



Beaches Episcopal School Newsletter

at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

Weekly Publication

December 1, 2011

From the Head of School

Report Cards in Backpacks Today; Conference Day Next Wednesday, Dec. 7th

I hope everyone had a terrific week off for Thanksgiving! I know my family and I did, even though our waist bands seem to be stretching a little more this week. We had a wonderful FCIS Convention the week before in Ft. Lauderdale. Mrs. Busse, Mrs. Devers, Mr. Meyer, and I came back with many great things to try, and our entire faculty attended a workshop last Monday on sensory processing so we can be up-to-date with new techniques to use for children with these types of learning issues.

Report Cards will be coming home today in time for our Conference Day next Wednesday. Grades 2-6 will also be receiving the results from their child's standardized testing. We had some excellent results, and the teachers will be anxious to share with you what they see in

Head of School letter continued on page 2

Upcoming Events and Dates at BES

PSO Holiday Shoppe	Tues., Dec. 6, 7:30-10 am
Conference Day (no classes)	Wed., Dec. 7
Pre-k/K Christmas Program	Tues., Dec. 13, 10 am
Pajama Day/Storytime in PH	Thurs., Dec. 15, 8:15 am
Lessons and Carols Service	Fri., Dec. 16, 10:45 am
Noon Dismissal/No Extended Day	Fri., Dec. 16
Christmas Break	Dec. 17th - Jan. 3rd
Classes Resume	Wed., Jan. 4th

PSO CORNER

Start your Christmas Shopping Early!

The holiday season has begun! The fun will begin on December 6th from 7:30a.m.-10:00 a.m. with great shopping and socializing opportunities at the Holiday Shoppe. See the flyer for more details! You won't want to miss it!



Pajama Day

We need YOU! Pajama Day wouldn't be the same without sipping hot chocolate while Mr. Stewart reads a mesmerizing holiday story! We need parents to prepare and pass out the hot chocolate to the children. If you are able to help Thursday morning, December 15th, please contact Sarah Gibson at gibbonsarah@bellsouth.net.

Has Your Child Seen Their Name in Lights?

We are still accepting message orders for the LED board. It's a great way to wish teachers "Happy Holidays" or remind your children that "Santa is watching." Please see the form on page 6 of this newsletter. Let your child see their name in LIGHTS!

ChurchChat

News from St. Paul's by-the-Sea
Episcopal Church

A big thank you to BES Students and families for the amazing Thanksgiving baskets! Thanks to you, twenty local families had a fabulous meal for Thanksgiving day.

St. Paul's by-the-Sea invites you to a new and beautiful intergenerational service of Lessons and Carols service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, December 18th. Please joins us for this meaningful service.

Head of School letter continued from page 1

the classroom compared with how they tested. Please remember in elementary school, we are really teaching children *how* to take these types of test, and thankfully we do not have to use them as benchmarks for success like public schools feel so much pressure to do.

Next Tuesday is the fabulous PSO Shoppe in the Parish Hall from 7:30-10 a.m., so bring your wallets and do some Christmas shopping right here on campus!

Keep your eyes on the calendar too for the week before Christmas Break. I think I could write a new 12 Days of Christmas song with all that will be going on. You won't want to miss out on the Pre-k/K Holiday Program, the African Drum and Dance Troupe, Pajama Day and Storytime, Class Christmas Parties, or Lessons and Carols Chapel.

Peace to you and yours always, but especially during the holiday season.

Bill Stewart
Assistant Head of School

"Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time."

~Laura Ingalls Wilder

Development Corner

Thanksgiving Basket Outreach

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the Thanksgiving Basket Outreach. Because of your generosity we were able to deliver baskets to 20 families that would otherwise not have a Thanksgiving dinner. A special thank you to Carina Santalucia, Lori Fields, Cristina Knowles, Laura Sklenicka and our very own fourth graders for putting these baskets together!

Salvation Army "Fill-a-Stocking Project"

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner! Our next community outreach project is the Salvation Army "Fill-a-Stocking Project" which begins tomorrow, December 2 and runs through Thursday, December 8th. On Friday, December 9th, our fifth graders will stuff the stockings and the Salvation Army will pick up that afternoon. Enclosed in the newsletter on page 5 is a flyer that has suggested stocking stuffers. ***Please note that they are not collecting for ages 4-6 due to a surplus left over from last year.*** Together with your help, we hope to stuff 100 stockings for local children so that they will have a filled stocking on Christmas morning.



Annual Giving

The "Together Making The Difference Annual Giving Campaign 2011-2012" is off to a great start. If you have not done so, please consider making your pledge before the holidays and you will be



able to claim on this year's tax return. Remember, the fund makes a huge difference

to BES and benefits your children on a daily basis while at school. Thank you so much for your generous participation.



PSO Holiday Shoppe

Come Shop and Socialize on
Tuesday, December 6th 7:30 -10:00 a.m.

There will be lots of great things to buy for gifts or even just for you!! Feel free to bring friends and neighbors too! This is not a fundraiser-just come have fun!

Photographer and B.E.S. parent, Liliane Hakim will be here to schedule appointments at the Holiday Shoppe, but if you would like to get pictures taken for Christmas cards book NOW! She has a special package of \$125 which includes a sitting fee and 25 Holiday cards. However, photos must be taken in November to get them in time. She will also donate 10% of proceeds back to BES so make sure to tell her you are a BES parent!
lilianeh@comcast.net or 904-631-4387.

A sampling of what else will be available...

Reusable bags, stainless steel water bottles, reusable lunch containers
Beach frames (as seen at Cottage by the Sea and Shore Things)

Candles

Monogrammed items

Baby items

Scarves and sweaters

Sterling, gem stone, and other beautiful jewelry

Crocs

1154 Lill purses

Wooden crosses

Personalized wooden accessories

Arbonne/makeup

Handmade belt buckles

Mirrors and wine bags

Photography/art

Crochet items

Homemade cookies

Lots of popular vendors from previous years will be back!

Come shop and socialize!

Grandma Says

"Grandma Says" is a feature of Growing Child Magazine

BOOK OF THE MONTH: *THE BOY WHO WOULDN'T SHARE* By Mike Reiss, Illustrated by David Caltrow Harper Collins, 2008

Normally I stay away from morality tales, feeling that the precious time of reading to children should not be spoiled by heavy-handed messages. But this book is irresistible, and if the youngsters also get a message about the importance of sharing, so be it! The wickedly funny rhymes and comic illustrations carry the story of how "Edward was a frightful boy who wouldn't share a single toy."

Patient little sister Claire accepts it all, until Edward has amassed all his toys into a great heap, even the ones he doesn't really want or need.

But, oh, no! "When Edward's mom came in with fudge, Edward found he couldn't budge. His mother didn't see him there, and so she gave it all to Claire."

You can almost predict the ending, and I predict that your children will love the book and get the message. Don't expect, though, that this will miraculously end all the sibling squabbles over possessions and privileges. Sharing is hard work.

Most children, by the age of three, understand that expected good behavior involves allowing others to play with their toys, or also have a cookie. But understanding and being able to do it, graciously or grudgingly, are two different things.

The egocentric nature of the young child usually wins out. You can almost see the warring emotions on their faces: wanting to do the right thing, but too drawn to the coveted object.

Between siblings, sometimes it is the principle of the thing. Particularly oldest children have to struggle

with their unarticulated sense that this young usurper has already taken so much from them in the form of parental attention and affection that they are DARNED if they can have their teddy bear too! As I'm sure you have already discovered, you can forcefully make a child share, but this graceless coercion surely only reinforces the child's sense of unfairness. No, the only final solution is to gradually help the child see the sense in acting in more generous ways.



So you create opportunities to share, like handing the sharing-challenged child two cookies and say, "Please take this to your brother." Or saying, "I need two helpers to carry the two handles of the laundry basket, please." Such structured situations allow the children to both enjoy the interaction and discover they feel good about themselves doing it.

Find things that you know the older child has no interest in any more, and suggest that they offer them to the sibling. Again, the good feelings at being able to do this will reinforce the concept.

Whenever the child does something even halfway gracious, be sure to take note and specifically praise the activity: "Thanks for letting Tommy use your truck. I know he enjoyed using it." Comment on the benefits to sharing: "When you each have a truck, it's more fun to play, isn't it?"

Model sharing yourself, with other family members or visitors. Remember that children learn so many important lessons when they see them being practiced by beloved adults. Remember that learning to share is a process, and expect lapses along with successes. But expect that this is something children can learn, and don't allow selfishness to become a habit.

The citizens of our world will appreciate your parental efforts.



MAKE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS MERRY!



Be a partner in ... The Salvation Army's 2011 Fill-a-Stocking Project

Here's how you can help!

You can help us provide over 5,000 local needy children with a filled stocking on Christmas morning.
We provide the stockings and toppers; you provide the contents.

This year's age categories:	Infant	1 -3 years	7 - 10 years	11 – 12 years
-----------------------------	--------	------------	--------------	---------------

Suggested Stocking Stuffers:

Infant:

Baby Bottles
Baby Powder/Lotion/Shampoo
Baby Rattles
Pacifiers
Bibs
Onesies

1 -3:

Toddler Sipping Cup
Bathtub Toys
Small Puzzles
Fridge Magnets
Bubbles
Play-Doh

4 – 6*:

This age group has been left out due to a surplus of left-over stockings. Please do not fill stockings for this age group.

7 – 10:

Silly Bands
Hand-held Games
Action Figures
Craft Kit
Trading Cards
Card Games
Stickers
Earrings

11 – 12:

Stationary/Notepads/Journals
Hand-held Games
Music/Small Radio
Jewelry
CDs/DVDs
Yo-Yo
Earrings
Nerf Ball

All:

Toothbrush/Toothpaste
Socks/Underwear
Hygiene Products
Hair Accessories
Pencils/Pens/Markers
Coloring Book/Crayons
Small Books/Toys/Games
Scarves and gloves

Please do not gift wrap or include perishable items.

Thank you for your help!

Let your Child See their name in LIGHTS!

The PSO has purchased an electronic LED board for Parish Hall and is offering YOU a GREAT opportunity!

- Do you want to wish your child a Happy Birthday?
- Good Luck at a competition?
- Job Well Done on a test?
- Reminder to eat their Veggies?
- Or maybe just to have a great day?

For **\$5.00** we will put your message on the scrolling board for an **entire week***! You pick the week, the message, and turn the form into the front desk along with payment. We must receive the message and payment by the Tuesday of the week prior to running the message.

All profits will go towards the **Capital Campaign** so we can build our bigger, better school!

A good cause and your kids will LOVE it!

**All weeks run from Monday-Friday. Shorter weeks due to holidays or school closings will not be prorated.*

Your name: _____

Week to run _____

Make sure to write the message exactly as you want it to run. No more than 10 words.
Example: Happy Birthday, Skippy! Hugs, Mom and Dad!

Limited space: All messages will be first come, first serve, while space permits. Payment due in full before message will run.