



St. Denis – St. Columba School

A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

Family Newsletter



January 2-6, 2023

Thank You From Your Administrative Staff! Thank You From Your Administrative Staff!



Happy New Year! Sr. Kathleen, Mr. Krebs and Ms. Schifini would like to thank all of our SDSC families for their kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity over Christmas. All of your cards, treats, and gifts are very much appreciated. The best gift of all is being a daily part of your children's lives as they grow and learn every day at SDSC! We are blessed to be able to work for such loving families. Thank You!

Christmas Break Ends Tuesday, January 3rd

Happy New Year! Reminder: School resumes Tuesday, January 3rd! We hope you enjoyed your Christmas Break!

AFTER CARE Reservations - Week of January 2nd

[Click HERE to make a reservation for the week of January 2nd](#). **Friday is a half day of school. If you intend to use After Care on Friday, please send your child with a healthy lunch and a drink.** We understand that unexpected circumstances may require you to notify us the day of, but to the extent possible please notify us at least 1 day prior to using the After Care Program. Reservations can be made by notifying Ms. Schifini at lschifini@stcolumba.net or 845-227-7777.



Half Day of School – Friday, January 6th

There will be a half day of school for students on Friday, January 6th. Dismissal will begin after prayers at 11:25 a.m. Busing will be available as usual. After Care is available until 6:00 p.m. Please be sure your child brings a lunch.

Uniform/Personal Appearance Violations

Over the last couple of years because of Covid-19, our students and staff had to endure some difficult conditions at school (e.g. masks, chilly rooms due to ventilation requirements, etc.). During that time we relaxed our school uniform and personal appearance rules to help students feel more comfortable as we navigated the crisis. We are blessed that those environmental and learning challenges no longer exist. Moreover, the classrooms are very warm with the new windows. As a result, we will be returning to strict enforcement of uniform and personal appearance rules.

If a student is found in violation of Parent-Student handbook regulations for uniforms, a written notice will be sent home for a parent/guardian to sign. Multiple violations can result in disciplinary action. In this New Year, we ask that you, as parents and guardians, help us to ensure that your children come to school in the proper uniform.

- **Sweatshirts will no longer be permitted to be worn inside classrooms except on gym days.** The classrooms are warm and the extra layer is not needed. Many students were not wearing their school sweaters beneath them.
- Colored nail polish is **never** permitted. Only a natural **clear** coat on fingernails is permitted.
- Boys must **always** wear a tie under their sweaters.
- Long or dangling earrings are **not** permitted for safety reasons. Girls may wear posts or small close-to-ear-earrings.
- Sneakers are only to be worn on gym days. **Black sneakers are not permitted as a substitute for dress shoes.**
- Girls' skirts must not be higher than 2 inches above the knee. As they grow taller, they need longer skirts!

It's January: DRESS for OUTDOOR Weather!

Fresh air and exercise are critical to our students' well-being. Students go outside for physical education sometimes and recess each day, except during inclement weather. Please be sure that your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves, scarf, and boots for the snow, etc. as appropriate to keep them warm. Also, please label your child's clothing as the Lost and Found tends to fill up during the winter months with unlabeled clothing. Girls may wear tights, heavy knee high socks and warm shorts under their skirts/jumpers to keep warm.





Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – Monday, January 9th

We will have a school-wide Mass celebrating the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Monday, January 9th at 8:15 a.m. in St. Columba Church. We thank Mrs. Landaira and our fifth grade students for preparing this liturgy for us. All are welcome to attend! The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord signifies the end of the Christmas season. The Baptism of the Lord marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry and confirms his identity as the Son of God.

Midterm Exams

The students in Grades 6-8 will be taking midterm exams in ELA, Science, Social Studies and Math the week beginning on Tuesday, January 10th. All students in Grades 3-8 will take a Religion midterm on Tuesday, January 17th. Each midterm is a short cumulative test that will take one class period. The teachers will or have provided the students with study guides as a review. The schedule for midterm exams is posted on the School website's calendar:

DATE	MIDTERM	DATE	MIDTERM
Tuesday, January 10	Social Studies 6-8	Friday, January 13	Math 6-8
Wednesday, January 11	Science 6-8	Tuesday, January 17	Religion 3-8
Thursday, January 12	ELA 6-8		

Schoolwide Walk-a-thon NUT Day #3 – Friday, December 20th

Our second schoolwide Walk-a-thon NUT day is scheduled for Friday, December 20th.

No Uniform Day Dress Code: All **No Uniform Day (NUT)** clothing must comply with the rules in the SDSC Parent-Student Handbook! As a reminder, the following items are prohibited: ripped or torn denim, immodest clothing (e.g. crop tops, halter tops, miniskirts, low cut tops) and items with inappropriate words/sayings. Leggings are permitted only if covered by a top (sweater or shirt) that extends to no less than 3 inches above the knees. All shoes must be safe and supportive – no sandals, sliders, ballet shoes or heels.

MAP Assessments Begin Tuesday, January 10th

Beginning the week of January 10th SDSC students will take the electronic NWEA MAP Growth assessments. MAP Growth scores help teachers check student performance by measuring achievement and growth. Teachers use results to tailor classroom lessons and set goals for students. Students in Grade K-2 will take assessments in Reading and Math while students in Grades 3-8 grades will participate in Science, Math, Reading and Language Usage. Each test is untimed and takes about an hour. Since MAP Growth tests provide immediate and accurate information about your child's learning, it's easy for teachers to identify students with similar scores that are generally ready for instruction in similar skills and topics, and then plan instruction accordingly. We are truly excited to focus on your child's individual growth and achievement.

- Please be sure that your child is on-time and fully rested so that they are able to concentrate and do their best.
- Students who are absent for any reason will make up any missed assessment upon returning to school in person.
- You will receive a Family Report with your children's 2nd Quarter report card showing a summary of their growth from the November to January assessment so that you can observe how your child is performing academically.

No School – Monday, January 16th

There will be NO School on Monday, January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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To Everything there is a Season and a Time for Every Purpose under Heaven

Let us continue to keep in our prayers the many among us who are sick and suffering.

A TIME TO HEAL: Peter Cassidy (*an SDSC Grandparent*); Annie Hennessey (*mother of Connor, Gr.8*); Deron Jump (*friend of the Krebs Family*); Aliya Strauss (*daughter of Mrs. Strauss*)

A TIME TO DIE: Richard Senno (*Mrs. Senno's father-in-law*); Janet Sindona (*great grandmother of Thaddeus, Gr. 1*)