

# HEART TO HOME SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dec 5, 2013  
Newsletter #11

## Principal's News from Jim Opelia, Principal



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### Sacred Heart Area School News

We hope your Advent Season is off to a great start. Let us pray that this season will bring us closer to God as we prepare ourselves for a joyful Christmas. The students and staff at SHAS will be celebrating Advent throughout the month, as a school and in our classrooms, to prepare our hearts for Christmas. The students of SHAS are also hosting two community service projects which all school families are invited to participate in this month: The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are hosting "The Great Bedtime Story" Pajama Drive. Pajamas donations are being accepted for those in need through tomorrow, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Scholastic Books is matching donations with books for children receiving pajamas. The kindergarten class is collecting food for the food shelf for two weeks, starting yesterday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please consider donating to one or both of these projects, which help teach our children the service of charity, and lets them know that we believe in it too. Thank you boys and girls for helping build the Kingdom! Your good will is catchy.

*"It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches." Luke 13:18-35*

### OLPA Testing

Students in grades 3-6 took the MCA OLPA (optional local purpose assessment) on-line tests for math this week. The purpose of this test is for teachers to see the level of achievement of each student in 4 mathematic strands (areas) of the Minnesota Standards and focus on helping students where they are challenged. The test will be taken again the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February. The final MCA math test, which counts, will be taken the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April. Our goal is to have SHAS students achieve at the highest level possible for their future, in alignment with the MN Standards.

### Think Centennial!

In celebration of its centennial, Sacred Heart Area School is composing a cookbook which will be available in the spring of 2014. We Want Your Recipes! Forms are available at school and on the sacredheartareaschool.org website under the Alumni tab. Watch for many exciting centennial related events in the months to come.

### The Mission of 100 More Years

Starting on January 1, 2014, the SHAS Centennial Committee will be starting its "Dollar a Day" centennial fund drive. All funds raised will go toward enhancing Sacred Heart Area School's "curb appeal" as we move forward into the next century, with the most popular project being playground improvements. Participants will keep their cans or boxes at home with the intent of donating \$1.00 each day for the family throughout 2014. "Dollar a Day" cans or boxes are available in the back of church this weekend and at the school. We will be reaching out to parishioners, alumni, and school families for participants. Thank you to all who are willing to "go this extra mile".

### SHAS Scholarship Campaign Fund

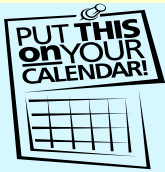
Our goal is to make our school available to all children in our parish communities that want a faith-based education, regardless of financial status. The two ways you can help are to either become a sponsor and / or spread the word, sharing our need with others. Thank you for your consideration and have a blessed Advent!



**Sacred Heart is hosting a bake sale on Saturday during the craft fair. Please consider baking something and dropping it off at the school by 9 am Saturday morning. Thank you!**



Scrip is an easy way to help our school earn extra money. You purchase gift cards through us and our school receives a percentage of what we sell. There are over 300 merchants to choose from including grocery, gas, department stores, restaurants and home improvement. There are also several local merchants that participate. Gift cards make great Christmas presents. All you have to do is fill out the order form that was sent home today and we will do the rest!! What an easy way to finish up your Christmas shopping. The next order will be going in on December 12<sup>th</sup> and will get here before we let out for Christmas break. Please call Sandy if you have any questions on Scrip and how it works!



Dec 6 2 Hour Early Out

Dec 6 Mid Quarter 2

Dec 7 SHAS Craft Fair 9-2

Dec 18 SHAS Christmas Program  
1:30 & 6:30 SH Church

Dec 20 Apple Pie Making

Dec 21- No School  
Jan 5

Jan 6 School Resumes

Jan 10 2 Hour Early Out

Jan 17 End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

# Christmas Craft Fair

Don't forget to stop by the school this Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, to check out our Craft – Bake – Vendor sale. Now is the time to get those special Christmas gifts for everyone on your list. The event will be from 9 am – 2 pm in the school gym. Please help spread the word. The school will be hosting a bake sale as well as a concession stand.



The kindergarten class is collecting food for the food shelf during the first 2 weeks in December. Let's get into the Christmas spirit and help put food on the plates of those who may need it in our community this holiday season. Thank you!



Sacred Heart Area School will be celebrating 100 years in existence in the 2014-2015 school year. A rich heritage is vivid here in Staples. Sacred Heart Area School (SHAS) is preparing a taste-tempting cookbook featuring recipes from members of our community. Our cookbook will be beautifully illustrated and bound and is sure to be treasured for years.

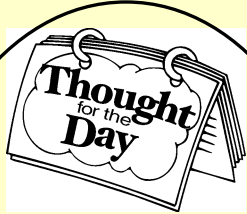
We would like you to submit 4 to 5 recipes so you can be represented in our memorable collection. Please return your recipes with the form that was sent home last week, as soon as possible.

# Second Grade News

Happy first week of Advent! The 2nd grade has been learning about giving during the holiday season.

They have teamed up with the 3rd grade to collect new pajamas for Scholastic Books. We collect the pajamas and Scholastic donates books to go with. These items go to children and adults in foster homes, orphanages, group homes, and shelters. What a great way to give! A big thanks to all who have donated!!

We have also been learning about proper nouns, singular nouns, and plural nouns in grammar. During reading we are discussing sequencing and the clue words to help us keep track of the events in a story. Our math is becoming more challenging with regrouping. We have so much more to learn in religion with Reconciliation coming up soon! We will be learning the steps to making a good confession in the next few weeks. Science is always fun with experiments. We did an experiment with magnets to see how things attract, repel, or do not attract to the magnets. That is all from the 2nd grade. May God continue to bless all of you with a kind and giving heart this season!



*Look at the good that you can do, and praise God with deeds of kindness.*

*"If anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."  
Philippians 4:8*



## Mission Statement

*As believers in God, and moved by the power of the Holy Spirit, we foster spiritual and academic formation of our students in a positive, welcoming atmosphere that reflects a respect for all people.*