

November 30, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I and the staff hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Thank you very much to those families who were able to take in our boarders who needed a home. The girls came back to school refreshed.

The Academy of the Holy Family Concert Choir and Jazz Choir will present its annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 11th, at 2:00 p.m. in St. Michael Center. The program will end with a live Nativity tableaux. There is no cost and we would appreciate having a great audience for our choirs who practice so much for this event. Please come.

Sr. Mercedes will soon work with each student to sign up for semester two courses. Some new courses will be offered: Basics of Sewing, International Cooking , Survival 101 (formerly Life Skills), World Cultures and The 21st Century Woman. When I have the course descriptions for these classes I will send them to you.

Please be sure to check our website for the tuition schedule for the next few years. Click on admissions and then choose which category fits your daughter. It is good to plan ahead.

Some parents are unaware of an element of Edline. When you check your daughter's grades, please be aware that the average in the upper left hand is the average of the entire year. It is not the report card grade. Scroll down until "Quarter One Subtotal" is visible. This average is the Quarter One report card average. If you have other questions, please email Mr. Massad at gmassad@yahoo.com or use the Edline help button.

Congratulations to those who made the basketball teams. The boarders attend the homegames and parents are invited to attend games. The basketball schedule may be found at http://stats.ciacsports.com/cgi-bin/schedule-1112.cgi?school=AcademyoftheHolyFamily&fonts=&heads=&sport=girls-basketball&combine_time_results=1&show_bus_info=1. This link is on our athletics page of our website.

We are proud of our girls who volunteer for various activities. This weekend the cups attacking tournament is taking place on Saturday in our gym. Participants from other states are attending. Other students are going to wait on the Baltic Seniors for their Senior Christmas Party. Two boarders have volunteered to assist Sr. Jacinta with the Share-a-Day, an event for younger girls.

Congratulations to our students who made the honors list:

Principal's List- Isabella Gauthier, Bridget Holte, Rain Kahsu, Karime Martinez, Bethany Meunier, Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Sarah Roberts, Clare Shoup, Micala Smith, Hannah Steinke

First Honors- Joanna Cataldo, Mary Harrison, Yuna Jun, Kelsey Wilson, Tiffany Yung

Second Honors- Nicole Arias, Amy Huang, Michelle Magloire, Sarah Majewski, Melisa Perez, Mary Roberts, Emma Newcombe-Rogers, Kara Sinko, Jackie Torres, Victoria Torres, Kirstie Wendorf, Alicia Wessel

Our security system should be completely installed today. There are cameras throughout the dorms, as is done in most colleges, and the perimeter doors on the first floor, and several other doors, are alarmed. One girl told me she feels safer with this, so that no-one can get in the building. We are also able to play back nightly activity within the dorm, should the girls be up after hours.

December 4th the Teens in Action Club is sponsoring a "Fill the Bus" event at the Lisbon WalMart. Shoppers donate items for the food pantry our Sisters run for the poor. Students sign up with Mrs. Rehberg to participate.

Our students and staff members have picked names so they can be Secret Santas to each other. At our Christmas Party the final gifts are distributed by seniors dressed as Mr. and Mrs. Santa and elves. Before the party, throughout Advent, little notes are left for their person. The final gift is about \$10.

Our boarders have the opportunity to go to the Mashantucket Museum this Saturday. The cost is \$8 and they will bring a bag lunch. The following Saturday is an optional trip to NYC. The travel cost is \$15 and the girls will need to bring spending money for food and purchased items.

Senior boarders are allowed to order in Chinese food or pick up pizza from Sharkey's on Wednesday nights. This is a privilege for seniors. Boarders who are on the Principal's List may have their evening study hall in their dorm. There is not a Sister proctoring the dorm; the girls are operating on a trust level for this privilege.

Regarding our boarders who have tickets for Christmas vacation and are unable to change them, they are sleeping in the dorms until the 15th. Such arrangements have already been made with Sr. Mary Sarah. Sister asks that parents of the boarders who use the train read her flyer, which is on the next page, and adhere to the regulations. Thanks so much. We are low on drivers.



CHRISTMAS VACATION TRAIN SCHEDULE:

All Students taking the train from Old Saybrook for Christmas vacation will leave on December 14th. The schedule is as follows:

December 14th:

Depart from Old Saybrook at 4:50 pm

Arrive in Grand Central at 7:18 pm

Return January 3rd:

Depart from Grand Central at 1:34 pm

Arrive in Old Saybrook at 4:07 pm

Please contact Sister Mary Sarah if there are any questions or concerns.

God bless you and have a blessed Christmas.

During Catholic Schools Week, which is the last week of January, many activities are sponsored by the Student Council. One is multi-cultural day. We ask that students bring in a dish that reflects her culture or ethnicity, as well as costumes. Also, students have done a presentation about various customs, songs, etc. from their culture. Please remind your daughters and help them to prepare. The boarders bring costumes and recipes from home and use our cooking room to make their dish. The day is enjoyable for all. When the activities for the week are finalized they will be published on our website.

The National Art Honor Society is sponsoring BeadforLife at lunch and after school. Their website, beadforlife.org says that

BeadforLife is a Colorado 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. On our website, you'll find fascinating stories about our inspiring [members](#) who work in Uganda. Our members are impoverished, hardworking and intelligent women with a strong desire to improve their lives. Our members in Kampala and Iganga make beautiful handcrafted paper beads from recycled paper and turn them into [necklaces](#), [bracelets](#) and [earrings](#). While the farmers in Otuke collect the finest quality shea nuts which they sell to BeadforLife. The shea nuts get pressed into [Shea Butter Soap](#) and [Peppermint Lip Balm](#).

[Click here to see how a bead is rolled](#)

[Click here to see how shea butter is made](#)

Our goal is for our members to be independent of BeadforLife within 18 months by being able to support themselves within the Ugandan economy. To assist members in launching their own small businesses or in creating new revenue streams, we provide entrepreneurial training, facilitate savings accounts, and make business funds available. In the rural areas our program focuses on agricultural development.

BeadforLife sponsors Community Development projects in health, vocational training for impoverished youth, affordable housing, and business development. These projects are financed with the net profits from the sale of the beads and shea butter products and support not only our members, but other impoverished people living in Uganda. [See how many people we have touched in our first years.](#)

As you can see, this is a very worthwhile activity. The students and public purchase the jewelry which helps the poor. The beads that are not purchased will be returned Jan. 22-23. BeadsforLife has become a tradition at our school.

We are looking for students who play and have musical instruments and would like to get together to join us in playing some Christmas music together. There will be two practices and the students and they will be able to have the sheet music to practice.

Thanks for all you do for our school. It would be helpful if you know girls who would be a good match for AHF, that you recommend the Academy of the Holy Family. I and the staff wish you all a Blessed Christmas!

In Jesus and Mary, Sr. Loreto