

December 2023 Newsletter

Nazareth
Elementary
2023-2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is an exciting time of year! It is one of beginnings and endings. Academically, we have begun a new quarter. Liturgically, we have begun a new church year. In December, we see the end of fall, the start of winter, and the end of the calendar year. With hope and trust, we open ourselves to all the gifts that each new day will hold.

With the changes, we also have security in the constants - God's love for each one of us, the closeness of loved ones, the strength of our school community, the cycle of the four seasons, and special feasts and holidays. The constants keep us grateful and grounded as we navigate the unknowns.



We have just transitioned into the **Season of Advent**. This is the Season of waiting, reflecting, praying, and doing acts of kindness. It is a season of hope as we prepare to celebrate Jesus in history and in mystery. It is a time for quiet moments to hear God's call in the daily events and people in our lives. We learn the lesson of love from Mary and Joseph. It is a time of acceptance and trust. Advent reminds us to put away anxieties, rekindle hope, and fill our lives with God's peace and joy.

Advent is also an opportunity to help our children understand needs "vs" wants, analyze store ads and commercials, learn to give to those less fortunate, open their hearts in acceptance and love. Advent fits in beautifully with our school's focus on kindness.

Let us help one another journey slowly, gently, and reflectively through this beautiful Season so we do not miss it in the busyness of December. Let us make the ordinary moments holy and celebrate the love and light of Emmanuel, God who is with us!

The faculty, staff and I wish you a grace-filled Advent Season, hearts full of hope, and a very joyous Christmas!

Peace and blessings to you and your loved ones...Sr. Margaret



December 5	Christmas Concert at Aquinas: 6:30pm	December 12	Santa's Secret Shop
December 6	Feast of St. Nicholas	December 16	First Lego League Competition at McQuaid
December 7	Grade 4 Trip to Ganondagan	December 25 - 29	Christmas Recess
December 8	Set Up for Santa's Secret Shop: 2:30pm	January 1	New Year's Day
December 11	Santa's Secret Shop	January 2	School Reopens



CHRISTMAS CONCERT - Tuesday, December 5th at 6:30pm

We are excited to start the holiday season off with our Christmas Concert! Mrs. Mayo and the students have been diligently practicing for weeks to bring us a wonderful performance.

All children, Preschool through Grade 6 will be in the concert.

The show is being held at The Aquinas Institute, 1127 Dewey Avenue and will begin at 6:30pm.

Please note the time change from previous years.



Aquinas is graciously letting us use their auditorium which means families can invite as many relatives as they wish to celebrate the season with us. There is plenty of parking, security on the grounds, and seating room for everyone.

Please say a prayer that everyone will stay healthy! The children have been working so hard and we don't want anyone to miss the concert. Sr. Margaret sent home a memo before Thanksgiving outlining details about clothing and arrival time. Please use that information as reference.

CONCERT REHEARSAL and SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Aquinas has graciously agreed to provide transportation on the morning of the concert, allowing our students to go back and forth safely between the schools to rehearse. This act of generosity along with the use of the Aquinas Auditorium for the performance provides our students and families with comfort, enjoyment, and a beautiful faith-based setting to celebrate the season. We couldn't be more grateful!

FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS

On December 6 each year, it is a tradition for "St. Nicholas" to pay a quiet, unseen visit to Nazareth. The children put one shoe in the hall outside their classrooms. When all is quiet, "St. Nicholas" and his helpers leave surprises in the shoes and collect something the children want to share with those less fortunate.

This year we are asking the children to bring a pair of socks (child or adult).

St. Nicholas will share these with organizations serving the neediest in our community.

It is so heart-warming to hear the excitement of the children and see their faces when they find surprises in their shoes! It's been said that some of the little ones hear St. Nicholas on the roof!



SANTA'S SECRET SHOP

We are looking forward to one of our favorite annual activities! The School Advisory Committee (SAC) will be hosting Santa's Secret Shop for the children on **December 11 and 12** during the school day. This is a great opportunity for the kids to buy Christmas gifts at very reasonable prices for parents, siblings, and loved ones. A flyer with more information is being sent home with the students next week.



Held in the gym again this year, staff and SAC members, will help the children shop. **If your child(ren) are going to shop, it is best to put the money in an envelope with their names on it. A list of whom to shop for would be helpful too.** Let's see if your favorite student can keep a secret about his/her purchases until Christmas Day!

SANTA'S SECRET SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are looking for helping hands to help make the load lighter. Set up is Friday, December 8th starting at 2:30pm. The Shop is open on Monday, December 11th and Tuesday, December 12th. We have (2) hour time slots available on both days; 8a-10a, 10a-12p or 12p-2p. Our greater need for support is definitely on Friday for set up and Tuesday.

If you, a friend and/or loved one would be willing to help , please contact Sandra to schedule your time: Roe4898@gmail.com or (585) 953-7247.

SANTA'S SECRET SHOP SUPPLIES

Most of the items the children shop from are donated by friends and staff of Nazareth. We are always looking for new items for dads, grandpas and brothers. Thankfully, we have plenty of Christmas-themed items for the children to choose from, so we're all set in that department!

SAC has identified a need for brown bags with handles or reusable shopping bags for the students to transport their gifts home. If you have any extras on hand, we'll happily use them!

Donations may be dropped off at school before December 8th. Thank you for considering!

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Thank you to all who were able to attend the recent parent-teacher conferences. If you have not met yet with your child's teacher, please set up a time very soon so you can go over the report card, review strengths and challenges, and set goals for the second quarter and beyond.



UPDATES FROM OUR SOCIAL WORKER, MRS. PARKER

The focus for the first quarter of school has been on identifying emotions along with developing coping skills. There has also been an emphasis on teamwork, kindness, leadership, and communication. We will continue to focus on the above skills throughout the school year.

In January, we will have our annual **Wellness Days** event. Wellness days are split into two days. We'll break down participation to include PK3-2nd grade on one day and 3rd-6th grade on the other. Students will enjoy social emotional learning while incorporating lots of fun.

We have a new addition to this year's event that I'm really excited to share! I will be working with 5th and 6th grade 'Wellness Assistants.' Chosen students will fulfill a leadership role and help with planning for both days while being an active participant in creating our success. Details will be coming home soon!



MRS. LEE and GRADE 1: JESSE TREE PROJECT BEGINS!

It all started with the story of creation, literally! Mrs. Lee is guiding her classroom through Advent by retelling the stories of the Bible that lead to Jesus' birth. As this is the season of waiting, decorating their Jesse Tree helps to build joy and anticipation while learning.

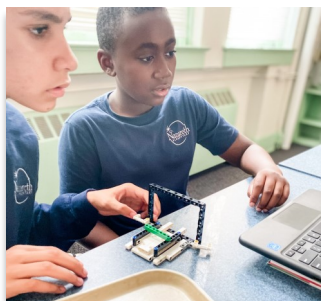
The students decorate and hang an ornament on their tree that corresponds with each Advent story.

Visit the **Spotlight Section** of our website, www.nazarethschools.org to learn more!



FIRST LEGO LEAGUE UPDATE from MRS. TAYLOR

Our FLL (First Lego League) Dream Builders have been doing research into increasing interest/community support of inclusivity in basketball. As part of our team's research, the children reached out to **Rochester Accessible Adventures**. They have a youth wheelchair basketball team. The youth team is inclusive of youth with and without disabilities, typically ages 9+. Everyone plays in a sports wheelchair, so children learn to push, roll, and maneuver the chair while dribbling, passing, blocking and shooting.



Our team was invited by the director, Ms. Anita O'Brien, to come to their practice on **December 6th**. Our Dream Builders Team will be able to get in the chairs and see what it's like!

Practice is Wednesday, December 6, from 5:30 - 7:00pm at the Trenton and Pamela Jackson R Center on N. Clinton. You will need to provide transportation for your child, but it is OK to drop them off and pick them up. I will be there to supervise, but you are also welcome to stay!

This opportunity is a great learning experience for our students and will reflect favorably with judges during our competition on Saturday, December 16th at McQuaid Jesuit. Visit the **Spotlight Section** of our website, www.nazarethschools.org to learn more about our Dream Builders Team!

FALL FUNDRAISER RECAPS!

Thank you for embracing the importance of raising funds for our school.

Fundraising money is applied to tuition assistance and the cost of educating our children. The money is well spent!

1. The Fall Cookie Dough (and More!)

Fundraiser raised:

\$6,689.50!

"Shout out" to our Top 3 Sellers! ➡

2. The Fall Festival raised:

\$561.49

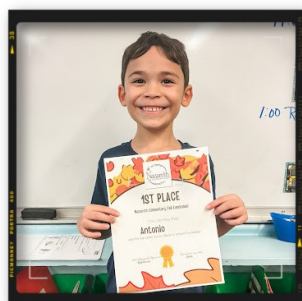
3. Chipotle Fundraiser:

\$234.23

*Thank you to all who supported - it was a yucky night!



THANK YOU to all who supported our Fall Fundraiser!



1st Place!

\$2350 sold



2nd Place!

\$1433 sold



3rd Place!

\$1237 sold

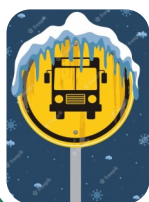


Congratulations and thank you to these young entrepreneurs & their families!

WINTER CLOTHING and SCHOOL REMINDERS

When the temperatures dip, it is time to bundle up! If your child is in need of hats, scarves, or gloves, let our office or your child's teacher know. We have a donated supply to share and coats from the Knights of Columbus at Sacred Heart. Let the office know if your child is in need of a coat, and we will happily check the sizes.

- **School shoes, and sneakers on PE days, are still a required part of the uniform.** Please do not send your child to school with only boots. Boots get very hot wearing them all day, are dangerous on the stairs, and are not acceptable for PE. Shoes are required for PK-6.
- **Please put your child's name or initials** in all clothing so we can identify the owners if misplaced.
- Every child needs a filled **water bottle** every day. We are not using drinking fountains to reduce spreading germs. We started the year off strong, but lately many are leaving their water bottles home.



SCHOOL CLOSINGS

When there is a bad storm during the winter and it is not safe on the roads, **Nazareth will be closed when Rochester City School District closes.** Once the district makes a decision, we will communicate to our families via email and text and notify major radio and TV stations that Nazareth is closed.

Advent Prayer

Come Lord Jesus, come Emmanuel,
come and rest in our hearts this Advent season.

May we teach our children to be generous in
giving and generous with their time and talents.

Help us to do the same.

May we await You with peaceful hearts,
with hearts that yearn for You
as our greatest and most cherished gift.

In this season of Advent,
may we keep our eyes on You,
knowing and believing that You alone
are the reason we celebrate.

Be born again in us, dear Jesus,
that we might reflect Your love and care
to everyone we meet in this time of holy waiting.

Come, Lord Jesus, and show us how
to bring peace to our broken world.

Come Lord Jesus, come Emmanuel,
come and rest in our hearts this Advent season.
Amen.



Kindergarten illustrates the story of the 1st Christmas



The Season of Advent a time of waiting, praying, hoping, and serving...

Here are some ways to prepare as a family for the coming of Jesus:

- ◇ Make an Advent wreath and say a little prayer together each day.
- ◇ Read a short Scripture passage from the readings of Advent and discuss it.
- ◇ Set up a crèche/nativity set. Each week move the figures closer to the middle of the stable.
- ◇ Create a manger. As family members do good deeds during Advent, add a strip of paper or yarn to the manger as straw for the Baby Jesus.
- ◇ Make an Advent calendar with a kind act, a prayer, or a reflection written on each day.
- ◇ Draw names as a family and pray for each other daily and/or do something kind for your person in a quiet way.
- ◇ Discuss your blessings as a family. How you can share with someone less fortunate during Advent?
- ◇ Write a card to someone who is homebound, or in a nursing home or hospital.
- ◇ Research the meaning behind the symbols of Advent and Christmas: wreath, purple and pink candles, candy cane, angels, star, tree, bells, shepherds, Magi...
- ◇ Sing Christmas carols and discuss their meaning.
- ◇ Pray for the hungry and homeless of the world.
- ◇ Study Christmas traditions from around the world.



AQUINAS
INSTITUTE OF ROCHESTER

WINTER WONDERLAND



- Breakfast
- Photos with Santa
- Crafts
- Games
- Face Painting
- Raffles & Tours



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Rochester Colonial
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DEC 16
2023

09.30 AM-12.00 PM

1127 Dewey Ave
Rochester, NY 14613

\$12 PER PERSON
UNDER 2 FREE

Proceeds benefit AQ Baseball

Scan the QR code or visit
www.aquinasinstitute.com
to register!

