

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN ANTONIO

ENTRUSTING OUR CHILDREN TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NEWS

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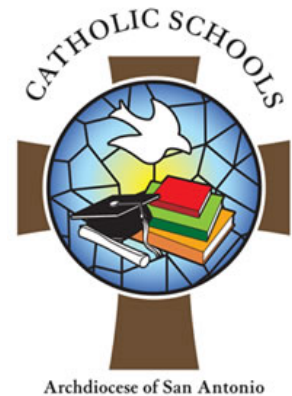
*“You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness
and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord...”*

Therefore, it says:

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

[Eph 5:8-14](#)

During this Lenten Season, how are we light to others?



ADMINISTRATION

Birthday Blessings for Pope Benedict---Recently NCEA sent a letter to principals of member schools outlining a campaign in honor of the Holy Father’s 81st birthday. You are encouraged to participate in that program. Information is available on the NCEA web site, www.ncea.org/birthday_blessing/.

“Red McCombs School House Award” Employee Recognition Program - This annual program gives all employees the opportunity to nominate co-workers who have gone beyond the call of duty in their schools. This includes teachers, administrators, custodians, clerks, secretaries, etc. The award form was given out at the January principals’ meetings and can be found on Admin Login. All nominations are due by Wednesday, March 5th. Five nominations will be selected and submitted.

CURRICULUM

NCEA’s Executive Director, Daniel Curtin, has written an article about the enduring impact of the Bearing Witness program on the moral development of students. This article is particularly timely for San Antonio because a 3-day training for this program for teachers of grades 6-12 will be held at Oblate on June 11-13. Registration forms can be found on our web page under Admin Login and then click “Registration Forms”. Mr. Curtin’s article can be found at www.sacatholicsschools.org/articles/NCEA_Notes_0802.pdf.

Achievement testing (Stanford Achievement Test 10 edition) will take place in the schools March 31-April 16 for all students in grades 1 to 8. It is important that the memo “Critical Dates to Remember” of October 2007 from Harcourt be given to the test coordinator in order that essential information is known by that person. **All test materials are scheduled to be picked up by Federal Express on Thursday, April 17, 2008. Please have your completed documents in sealed boxes in the school’s front office by 8:00 am on April 17th.** If you have any questions, please call Margaret Martinez at (210)-339-8170 or 1-800-228-0752 ext. 8170.

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CURRICULUM CONT...

The Archdiocesan Science Fair was held on Friday, February 27th at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Bridget Sharp was the coordinator for the event which had 20 schools and 80 students participating. I would like to say thank you to everyone who participated and express my appreciation to Bridget Sharp for coordinating the event.

<p>The Winners Are:</p> <p>Best of Show Benjamin Bailey, OLPH</p>	<p>6th Grade</p> <p>1st Benjamin Bailey, <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i></p> <p>2nd Danny Fleming, <i>St. Pius X</i></p> <p>3rd Heather Sulaica, <i>Holy Spirit</i></p> <p>4th Matthew Gaston, <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i></p>
<p>7th Grade</p> <p>1st Kate Ewald, <i>St. Monica</i></p> <p>2nd Valerie Wood, <i>St. Monica</i></p> <p>3rd Ignacio Sunderland, <i>Rolling Hills Academy</i></p>	<p>8th Grade</p> <p>1st Jessica Bell/Keli Tolan, <i>St. Pius X</i></p> <p>2nd Jessenia Gonzalez, <i>Blessed Sacrament</i></p> <p>3rd Sabrina Brivich, <i>St. Monica</i></p> <p>4th Gabrielle Harden, <i>Blessed Sacrament</i></p>

Surveys regarding the Region 20 Technology Integration In-Services were emailed to you last week. The deadline for your responses is February 29. Please email them to elisa.estrada@archdiososa.org or fax to 210-734-9112.

DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING

2nd Annual El Día de los Niños Celebration will be celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower, Sunday, April 27, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It will begin with an opening ceremony and an ecumenical blessing, followed by informative outreach and family friendly activities. We are hoping to honor six children that have contributed to our community in five areas: social service, health, sports, gardening and art during this event. Please contact Robert Briseno Jr. for the nomination form. He can be reached at 210-340-1664, 210-212-2500 ext. 6716 or by email rbrj@myway.com or rbrisen@chshel.org.

This event is designed to act as a catalyst for youth development by providing a fun and exciting venue for families to enjoy a day out and engage with their San Antonio community. The celebration is centered on the needs and interests of our youth to include but not limited to; education, social and health services, volunteerism, sports, arts, gardening and so much more

Upcoming Grants and due dates:

Myra Stafford Pryor Charitable	March 31
The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation	May 15
The John G. and Maria Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation	April 1
Faye L. and William L. Cowden Charitable Trust	March 31
Genevieve and Ward Orsinger Foundation (letter of inquiry)	April 15
Frank J. Lewis Foundation	April
Jack H. and William M. Light Charitable Trust	April 30
Cecilia Young Willard Helping Fund	May 31
George W. Brackenridge Foundation	No deadline
Meadows Foundation	No deadline

PERSONNEL

Ministry Agreements for 2008-09 will be ready by the end of next week. They will be sent to you with the appropriate cover letters and explanation of revisions.

Personnel Changes - If you have made any changes to your staff (employees leaving or new employees) since the school year started, please remember to submit the *Personnel Changes* form to **Ramón A. Guerra** as soon as possible. Also, criminal background clearance must have been secured **prior to** allowing a new employee to begin work.

Dates to Note for Parish and Archdiocesan Schools – Before March 15th the teacher must submit a written questionnaire of intent on the form provided by the Department of Catholic Schools. **By April 15th** the principal will provide written notification concerning ministry agreements for the following year. (*Handbook of Policies and Regulations for Catholic Schools, #3506*) Please adjust your planning to make sure you follow the policy and meet the required timeline.

Ministry Openings – As you become aware of teacher openings for 2008-2009, we will be happy to post those on the DCS website. Please e-mail openings to Ramón A. Guerra and then send a notice when the position has been filled so that it can be removed from the website.

Teacher Fair 2008 will take place on Saturday, April 5th at Our Lady of the Lake University Wellness Center, 411 SW 24th Street, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Make plans to attend. Registration forms were mailed out on Friday, February 1st. **Registration deadline is Friday March 7th.**

English as a New Language Program (ENL program) – The ENL program is a one-year program through which a previously licensed Catholic school teacher receives an additional license from the State of Indiana to teach English as a new language (also referred to as ESL). This year's summer courses begin Thursday, July 11th and conclude Friday, July 25th. The students continue their coursework with two online classes each in the fall and spring semesters, totaling 18 hours. The cost of the entire year is \$4,000, which includes two weeks room and board. **There are also generous scholarships available** for those teachers demonstrating financial need and for recognition of the years of service to Catholic schools.

HEALTH

Health Screening Workshop Dates for the Upcoming Semester at ESC-20.

Vision:	April 14 from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Hearing:	April 21 from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Spinal:	May 6 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Acanthosis:	May 6 from 1-3 p.m.

The Jan-Aug 2008 ESC-20 School Health Brochure with the complete list of workshops has been sent out. Contact Cassity Gutierrez, M.S., Educational Specialist, School Health & Homeless Education Programs, at (210) 370-5489, cassity.gutierrez@esc20.net for more information or to be placed on the emailing list.

Health Coordinators' Meeting – The spring gathering of all school health coordinators and nurses will be Wednesday, April 2nd, at 1:00 in Room 102 of the Pastoral Center. Please send the name of the person who will attend to Elisa Estrada by March 21 at Elisa.Estrada@archdiossa.org. Every school is asked to send a participant.

Wellness Committee Evaluation – According to the Wellness Policy, (#4810): “Schools will implement the Wellness Policy by developing local school goals based on the Guidelines for Implementing the Wellness Policy. A Wellness Committee will annually evaluate compliance with the Wellness Policy and local school goals. That evaluation will be shared with the Superintendent.” As we approach the 4th quarter, this is a reminder to be sure that your Wellness Committee has a plan for that annual evaluation and has begun to discuss goals for 2008-09.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

Needs Assessment – As you prepare your assessment for the use of 2008-2009 federal funds, please remember to include library media materials in your needs. The assessment deadline is **Friday, April 4th**.

Summer 2008 Teacher-to-Teacher Workshop – Private school teachers are invited to participate in FREE high-quality professional development through the U.S. Department of Education's *Teacher Workshops*. These *Teacher Workshops* are an outgrowth of the Department's *Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative*, which was designed by teachers for teachers in order to provide technical support, professional development opportunities, and recognition for teachers of all content areas and grade levels. For more information visit <http://www.t2tweb.us/Workshops/About.asp>.

Regional Summits on Innovations in Education – The Center for *Faith-Based and Community Initiatives* and the *Office of Innovation and Improvement* will conduct two regional summits to highlight educational innovation s throughout the eastern seaboard. The summits will be held in Columbia, South Carolina and Newark, New Jersey and will showcase educational options at the local level and seek to empower community leaders and parents with information, ideas and successful models that can be replicated elsewhere.

Summit dates and locations:

Columbia, South Carolina

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (registration begins at 8:00 am.)

Columbia Metropolitan convention Center

Newark, New Jersey

Thursday, March 13, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (registration begins at 8:00 a.m.)

Robert Treat Hotel Conference Center

For additional information on the summits, call (202) 219-1741.

Non-Public School Workshops:

Coaching Students and/or Teachers for Success

Date: 3/15/08 (Saturday)

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Region XX Conference Center, 1314 Hines

Contact: Jayme Presley

Phone: (210) 370-5429

TECHNOLOGY

Phishing: I have received several calls about emails being received that ask recipients to log on to websites to give information. The email might say it is from the IRS, a bank, eBay or PayPal. These are phishing scams. Phishing is an online scam used to commit identity theft. A fraudulent, but official-looking e-mail is sent to a user in an attempt to con that user into divulging personal and/or private information, which is then used for identity theft.

Phishers spam huge numbers of users with a seemingly credible e-mail that instructs the user to visit a Web site (also fraudulent) where they are prompted to enter or update their personal or private information (such as passwords and credit card, social security, and bank account numbers). Phishers also use pop-ups to try and scam users into entering sensitive information.

continued...

TECHNOLOGY CONT...

What actually happens, to the trusting users who submit this information in response to a Phishing attempt, is that identity thieves steal the user's information and their accounts are emptied.

Phishing got its name from the idea that bait is cast out among many fish, some of which actually bite, become hooked and are reeled in.

Steps you can take to protect your personal data online:

- * Do not reply to any e-mail asking to verify your personal data. You will find that legitimate vendors and merchants do not send such requests via e-mail.
- * Contact your merchant right away to ask for clarification of such e-mails. (This will also make them more aware of the range of such problems.)
- * Never divulge information, such as passwords and credit card, social security, and bank account numbers, to anyone making contact with you. Only give such information when you initiate a service call, and only do so with trusted sources and where appropriate.
- * Use anti-virus software and/or firewalls on every computer you own/use. Remember that children are easy prey to the 'just click here' tactic.
- * Stay up to date with current scams and always [report suspicious activity](#).

(Information from www.wiredsafety.org)

We are still looking for a "Few Good Quotes". I would like to place miscellaneous quotes from students and teachers on the home page of www.sacatholicschools.org. They would be used to promote Catholic education.

Greg Zaragoza, National Hispanic Scholar, Central Catholic High School:

"I was dropped off by my parents at Central Catholic four years ago, unsure and a bit afraid of what was to come. I soon will leave on my own with more knowledge, courage, character, optimism and pride than I've ever had before."

Natalie Uy, National Merit Semi-finalist Scholar, Antonian College Preparatory High School:

"A Catholic education has helped develop my faith as a Catholic. I feel that I understand my faith more deeply and have grown closer to God. My Catholic faith is and always will be my guide."

Be sure to get your school included in these quotes. Email quotes to gschnuriger@archdiosa.org. Be sure to obtain permission to publish the student's or teacher's name and quote on the web.

Surfing News:

Wikivid – This is a site that contains lots of free instructional videos for all kinds of application programs. For example, I found some good videos to help me get started using GIMP which is essentially a free, Open Source program similar to Photoshop. (<http://wikivid.com>)

National Council of Women in Technology (<http://NCWIT.org>) is worth checking out. There a committed group has some exciting classroom materials and even a kit available to encourage girls to become involved in IT careers.

The United States Mint H.I.P. Pocket Change™ Web site was launched in July 1999. H.I.P. Pocket Change is a fun educational tool for students and teachers that generates interest in coins, the United States Mint, and U.S. history. The site is full of great plans, guides and ideas. (<http://www.usmint.gov/kids/>)

CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE

April 5 “Discover the Big Picture of the Bible” with Jeff Cavins

EVENTS

Mar. 1 Joint Library Workshop, UTSA Institute of Texas Cultures, San Antonio, 8:30am-12:30pm

Library Managers Development Program - **CANCELLED** - To allow for attendance at Joint Library Workshop.

Mar. 3 - 5 ACRE administered to all 5th, 8th, and 12th grade students

April 2 Health Coordinators/Nurses Meeting, 1:00 – 3:30 pm, Archdiocesan Pastoral Center room 102

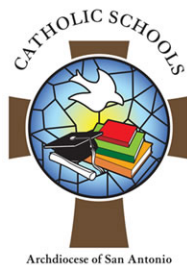
MARCH DUE DATES:

5 Nominations for “Red McCombs School House Award” PIE Program to Joann Gawlik

21 Registration for Health Coordinators/ Nurses’ meeting

APRIL DUE DATES:

1 2008-09 Proposed Budget (parish and archdiocesan schools)



The information in this DCS Newsletter is for the use of the administrators, faculty, councils and pastors.
Principals are requested to forward information to appropriate persons.