



Mirror

Volume 2
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A Publication for the Parents and Friends of Assumption School

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Dates To Remember:

- Wednesday, November 22:
12:30 **DISMISSAL**
- Thurs-Fri, November 23-24:
**SCHOOL CLOSED--
Happy Thanksgiving!**
- Wednesday, November 29:
*Tricky Tray Solicitation
Committee Mtg, 7:30 PM*
- Thurs-Fri, Nov 30-Dec 1:
Christmas Gift Shop
- Friday, December 1:
12:30 **DISMISSAL—Faculty
Meeting**
- Thursday, December 7:
PG Executive Board Mtg 7:30
- Friday, December 8:
**SCHOOL CLOSED—Feast of
the Immaculate Conception**
- Monday, December 11:
Market Day Pick-Up
- Tuesday, December 12:
*50/50 Drawing ONLY (no PG
Meeting) 7:30 pm Cafeteria*
- Wednesday, December 20:
Parents Guild Blood Drive
- Thursday, December 21:
Christmas Concert
- Friday, December 22:
*12:30 Dismissal—Christmas
Recess Begins*

A Season of Thanks...and Giving

At this month's Parents Guild meeting, we announced a new initiative, "Give the Holiday Gift of Life." More than just a blood drive, the program features an educational component, designed to involve students and teach them the life-giving value of donating blood. The program is sponsored by New Jersey Blood Services and will take place at our school gym on Wednesday, December 20, from 2 PM to 7 PM. Students in grades 3-4-5 will take part in an educational presentation on December 18, which will prepare them to participate as canteen volunteers on the day of the drive. The school will earn a financial incentive if we collect 30 pints or more, so please contact any of the Executive Board members to sign up.

We are always so thankful to our school families for supporting the fundraisers. Our kids are the real winners, benefiting from school trips, the music program, and other things made possible by the money you help raise. As reported at the meeting we'll need to increase our support of the

remaining fundraisers in order to reach our goal this year. See page four for the Treasurer's report. We'll continue to let you know our progress in upcoming issues.

There will be an important meeting of the Tricky Tray Solicitation Committee on Wednesday November 29 at 7:30 pm. All are welcome, even if you haven't signed up for this committee. We need volunteers to help generate sponsors and donations of money and prizes. At this meeting, we'll provide you with form letters, lists of previous donors, and lots of encouragement! So please come and help...the success of our Tricky Tray depends on all of us.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!

November 50/50 Winners

\$1,163.75	\$332.50	\$166.25
Sue Conzo	J.F. Brower	M. Ferraras

Alone With Jesus: Eucharistic Adoration

When asked to participate in the monthly Eucharistic Adoration, I admit I was a skeptic. How was I going to sit in Church all alone in the middle of the night? However, I set my alarm clock and arrived at 3:30 am, the Parents Guild assigned hour for last month.

The Church was quiet, warm and still. There were a few people scattered throughout the pews. The atmosphere felt completely different than a Sunday morning Mass.

The Eucharist was displayed in a special holder called a monstrance. I sat down and began to read some of the literature provided in the pews. Some brochures explained what Adoration is all about and

why it's good for us to participate. Others were books of prayers. Some of the people read, others prayed the rosary.

It was the most peaceful and satisfying hour of my entire week. As I prayed, while the rest of the world was asleep, He was listening to my prayers. It made me realize that He loves us without limit, and offers Himself to us in the holy sacrament of the Eucharist. Can I not give Jesus one hour of love and adoration in return?

I am no longer a skeptic, but one who is looking forward to the next weekend I can spend alone with Jesus.

--Stacey Drotos

From The Principal: A Time To Wait

*Help us keep
focused
on the Birth
of Christ,
amid all of the
commercial
excitement
surrounding the
holiday...*

Very soon, Assumption School will enter the season of Advent, a time of waiting and anticipation. We shall be lighting the Advent Wreath every Monday starting December 4th. We shall also be helping the children understand the meaning of the season. We hope that you will help us keep them focused on the Birth of Christ amid all of the commercial excitement surrounding the holiday.

There are some very simple things that you can do.

First, make sure that the children get to Mass every Sunday. One of our first graders told me that she couldn't go to Mass on Sundays because her parents were too busy. If we want to teach our children to love and reverence God, we have to find that hour when we show them that God is really an important part of our lives, no matter what.

Another practice is to have an Advent Wreath in our homes and light it before our evening meals

while we say Grace. The Advent Wreath consists of an undecorated Christmas wreath and four blue or three blue and one pink candle. On each of the four weeks leading to Christmas, one candle is lighted until all four are blazing. The pink candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent.

The family might want to set up the Creche early, but leave the manger empty. Place a supply of straw near the manger. Each time the child does an act of kindness or says a prayer for someone, he or she places a piece of straw in the manger to prepare it for the Birth of Christ.

We wish each of our families a very blessed Thanksgiving. We thank God for each of our families every day, and look forward to celebrating the season of preparation with you and your children.

--Aileen Carlin Giannelli, PhD

Christmas Concert



In addition to prayerful preparation for Christmas, the students have been practicing for the Christmas Concert, which will be held on Thursday, December 21. The 10 am performance is open to all. For the 7 pm performance, a limit of two tickets will be issued to each family.

Mrs. D'Amico has asked that the children wear the following costumes:

K: Santa hats, red sweatsuits for the boys and white sweatsuits for the girls.

1st: Tan sweatsuits for the girls and brown sweatsuits for the boys. The class parents are looking for antlers to go with the outfits.

2nd: White sweatsuits, colorful hats, scarves and mittens.

3rd: Black pants and green or red tops. A silver bell will be worn around the neck.

4th: Shepherd's outfits. Solid-color bathrobes may be worn.

5th: White robes, gold garland belt and halo to be worn around the forehead. Wings either bought or made by the students. Students who cannot find a white robe may borrow an alb from the Church.

6th: Black pants, purple top.

7th: Black pants, white top.

8th: Nativity costumes.

If you have questions about what your child should wear, please call the office.

Marathon Mom

Many of you know her, many of you may not. She actually keeps a low profile around school...but when the Book Fair comes around, that's when you'll see her. She doesn't reveal much about her life...but she's a true inspiration in every sense of the word.

She's Karen Gorrell, the mother of seventh-grader James and fifth-grader Jessica. About 18 months ago, Karen was diagnosed with breast cancer. After 6 weeks of daily radiation at Sloan-Kettering, and with the support of her children and husband John, Karen fought the cancer and won.

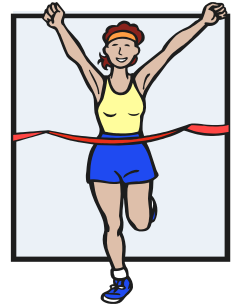
One of Karen's goals was to participate in the New York City Marathon, so she started training for the difficult 26.2-mile run. Her story was discovered by NBC's Today Show, and they began documenting her progress on the air.

NBC anchorwoman Natalie Morales was also training for the Marathon, and they became each other's support for the race.

Natalie ran the Marathon twice before, but this was Karen's first. She had trained up to 20 miles, and she didn't know what the last 6.2 miles would bring. Not only did she finish...she was fantastic! Karen finished in 4 hours 26 minutes.

The best part for Karen was running past Sloan-Kettering and realizing how far she'd come from just a year and a half ago.

Karen, you are a true inspiration...and now everyone knows it!



--Contributed with love by Lisa O'Beirne

The "Ten Commandments" of Tricky Tray

I: The ticket price shalt be proportionate to the quality of the prizes.

II: Thou shalt shake up the tickets thoroughly before calling the winner.

III: Thou shalt not use paper bags, lest the tickets get stuck in the folds on the bottom.

IV: Thou shalt not call any bent tickets.

V: Remember to spot the winner, so that the runner shalt be sent in the right direction.

VI: When calling the winners, thou shalt keep it moving and not be too verbose with side comments.

VII: Thou shalt not allow children to attend.

VIII: Thou shalt be served plentiful food and drinks.

IX: Thou shalt not envy the table with the most winners.

X: Thou shalt not have any other plans for Thursday, March 8, 2007 at 6:00 pm!

SAVE THE DATE!

--Adapted from an anonymous entry at www.trickytray.com weblog



Mirror

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SEND **Mirror** IDEAS
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*A community of faith
teaching a world of
knowledge.*

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Profit Report

Profits from this year's fundraisers to date,
as reported by the Treasurer:

"Thursdays At Friday's" 2006 Summer
Promotion..... \$ 297.82
Fall Sale..... \$7,371.11
(Last year: \$7,641.10)
Market Place Sale..... TBA
(Last year: \$2,417.50. Profits are expected
to be lower, based on an estimated 30%
drop in gross sales)
Halloween Party..... \$ 221.37
(Last year: \$1,033.85. Lower attendance,
higher costs were contributing factors this
year)

Totals for the KidsStuff Coupon Books and
the Scholastic Book Fair will be determined
after the final accounting is completed.

Please, we're asking you to increase your
support for our remaining fundraisers, to
ensure that we reach our annual profit goal.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS:

Children's Christmas Gift Shop:
November 30 – December 1
Easter Candy Sale: February 26 to March 9
Tricky Tray: March 8
Admission tickets and raffles will go on sale
in advance (date TBA)
Candy Bar Sale: April 18 – May 1
Mother's Day Plant Sale: May 9 – 10

ONGOING SALES:

Bake Sales: January-March-April
50/50's: Monthly
Market Day: Monthly
Grocery Gift Cards: Always available

PROMOTIONS: BoxTops for Education,
Campbell's Labels for Education, Target
Red Card Program, OneCause.com

Mmm, Mmm EASY!

Collecting Campbell's Labels for Education
just got easier!

You no longer have to submit the entire
product label...all you have to do is clip the
UPC (Universal Price Code) symbol from
Campbell's, Pepperidge Farm, and other
participating brands. The UPC code shows a
point value toward earning free merchandise
for our school. Some products are worth 5
points!



Visit www.LabelsForEducation.com for a
complete list of eligible products and
clipping instructions, or contact Pat
Handwerk 201.438.7968 or
handywork212@yahoo.com for more
information.

------(Tear Here)-----

Grocery Gift Card Order Form

YES! I want to help raise EASY MONEY* for our school...WITHOUT SPENDING AN EXTRA PENNY!

Family Name _____ Child's Name and Grade _____

Address _____ Phone Number _____

Please deliver to my home _____ Leave in safe place (where?) _____ Send home in child's backpack _____

SHOP-RITE GIFT CARDS

(How many?)(Subtotal)

\$50.00 _____ \$ _____
\$100.00 _____ \$ _____
Other (specify) _____ \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Order form & check to Laurie Blanco 201.288.7820



STOP & SHOP GIFT CARDS

(How many?)(Subtotal)

\$50.00 _____ \$ _____
\$100.00 _____ \$ _____
Other (specify) _____ \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Order form & check to Tom Sarracino 201.896.8248

***We earn 5% on every gift card...and it doesn't cost you any more than you already spend on groceries!**