



January 4, 2012



PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

SAINT DENIS SCHOOL
MISSION
STATEMENT

St. Denis School is its people and the Christian values by which it lives, educates and learns. As a community of lifelong learners, the parents, administration and teachers are dedicated to the realization of the full potential of each student in spirit, mind and body by:

- * nurturing our spiritual journey through the sacraments, prayer and service to those in need;*
- * striving for academic excellence while developing skills required for the 21st century;*
- * promoting physical wellness.*

Our Baptism calls us to respond to the presence of Christ in others by living our core values of Faith, Mercy, Integrity, Cooperation and Respect.

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and many thanks for your continued generosity to all of us. It's easy to see why your children are so thoughtful. They are learning from the best parents. I am particularly grateful to all who took the time to write notes. Thank you for sharing that time and your thoughts. It is much appreciated. Several packages that you sent did not have cards or labels; however, I am very grateful for them. If you did not hear from me that is why.

We are pleased to tell you that Eric Ruffenach is our new PE teacher. We are happy to welcome him to St. Denis. We're sure the students will do well with him.

Attached to this Newsletter is a communication from the Archdiocese in regard to the meeting on January 6. Please be sure to read it. It contains websites that will be helpful for information that will be available after January 6.

We will NOT be having 9:30 AM Mass this Friday, January 6. We will be having the Mass scheduled for Sunday, January 29th for the opening of Catholic Schools Week.

On January 19 eighth grade students will have visitation at Archdiocesan High Schools. You must be registered for the school of your choice. Lists will be sent to each high school by January 12. If you are not visiting an Archdiocesan High School, you are expected to be in school that day. You may not visit a school unless you are on the list for that school.

The Neumann Scholars will take the test on January 21 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. It is a wonderful opportunity for a full scholarship to an Archdiocesan High School.

God Bless You!

Sister Gerald Helene, OSF

Sister Gerald Helene, OSF
Principal



JANUARY 2012

- 5 Advisory Board Meeting
- 6 **No First Friday Mass**
- 10 Used Uniform Sale 5:30-7:30
- 16 MLK School Holiday No Classes
- 19 8th Grade High School Visitation Day
- 26 Grade 4 Famous PA Presentation
- 27 Progress Reports
PS, & PK Conferences No Classes
for PS & PK Students
- Jan. 29-Feb. 4 Catholic Schools Week
- Jan 29 Catholic Schools Week Mass 11:30
Open House 12:30-2:00
- Feb. 1 Student Appreciation Day
- 2 Advisory Board Meeting
- 4 Quizzo

Smart Money Sales for Thursday Jan. 5 Giant will not be available
Giant will be available next Tues Jan. 10

DAWGtion

The *DAWG-tion* Committee would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year!! Our spring auction is fast approaching – we hoped you saved the date – MARCH 24, 2012. We have been busy planning for several months and have already received some great donations from New Year's at the Shore to jewelry to gift certificates to dinner and museums. Keep an eye on our website www.dawgtion.org for all gift updates.

We need everybody's help to plan a successful fundraising event. If you received a gift over the holidays that you placed in your 'regift' box, please consider donating it to the *DAWG-tion*. You can drop it off at the VanLuvender's house (46 Ralston Avenue in Havertown) or e-mail dorene12@verizon.net to have it picked up. In addition, we are in desperate need of sponsorship. Please think about whether your business, a friends' business or a relative's company may consider sponsoring our event. There are several levels of sponsorship available. You can find downloadable forms on our website www.dawgtion.org. Thank you in advance for your help!

USED UNIFORM SALE IN JANUARY

Our first mid-year Used Uniform Sale will be on Tuesday, January 10th from 5:30 - 7:30pm in the cafeteria. We are looking for donations of any outgrown boy and girl uniforms (especially sweaters, jumpers, kilts and skorts) in good condition. Donations can be dropped off in the school office or at the home of Lynn Fitzgerald (2114 Chestnut Ave., Ardmore). Thank you to everyone who has dropped off items for the sale throughout the fall. All proceeds from the sale go to School Advisory Board programs.



Sustainable Catholic Education for All Who Desire It™

Catholic School Parents/Guardians

A Message from the Blue Ribbon Commission

January 2012

In January, 2011, the Blue Ribbon Commission, appointed by Cardinal Justin Rigali began a comprehensive study of the elementary, special education and secondary schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as well as the Parish Religious Education Programs in the parishes across the Archdiocese. The Commission identified the critical trends facing the future of Catholic schools in particular which include: declining Church attendance and contributions, shifting demographics, diminishing enrollment and rising tuitions as well as underutilized school buildings. Above and beyond the tuition, fees and fundraising, the Archdiocese as well as its parishes has provided over fifty million dollars to underwrite the costs of providing quality, Catholic education. In fact, over the past ten years, that accumulated figure is \$751,000,000.

As a result of this study, the Blue Ribbon Commission developed a comprehensive strategic plan focused on the ability to provide quality, affordable and sustainable Catholic education for present and future generations across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Expecting each school to provide this outcome on its own has become much more difficult over the years as you have heard from the announcements of school closings each June.

At a meeting for priests, school administrators and directors of religious education on January 6, 2012, the Blue Ribbon Commission will provide the specifics of their plan. This renewed vision provides great hope for the future of Catholic schools and their service to the children and families in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The time is here for all of us to step forth with the support, good will and ongoing involvement enabling our long held tradition of Catholic Schools to be here for our children and for the children of future generations.

A copy of the Blue Ribbon Commission report will be available on Friday, January 6, 2012 on the following website @ www.faithinthefuture.com. The site will become available after the Press Conference on January 6, 2012 which will begin at 4 PM. You can view the Press Conference on line which will be streamed live at www.archdiocese-phl.org.

*Saint John Neumann and Saint Katharine Drexel pray for us
in this time of transition and change in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.*

St. Denis
Night at the Races & Casino Night
Saturday January 14, 2012
St. Denis Gym

Gate Opens at 7:00pm
First Race 7:30pm



Buy or Bet on a Horse



Play some Black Jack



Try a game of Craps



Tickets: \$25.00 a couple - \$30.00 at the door \$15.00 single

Food: Roast Beef, Ziti, Meatballs and more

Drink: Kegs of Beer or BYOB

Sponsored by YAA and St. Denis Fun Fair

Proceeds go to purchasing new tables for the Gym

See other side to Purchase tickets or buy a horse.

Night at the Races and Casino Night

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Child's Grade _____ Room # _____

I would like to purchase _____ tickets to the Night at the Races. I have enclosed a check for _____, made payable to St. Denis Parish.

I would like to buy _____ horses @ \$10.00 each. The name of my horses are:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I have enclosed a check for _____.

Any questions, please call Kathy Morley 610.449-3703 or Tim Schlegel 610-617-2488.

Thanks for your support!!



NUTRITIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Community Food Program
222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Email: dhopkins@ndsarch.org Phone: 215-895-3470 ext. 77823

January 3, 2012

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all of you for your response to our Holiday Food Drive! As you know, this collection is shared with many emergency food cupboards throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The volunteers who staff the emergency food cupboards are always so delighted to receive the holiday donations. Your collection makes a real difference to thousands of local families in the Philadelphia area.

All of us at Nutritional Development Services are grateful for all you do to partner with us in the work of feeding those in need. May the New Year be filled with many blessings for you and your students.

Sincerely,

Denise Hopkins
Administrator
Community Food Program



Friend us on Facebook @ NDS Community Food Program

Delaware County
Excellence in Teaching Awards

Presented by Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union

ATTENTION STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND EDUCATORS

Now Open for Nominations!



Do you know a Delaware County teacher that deserves recognition for exceptional service to their school and students?

Visit www.fmfcu.org/excellence to submit a nomination.

All nineteen recipients will be honored at:

The Partners in Learning Celebration on April 19, 2012 and recognized in the Delaware County Daily Times.

Recipients are awarded a monetary prize and a donation is made to the teacher's school.

**Nominate an Outstanding
Teacher Today!**



DAILY TIMES
A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE



**FRANKLIN MINT
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**
The Credit Union of ChoiceSM

DCIU
Delaware County Federal Credit Union



December 12, 2011

Gerald Helene, OSF
St. Denis School
300 E. Hagle Rd.
Haverlawn PA 19083-1621

Dear Gerald Helene, OSF,

We are pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for the 2012 Delaware County Excellence in Teaching Award! This award, created by Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union and Delaware County Intermediate Unit, recognizes outstanding and dedicated Delaware County teachers. We are searching for educators who show outstanding performance of their daily responsibilities and devotion of time and energy that go beyond the basic requirements of their position.

Judging is based on an individual's contribution or performance during that school year or for their cumulative efforts. Nominations may be submitted by **anyone** (students, parents, teachers, administrators, etc.) in the nominee's school or community, both past and present.

Eligibility

- One public school teacher from each of the 15 public school districts located within Delaware County
- One teacher from the Delaware County Intermediate Unit
- One teacher in each category from a Delaware County non-public elementary, middle, and high school (total of three).
- All nominees must be Pennsylvania-certified active teachers in a Delaware County public or non-public school and must provide direct instruction to students in a classroom setting.

Recipients of this award receive a monetary award as well as a commemorative keepsake. The recipient's school also receives a monetary award. Last year a total of \$28,500 was awarded to schools and educators. All recipients will be honored at Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union Foundation's Partners in Learning Celebration on April 19, 2012.

Please distribute this information to your **staff, faculty, volunteers, and parents**. Enclosed is a flyer, please feel free to make as many copies as you deem necessary. Nominations can only be submitted via our website at: <http://www.fmfcu.org/excellence>. The deadline for nominations is **January 31, 2012**. If you have any questions, feel free to send an email to excellence@fmcu.org or call us at 610-325-5000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Durante". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Rick Durante
Executive Director

A Story of Hope

Friday, March 2nd

7:30pm

St. Denis Church, Havertown

Sponsored by The St. Denis Youth Group

Immaculée Ilibagiza's life was forever changed during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. For three months, she and seven other women hid together in a tiny bathroom of a local pastor. During this time, she was tried - physically, emotionally and spiritually - but she was not defeated. Through prayer, she was able to overcome her anger, resentment, despair and doubt. She emerged from that bathroom 65 pounds, but stronger than she'd ever been.



Immaculée has dedicated her life to spreading her story. Her books include the NY Times best-seller *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*. She is a highly-demanded speaker, and we are VERY lucky to have her speak at St. Denis!

Tickets are \$10 and will sell quickly
They can be purchased at the Parish Office

SPACE IS LIMITED
ALL ARE WELCOME