

Rejoice



December 17, 2019

Dear Madeleine Parents,

Advent is a season of great joy as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. This weekend, we celebrated Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent. Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". We lit the rose candle on the Advent wreath as an expression of our joy. Let's continue to prepare our minds, as well as our hearts, to rejoice His coming in a spirit of gratitude. We eagerly anticipate the great gift of the birth of the Christ Child. He came to be our hope, our light, and our way to the Father.

Thank you all for the depth and richness of your faith and for all you do for School of the Madeleine to make it a special place where God's love is celebrated in Word and Sacrament. The faith and love I see in your child(ren) as we celebrate liturgies as a school community touches me deeply. I encourage you to continue to nourish this by attending Sunday Mass as a family.

*The teachers and staff at School of the Madeleine
wish you a Blessed Christmas and
a New Year filled with Peace and Joy!*

There are five important religious feast days and celebrations during the month of January: The **Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord and Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God** on January 1; the **Epiphany of the Lord** on January 5; the **Baptism of the Lord** on January 12; Saint Agnes on January 21; and **Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church** on January 28.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARCO TRONE

Marco Trone, (7B) won The Missionary Association award for his outstanding drawing for the Christian Art Work Contest for 2018-2019. He was invited to receive his award at The Basilica in Washington, D.C. Congratulations, Marco!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALUMNUS, MATTHEW ROWLAND

Matthew Rowland, senior at Cathedral Catholic High School, was installed as an Eagle Scout in November at a special ceremony. Congratulations, Matthew!

CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN

Our third graders took on a service project last year to help raise money for a new kitchen. Please take time to view the beautiful video from the children in Kenya, Africa emailed to you earlier this week. The video is a special thank you from the children in Kenya. Watch with your family. The video and newsletter can also be found on *SchoolSpeak*.

CHRISTMAS VACATION

Friday, December 20 is a **minimum day**. Students will be dismissed at noon from the church. Christmas vacation this year will begin on Monday, December 23. We return back to school on Monday, January 6.

STAR TESTING

Students in grades first through eighth will be completing their second testing period for STAR Testing from **January 13** through **January 31, 2020**. Students in kindergarten will be testing during the week of **January 27**. The parent letter from this testing period will be sent home on **Wednesday, February 5**. Please try to have your child at school on his/her testing days.

IMPORTANCE OF FUNDRAISERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Fundraisers are a very important element to the financial health of all schools. At Madeleine, we have a special PSA fundraiser budget that provides money for designated purposes. Some of these areas are teacher aides, recess equipment, teacher bonuses, library materials, technology, student awards, educational materials, and maintenance projects. These are only some of the items allocated to the PSA. Every item that is paid by fundraising money is a savings to the school budget, and therefore, to our families by keeping tuition increases down. Please support our fundraisers and volunteer your services to help our dedicated chairs.

PSA RAFFLE

The PSA Raffle tickets were sent home on December 6 with your oldest/only child. This is the only mandatory fundraiser every family is committed to participate in to make your PSA Commitment. Every family is responsible for selling six tickets at \$10.00 each. Any additional tickets sold beyond the required six can be applied to your PSA Commitment at fifty percent. The drawing will take place during Catholic Schools Week on Tuesday, January 28. Extra raffle tickets are available in the school's office. Sell extra tickets to your friends and family over the Christmas break. The raffle tickets need to be turned in on January 21.

ONLINE AUCTION

The Main Event Online Auction will be held on February 10-23, 2020. Our volunteer team has been busy obtaining a lot of exciting items for auction — whether you like to eat out or dine in, shop, travel or have staycations, we will have something for you!

To support the Online Auction and other fundraising efforts this year, each Madeleine family is asked to source or provide a new item with a value of \$50 or more to be used in one of our fundraisers. Items can be a cash donation, gift card, or other tangible item.

Families are encouraged to reach out to the community to obtain a donated item with a value of \$50 or higher. Think of the places you like to shop, eat, or visit. Reach out to the customer relations team or owner of that business and ask if they'd be willing to donate something in support of the School of Madeleine fundraising activities. You can find a letter template that you can use to help solicit donations, as well as the donation form that should be used for all donations on *SchoolSpeak*.

Families that purchase or secure a donated item that can be auctioned for the 2019-2020 school year will receive one free dress pass for each student in your family. Please note, auction item procurement is optional for this school year but will become part of each family's fundraising commitment for the 2020-2021 school year. Family participation in this effort helps ease the burden of our procurement teams.

Donations can be turned into the School of the Madeleine office. Please use the donation form attached so that we can track appropriately and make sure to reference your family number. Please mark envelopes or packages clearly with Attn: Online Auction Donations. All items need to be delivered before December 20.

MAIN EVENT 2020! COME ONE, COME ALL!

A special thank you to our co-chairs for this year's main event: ***Susan Cuttitta, Claire Dahlen, Janel Divona and Megan Eacret.*** This is an evening celebrating our school community on Saturday, March 14, 2020 at BRICK in Liberty Station. Look on *SchoolSpeak* for underwriting forms and ticket information about this exciting event.

Another special thank you to the Main Event's first sponsor: **Lewis Wise & San Diego Galvanizing** for sponsoring the first champagne toast!

Invitations will be sent home before Christmas break. There will be a **1-day FLASH SALE – January 1, 2020**. You don't want to miss out! Tickets will be on sale for \$99.00 one day only! Hope to see you there!

PROSPECTIVE NEW FAMILIES

As we plan for our second **Open House (January 12)** and **enrollment for the coming school year**, we recognize that in the past, some of our **best families have come through referrals**. If you know of a family who has expressed interest in a Catholic education, please let them know about the Open House and share their information with us. **Fill out the referral form** which can be found on *SchoolSpeak*. A special effort will be made to invite them to our open house, offer them private tours during the school day, and help them through the application process.

NEW FAMILY APPLICATIONS AND OPEN HOUSE

Applications for new families are being accepted for the 2020-2021 school year. New families can download the applications from our website, pick one up at the school office or from the container on the front security gate, or call the school office to have one mailed.

Our **second Open House** is on **Sunday, January 12, 2020**. The school will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Teachers will be available at this time and classroom work will be on display. Student artwork will be exhibited in the office hallway. Our **Art Show** will start on that Sunday and go through Thursday, January 23. **Please invite any new families** who are interested in coming to Madeleine next year. All are welcome!

Returning families are also invited to come to the Open House. It is a fun day to check out your child(ren)'s next year's classroom to see what they can look forward to learning.

If you are interested in posting a yard sign regarding the open house or in helping to give tours during the open house, please call the school office. We will provide you with talking points for the tour.

On **Thursday, January 23**, there is a kindergarten new parent meeting in the parish hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. If you know anyone who is interested in learning more about our unique developmental kindergarten, please encourage them to attend.

DONS CHRISTMAS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to our four boys' basketball teams for participating in the Dons Christmas Basketball Tournament sponsored by Cathedral Catholic High School. The 6th grade boys took 1st place in the JV Gold bracket in a double overtime victory.

Congratulations to their coaches, **Dave Balkenbush** and **Darren Bayless**. The 7th grade varsity team took second place in the Varsity Silver bracket. Congratulations to their coaches, **John Dorris** and **Greg Wickstrand**. I'm proud of these young men for representing Madeleine so well.

MORNING DROP-OFF

Morning drop off continues to go well. I have a couple of requests to make the process run more efficiently. First, please do not get out of your car to help your child. Your child(ren) should be old enough to open the door, grab his/her backpack, and exit the car him/herself. If your child is not old enough to handle the process, then you should be driving them up to the parking lot to help them exit the car. Secondly, if you are the last car in the drop off line, hold your child inside until you can move up to the first spot at the top of the zone. This will help the line move more smoothly.

Thanks to those who have been helping as greeters: *Cecy Brígida*, *Pat* and *Addie Cowan*, and *Lisa Lieb*. Even if you are only able to help occasionally, it makes a huge difference to the process.

BOTTOM OF THE HILL PICK-UP

I continue to discourage you to have your child(ren) meet you at the bottom of the hill where Illion and Gardena intersect. If you feel it is still necessary, ask your children to wait at the crest of the hill until they see you are at the bottom. Your children should only walk down the hill when they see you are present. If a parent is parked down at the bottom of the hill before 2:30 p.m., that parent may walk to the corner and wave to their child(ren) to walk down. Parents who have child(ren) waiting at the crest may call them on their cell phones (please only after 2:50 p.m.) to inform them that they are down at the bottom of the hill. If any students are waiting on the crest of the hill and not picked up by 3:00 p.m., they will be sent to the school office to ensure their safety. You may pick them up there. **For the safety of your child(ren), please follow these rules!**

BE GOOD TO OUR NEIGHBORS

Please be good neighbors and do not block the intersection of Illion Street and Gardena as you are waiting to come up the hill for drop-off in the morning or pick-up at the end of the school day. Neighbors trying to go through the intersection become frustrated when our parents are blocking their way. Please be considerate.

Also, please do not **block or park in anyone's driveway**. Driveways are private property and parking in them or blocking the entrance is not considerate. I don't believe many of us would like that happening in our own home.

I'm also asking you to never park or block the driveway entrance to the school. The driveway is our only emergency entrance to the school and should never be blocked by a parked car.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NIGHT WITH UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

The Office for Schools is inviting all schools to attend the USD vs **Santa Clara** basketball game during Catholic Schools Week on Saturday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jenny Craig Pavilion. See the ticket form available on *SchoolSpeak*. Let's see how well Madeleine students can represent!

RAINY-DAY LUNCH SUPERVISION

On rainy days, we always need extra parents for lunch duty to cover the classrooms. On these days, it is all right to come without calling the office ahead of time if you have been cleared to volunteer at the school. When you arrive on campus, check in at the

school office and then report to Coach O'Neal or Coach Martinez at the P.E. office. They will give you a classroom assignment. You will receive **two service points** for each rainy-day lunch supervision.

Please remember that if it is raining hard at dismissal time, you may pick up your child **early**. This means that you do not have to check your child out at the office if you pick up your child after 2:30 p.m. in their classroom. This rainy-day policy will help alleviate traffic, help small students stay dry, and will create a safer dismissal environment. We do encourage all parents to send their children to school with an umbrella on school days when rain is forecast. Raincoats with hoods are allowed on campus but are not to be worn in the classroom. Please be sure your child(ren) have the school sweatshirt or jacket to wear in the classroom.

TUITION ASSISTANCE for 2020-2021

Applications for tuition assistance (TADS Program) for the **2020-2021 school year** are available during the month of December. All applications must be completed on-line and completed to the TADS Organization (www.mytads.com) by **Thursday, January 9**. It will take 6 to 8 weeks for this organization to return a report to us with their recommendations. If you are presently a parent of a **returning student, kindergarten through eighth grades, whose family** is in good financial standing with the school, you are eligible to apply.

The **Diocesan Tuition Assistance Fund** (formerly the Bishop Flores Tuition Assistance Program) has been restructured and is only available to families who have been recipients this year.

Schools and families will be notified in late March or early April. If you are going to apply for tuition assistance through TADS and the Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program, apply for both at the same time. You will only be charged one application fee instead of a fee for both if you apply separately.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Special prayers requested for *Jessica Lugo*, mother of Jelena, (5B) who has finally received a recipient for her kidney transplant. Her surgery is scheduled for January 7. Please continue healing prayers for *John Nolan*, father of Gabrielle, (3B).

Please follow us on Twitter @sdmadeleine and like us on Facebook at School of the Madeleine @SchooloftheMadeleine. Share our links with your friends about our Open House on January 12, 2020.

Please continue to **thank** your child(ren)'s teachers. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated and hard-working teachers at School of the Madeleine!

God bless,

Jean

Jean Coleman
Principal

Thank you:

Price Family—for Grandma Price’s delicious homemade spanakopita for the office staff.

Paola Gistaro—for the delicious brownies for the office staff.

Bacich Family—for the delicious homemade pumpkin bread for the office staff at Thanksgiving.

Bayne Family— for the wonderful cinnamon rolls, Christmas cookies, and Jamba juice gift cards for the office.

Deirdre Brennan—for the homemade pepper jelly for the office staff and for the coffee, creamer, and Ziploc bags.

Robles Family—for the large tray of beautiful Christmas cookies for the teachers.

Juliana Stabile and family—for the delicious tray of homemade Christmas treats for the office staff.

Tara O’Neal—for the delicious homemade Christmas cookies.

Jackson Dewey and family—for the Christmas cakes for the office.

LaPoint family—for the tin of Belgian chocolate cookies.

Brigida family—for the box of Godiva chocolates.



School News

VIRTUE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY IS FAITHFULNESS

A virtue is a good habit that enables us to act according to right reason or enlightened faith. For the month of January our virtue is *Faithfulness*. Faithfulness means believing firmly and devoutly in one's beliefs. Being faithful means to be consistently trustworthy and loyal to one's faith. It includes the ability to keep a promise and be courageous in acting out one's values. A person who has faithfulness is consistent and reliable in their beliefs and actions; delivers what they have promised; is courageous in carrying out their task; and do not betray the trust of God or their friends.

RE-REGISTRATION FOR 2020-2021

Madeleine family re-registration was due December 2, 2019. There are many families that still have not re-registered their children for next school year.

If you have not sent in your form(s) and \$90.00 re-registration fee to the school office, please do so promptly. Completing the form(s) and paying the family re-registration is a necessary step in securing your child's enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year.

Re-registration forms were mailed to your home in November. If you did not receive your re-registration forms in the mail, please visit the school office to pick up these forms or request these forms be sent home with your child. A re-registration form must be completed and signed for each child in the family. If your child will not be attending next school year, we will still need your signed re-registration form with the appropriate box selected.

MADELEINE FAMILY SIBLING APPLICATIONS 2020-2021

Applications packets for Madeleine family siblings entering grades K-7 next fall are available in the school office. You may stop by the office and pick up the application packet, or call the school office to have one sent home with your child.

Applications are also being accepted now for new families. They can be downloaded from the school's website or picked up from the school office.

School of the Madeleine
1875 Illion St.
San Diego, CA 92110
(619) 276-6545

Dear Parents,

We are concerned about the health of all the children at school especially during the cold and flu season. In order to keep our students, teachers, staff and parents healthy, we ask our families to please review the following guidelines. If your child is sick, please allow time for your child to get well before they return to school. Let's Stay Healthy!

Sick Child Guidelines

Students should not attend school if:

- ✓ The student has a temperature. The student may return to school after having a normal temperature for at least 24 hours while not taking any fever reducing medications (ex. Tylenol or Motrin).
- ✓ Antibiotics are prescribed. The student may return to school after taking the antibiotics for a minimum of 24 hours and without a temperature over 100 degrees F for at least 24 hours without taking any fever reducing medications.
- ✓ They seem tired/lethargic, pale, with little appetite, and generally "not him/herself".
- ✓ The student is vomiting. The student may return to school approximately 24 hours after symptoms resolve, and is able to tolerate a normal diet.
- ✓ The student has diarrhea. The student may return to school approximately 24 hours after symptoms resolve, and is able to tolerate a normal diet.
- ✓ The student is diagnosed with a communicable disease or illness. (ex: Influenza, Pneumonia, Strep Throat, Conjunctivitis, Pertussis, head lice, Chicken pox (Varicella), impetigo, scabies).
- ✓ The student has an undiagnosed rash. A rash may be indicative of many things, frequently of illnesses that are contagious. Therefore, a student will be excluded from school until a physician evaluates and determines the nature and contagiousness of the rash. A note is required from the physician upon return to school.
- ✓ The student has severe cold symptoms, upper respiratory infection, a persistent cough, a runny nose that they cannot manage by themselves and/or contain with tissues, or other symptoms that would interfere with effective school participation.

Remember The 24 Hour Rule Of Thumb!

Students may return to school after the following:

- ✓ **24 hours without temperature** (and without taking fever reducing medications such as Tylenol or Advil/Motrin)
- ✓ **24 hours without nausea, vomiting, diarrhea** (and tolerating a normal diet)
- ✓ **24 hours of receiving medication** (such as antibiotics, eye ointments)

If your child still seems tired, pale, with little appetite, not tolerating solid foods, and generally "not him/herself", PLEASE do not send him/her to school. Some viral illnesses may take longer before your child is well enough to return to school.

The Importance of Good Hand Washing

Studies have shown that school absenteeism due to illness is reduced when children practice good hand washing. Please teach, model, and encourage your child to wash their hands frequently and especially after coughing or sneezing, before and after meals, after using the bathroom, and after playing outside. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze!



December Class News

KINDERGARTEN

This month kindergarten has focused on the birth of Jesus and the nativity. All of our projects have centered around the joy and GLITTER of this season. We had a wonderful time. We went around the world learning about Holiday customs from Sweden, Russia, Mexico, Canada, Germany and Italy to name a few. Each class loved having the Elf on the Shelf visit their classrooms. Behavior and work quality improved because the students knew the elf was reporting back to Santa each night. Those elves did some CRAZY things in our rooms.

In math we have continued to learn about numbers but have also started exploring addition. We even designed candy canes with different patterns.

We spent so much time practicing for our Christmas Program and hope to see you all Thursday December 19th at 1:30. These children sang and danced their hearts out for baby Jesus. We hope you enjoyed their show.

We wish you a Christmas season filled with joy and love.

FIRST GRADE

Christmas is almost here, the Birthday of Our Savior! The children await with joyful expectation! We have been very busy, preparing for our Christmas Program to present to our parents, and friends! We hope our program filled you with the Christmas Spirit, and "Inspired" you with the "true meaning" of Christmas! We have been reading about the preparations, and sacrifices the Holy Family had to make on their journey to Bethlehem! There was no room for them in the Inn, so the Son of God was born in a stable! We also celebrated two Feasts of Our Blessed Mother-the Immaculate Conception, and Our Lady of Guadalupe, on December 12th. The children are learning about the purity of Her love, and the Humility with which she carried the God Man in her womb, and the Motherly care She has for each one of us! We have been doing a lot of writing, using our imaginations, with winter and Christmas themes! The children have been busy elves finishing projects to fill their classroom with the Christmas Spirit!!

SECOND GRADE

This past month 2nd graders have been hard at work mastering the huge milestone of double digit subtraction with regrouping like champions! Practicing together for our special Christmas pageant show has been a lot of fun as it is always good to have both classes working together. We also collaborated on our service project this month collecting money for Rady Children's Hospital. Our 2nd grade sponsored jeans day raised \$555 for the cause. As readers we have worked on drawing conclusions, comparing and contrasting, and identifying the author's purpose using text evidence to support our thinking as we read stories about communication and creative problem solving. We have concluded our first Science unit of study on plants and animals absorbing all we could about living things and the how they survive and adapt in their specific habitats. We wish all our families a very blessed Christmas as we look ahead to the excitement of all the learning we will attack come January 2020.

THIRD GRADE

Happy Holidays Everyone! During the month of December third graders have been learning multiplication facts, writing animal reports, and creating dioramas for our favorite Newberry Award book. We are preparing for Jesus' birth this Advent season by collecting blankets for people in need, praying often, and being kinder to others. We have been rehearsing for our Christmas program and having fun! Finally, we will be Christmas caroling around the school. We hope to bring Christmas cheer to everyone at Madeleine. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, too!

FOURTH GRADE

As we approach the Christmas Season, we wish all the 4th grade families a wonderful time with family and friends as we take time to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

4th grade continues to study many things, even as we enjoy having a Christmas program and other special Christmas activities. Both classes have been reading a lot of non-fiction stories and articles and learning how to answer questions using the text as evidence.

In science, students are learning more about animal adaptation and how the structure of their bodies helps them survive. In Social Studies, we are continuing our study of Father Serra and the California Missions and looking forward to our field trip in January to one of the missions in Oceanside.

God bless, and we will see you in the New Year.

FIFTH GRADE

Happy Holidays! Our 5th grade classes have been doing a lot of good deeds this month. Our students have donated money on the National Day of Giving, for Children's Hospital. Many of our children have been to this hospital and know how important such a facility is to our community. We also sent out Christmas cards to accompany care packages to a Navy Seal unit, so that these heroes can feel the love and support we all feel for them during the holidays away from their families. We are decorating lunch bags to go along with the school wide blanket donations for the homeless. These lunch bags will be filled by a group of OLP and Saints alumni and be delivered to the needy with the blankets next week. Our students really love to help others and it is heartwarming to see them think and pray daily for groups of people that are less fortunate. We will be celebrating our last Mass for the year on Friday, December 20th. The 5th grade will be preparing the readings for the Mass. Please come and join us. We wish you and your families a healthy and happy Christmas. See you in 2020!

SIXTH GRADE

At our November buddy feast, we gathered with our kindergarten friends to celebrate friendship and share our thanks. We will meet with them this week to exchange cards and wish each other a merry Christmas. This Advent, the sixth graders have prepared to welcome Jesus into their hearts at Christmas. Our religion studies include a focus on God's promise to send a Messiah and His fulfillment of this promise. In literature we are working to recognize and identify the main idea and theme of a narrative. In social studies we have begun to focus on Ancient India and will soon be studying about the development of Hinduism. Our current topic in science is volcanoes, and students are starting to work on science fair projects. 6A and 6B are hoping for a wonderful break and a Merry Christmas. We wish you a blessed Christmas season!

SEVENTH GRADE

School of the Madeleine's 7th grade has been quite busy for these past few weeks and here's why! The seventh grade class in literature is reading a book called *The Wednesday Wars*. It is about a boy that is just trying to survive through seventh grade while having to deal with his "perfect life" at home. In social studies, we are learning about the Aztec civilization and how they thrived and were very ahead of their time in agriculture and architecture. In science class, we are learning about evolution and how most modern day animals come from a common ancestor. In Spanish class, we are learning about definite articles like el, la, los, las, and what genders they apply to. In English we are learning our vocab words- how to spell them, when to use them, and how to use them. In computer class, the seventh grade is learning how to make charts and diagrams. We are also using these skills for the science project on fingerprints. In math class (regular) we are learning how to multiply, add, subtract, and divide fractions. In math class (advanced) we are learning proportions and ratios. We are also looking forward to participating in the Christmas Program, and for meeting our little buddies soon! We are all learning and growing as people to become ready for eighth grade and high school.

EIGHTH GRADE

For the month of December, the eighth grade has been very busy doing fun and rewarding activities. We all took part in a service project to help CCSA with their canned food drive by delivering food collection bags to the homes in the Bay Park neighborhood. We have also been practicing very hard on our upcoming Christmas performance, and we really had fun entertaining our families with the rest of the school. The boy's basketball and the girl's soccer teams are starting their practices and will begin the games in January. In religion, we are learning about the effects of the barbaric invasions of Rome and the Great Western Schism. We are also learning contractions and *-ar* verbs in Spanish. In science, we are learning about the thermal energy and heat transfer. In English, we are learning about sentence structure and writing paragraphs. In Mrs. Norman's math class we are learning about ratios and solving real world problems involving proportion, and in Mrs. Vargas's Algebra class, we are solving systems of equations and inequalities. In social studies, we are studying the War of 1812, the Louisiana Purchase, and the early presidents. Finally, many of us have sent in our applications for our high school of choice, and we are working hard to prepare for our placement test. These exciting events have made our December of eighth grade a blast. Merry Christmas!!