into the autumn season and closer to winter the weather will be getting colder. With that colder weather we can get frozen precipitation such as snow, ice, sleet and freezing rain. Therefore, I need to ask you to re-read the pages in the Parent-Student Handbook concerning school closings, delayed openings of school, and emergency school closings once the day has begun. I hope we have a mild winter, but we all need to be prepared should there be any need to close or delay school due to snowy or icy conditions. I.R.I.S. alerts will be sent out if there is a school closing or delay, but also listen to the radio or television, in case you fail to receive a message from I.R.I.S.

Also, now that the cold weather is upon us please be sure to send your child to school with the proper outdoor attire: coats, gloves, hats, scarves, etc. Most of you have been doing so, but there are a few children who do not dress appropriately for this time of year. The reason for my concern is that the children do go outside to play at recess time on some cold days in which there is no snow, ice or rain and they need to be dressed warmly enough. I care about the health and safety of your children. That's the bottom line and I hope that you can assist me in the ways I mentioned in this letter. Thank you.

I realize that they are still a while away, but the dates for the grades 3-8 midterm exams are on the school calendar. Grades 3 and 4 will only be taking the Reading, Math

and Religion midterms. Grades 5-8 take all the exams. They are as follows: **Composition & Writing-Wednesday, January 6 // Reading-Thursday, January 7 // Grammar/Vocabulary-Monday, January 11 // Science-Tuesday, January 12 // Social Studies- Wednesday, January 13, // Spelling, Thursday, January 14 // Math-Friday, January 15 // (ADNY) Religion-Thursday, January 21 // **Wednesday, January 20 will be the snow make-up test day for any subjects except Religion.****

I just want to remind you to check the attached calendar for other important dates during the month of December. I hope you enjoy the Christmas holidays and keep in mind that school resumes from Christmas vacation on Monday, January 4, 2016.

Just a reminder, that due to the larger number of students, we have the Christmas show on December 16, in two locations. First, the Band concert followed by the grade 8 play will begin promptly in the SCHOOL GYM AT 6:45 PM. However, due to fire safety, we are limiting attendance in the school gym to the parents and relatives of students in the Band and in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Band concert students are asked to report to the school library by 6:15 PM. The grades K-7 Nativity/singing portion of the show will begin at 7:30 PM at the CHURCH. All students who are not part of the band concert or in the grade 8 play in grades K through 7 *and their guests* are asked to report directly to the church. The students should report to their grade level teachers down in Dillon Hall and parents/guests may choose their seats in the church. The church building affords many more people to see the show than the school gym does, plus due to the religious nature of this part of the show, it is even more appropriate taking place in Church.

I should mention that we purposely are starting the Band concert/grade 8 play portion of the show at 6:45 PM so that we can finish the school portion by 7:20 PM. Then any students in the band or eighth graders with younger siblings and their guests can walk up to the church for the Nativity/singing part of the show at 7:30 PM. Students performing in the show at the church will wait in Dillon Hall and will be escorted by their teachers up the stairs just prior to the time of their performance. Please be aware that the first graders will be entering from the back and will processing up the center aisle of the church. Please do not block them in the aisles or in the rear of the church.

There will be a dress rehearsal of the Nativity/singing portions of the Christmas show on Wednesday, December 16 at 1:00 PM in the CHURCH. This will allow those who wish to see this part of the show, but are unable to attend the evening performance to view it.

**To summarize: 6:45 PM School Gym: Band concert members and eighth graders and their guests only.**

**7:30 PM Church: Nativity and K-7 singing performance. Guests report directly to the church.**

Since my next monthly letter to you will not be until January, I want to wish all of you a peaceful Advent season, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Disanza, Principal