

December 2018-2019 Monthly Newsletter

Dear Families,

November saw us giving thanks, but December forces us to wait. The liturgical calendar is turning over and here we are waiting... again. It becomes tougher and tougher to allow ourselves to patiently wait for the birth of Jesus on Christmas, but the patience that comes with waiting during Advent can enliven our souls to the true meaning of Christmas. As we parallel this to our school, we will be calling attention to the Season of Advent. We began with a candle lighting prayer service then later gathered as a school community to make Advent Angels that will be on display throughout the school (and on our Facebook page). We are very excited to see that our 2nd Grade students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time and the rest of the school (3rd – 8th) will have a Penance Service to prepare our minds and hearts for Jesus. We will get a visit from St. Nicholas on December 6 where we will explain the St. Nicholas Day Tradition. Music classes are coming alive with songs from our Advent/Christmas program on Thursday December 13 (more details below). We will be celebrating Winter with a Middle School Snowball Dance on Friday evening December 14 and we will culminate our waiting with a PreK Christmas Pageant and our traditional birthday party for baby Jesus in conjunction with a charitable Pajama Day to support the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) on Thursday December 20 and our Advent Liturgy on Friday December 21. We hope you can come celebrate with us as the 6th Grade leads the way for this Mass. There will be individual flyers that will go home regarding many of these events and please look through the information that follows. Additionally, please see the section below on school closing procedures due to weather.

As you can see, there is no shortage of activity while we wait for Christmas. I wish you and your families an amazing month of December, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2019. You are in my prayers.

May God richly bless you and your family,



Ray Bonnette, Principal

Academic Calendar:

- Wednesday December 12 – Progress reports issued
- Monday December 17 – Progress reports returned
- Friday December 21 – 9:00 AM Mass at St. John’s Church (all are welcome and 6th Grade is leading the Liturgy) then 1:00 PM **Early Dismissal** (please pack a lunch – no hot lunch will be available) – PM Eagle’s NEST will be available from dismissal until 6:00 PM
- Wednesday January 2 – Return from Christmas Break
- Friday January 4 – 9:00 AM First Friday Mass at St. John’s Church (all are welcome and 5th Grade is leading the Liturgy) then a 12 Noon **Early Dismissal**. There is no lunch period - PM Eagle’s NEST will be available from dismissal until 6:00 PM

Advent/Christmas Performance

Our annual Christmas Program will be Thursday evening December 13 at 7:00 PM in St. John’s Church. All students have been working hard in preparation for this event that focuses on the Nativity and the expected birth of Jesus. Students are asked to arrive no later than 6:45 PM dressed in dress clothes appropriate for the Christmas season. **No jeans, T-shirts or sneakers etc.** should be worn. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Progress Reports

MP2 Progress Reports will be distributed on Wednesday December 12. We will be following the same practice for Progress Reports as was done in the first Marking Period. Each student in First(1st) through Eighth (8th) Grade will receive progress reports. Progress Reports are based on a body of work half-way through the second marking period and are communicated on a comment/code basis as opposed to numerical grades. Please remember that you have the ability to continually monitor the progress of your child’s core subject areas on our online platform (FACTS SIS – formally RenWeb). Please see the tab below in case you are not able to access ParentsWeb.

FACTS SIS (formally RenWeb)

Parents who are not signed up to see grades (K-8th) are encouraged to do so. Please go to <https://logins2.renweb.com/logins/ParentsWeb-Login.aspx> to sign up for an account by clicking “Create New ParentsWeb Account” our district code is DCAM-NJ. Your email address that receives the Wednesday Communication emails should be used. You will receive an email to set up a password where you can log in to see all grades. After logging in, please click “Student Information” and “Student Home” to see all grades from each subject. Grades 3-8th

will see numeric grades. If you click the numeric grade, it will take you to all assignments that make up the grade. Grades K-2nd you will need to click the specific class to see the letter grades of the assignments. If you have any questions regarding this system or you cannot get on, please contact Mrs. Bowker at ebowker@goodshepherdcollingswood.org or 856-858-1562.

School Closure due to Weather or other Emergencies

If we need to close Good Shepherd for weather-related emergencies, we will be getting that information out to the school community as quickly as possible. We will strive to get that information to everyone by 5:30 AM the morning before school. Sometimes we will not be able to do that, but we will keep the safety of all students/families as well as the staff in mind when making weather-related decisions. Our name will be on CBS3/KYW News Radio (#995), 6ABC and NBC10 News Stations. We will post the information on our website and social media sites. Lastly, you will receive an email sent to the email addresses we have on file indicating what the status is for school on the given day.

Teacher websites

Please check your child's teacher page found on our website to see the upcoming information that your child will be learning in the coming week. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the direct link. To alleviate checking four different sites, the Middle School teachers are now combined onto one page. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the Middle School (6th, 7th and 8th Grade) page. You may need to scroll to see each class. All information should be current by the first school day of the week. On the websites, our Teachers should be providing informational blurbs about what the students are learning about in the coming week.

“Eagle Eye”

For the past two months, we have had a new section in St. Teresa of Calcutta's bulletin called the Eagle Eye. This showcases a class each week on a rotating basis. If you are unable to see the bulletin, we have the inserts at the bottom of our school's homepage www.goodshepherdcollingswood.org. Please check it out!

Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade

On perhaps the coldest day of the new school year, many of our choir members and parents braved the elements to represent Good Shepherd on the steps of the Art Museum. A

huge thank you to our students, parents and Music Teacher Mrs. Thibault for representing our school well.

Collingswood Holiday Parade

Thank you to the students and families who helped us during the Holiday Parade. Many smiling faces were represented from almost every grade. After the parade we enjoyed hot dogs, cupcakes and hot chocolate courtesy of our Parent's Association.

Annual Fund

Mrs. Gallagher has sent out our Annual Fund letter and pledge cards a few weeks. As this is a major fundraising event that happens periodically throughout the year, if you receive them, please pass these cards on to relatives and friends of Good Shepherd School. As tuition and other school costs are already a family investment, having others help with this Fund is an excellent way to "pay it forward" to our students. All monies raised are used to help our students directly. If you are able to make a tax-deductible donation as well, we would be very appreciative.

Parent Volunteers

Thank you to those individuals who have been able to go through our volunteer process and are cleared from the Diocese. If you are interested in volunteering (room parent, chaperone, assistant coach, chaperone) please visit our Parent Volunteer Center ([CLICK HERE](#)) to find out the process. Thank you in advance for going through this process to provide opportunities for our students. If you are interested in getting involved in the Parent's Association, please email GSSParAssoc@goodshepherdcollingswood.org.

Athletics

If your child is interested in trying out/playing a sport for the school, please visit the Athletic Clearance ([CLICK HERE](#)) page well in advance of the start of the sport so all medical clearances can be approved **before** the start of the season. The spring season will be here before you know it, so please make sure everything is handed in early. If you have any questions about paperwork, please contact the office.

Social Media

Please follow our Facebook and/or Twitter Pages to keep current with school activities, events and announcements. Let the GSS light shine on the web so that our family, friends and others in the community will know what we are about. Hide it under a bushel? No! We're going to let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine! Please like, share and retweet.

- Facebook → <https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdCollingswood.org/>
- Twitter → <https://twitter.com/GSSCollingswood?lang=en>