



### IOWA Testing Dates

The IOWA tests will be administered March 19<sup>th</sup> through March 30<sup>th</sup> this year. The tests will be given to students in grades 3,4,5,6 and 7. This is new to Catholic schools this year. All students in grades 3 through 7 will be tested. Please make every effort to have your child in school during this time. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

### Technology – To Text or Not To Text

One of the biggest behavioral changes in the technologically wired generation is experiencing a preference of texting over talking. Kids 11 to 14 spend, on average, 73 minutes a day texting. The potential danger of this habit is that children may never learn how to be content spending time on their own, which is crucial for healthy psychological development.

Kids treat their cell phones like appendages, yet getting them to talk on the phone can be nearly impossible. Experts worry that this fundamental change in how kids communicate is endangering the development of an important set of skills they'll need later on: how to converse, read cues from vocal intonations, and even negotiate. "There is a big difference between an apology, that involves looking in somebody's eyes and seeing that they're hurt, and typing I'm sorry and hitting send." And no texting in the car! That is one of the most important opportunities for parents to talk and listen to their children.

(From "Wired" by Emily Listfield)

### Dine Out Nights

Despite a little snow and a lot of rain Red Robin was filled with St. Joan of Arc families on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>. Can't beat a good burger! Winner of the Red Robin gift basket was our own Aidan Baray-Forget in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The four winners of the St. Joan of Arc School gifts were Michele Fasoli, Paul Brault, the Fregeau family and, again, Aidan Baray-Forget. Thanks to all who participated.

### Catholic Schools Week

As always, CSW opened with mass on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Mass was just beautiful with our students using sign language to "I Can Only Imagine" and our Liturgical Dance team performing for the whole parish. Thank you Mrs. Bliss for organizing these two groups of students. This year's theme is "Faith, Academics, Service" and will be used throughout the week.

\*Grade 8 versus Faculty Volleyball Game will take place on March 15<sup>th</sup> in the Maguire Center at Elms College. This annual event will benefit Griffin's Friends at Baystate Medical Center.

### Diocese of Springfield

#### Financial Aid for 2012-2013 School Year

The Springfield Diocese will begin accepting financial aid applications for next year after November 1<sup>st</sup>. FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment will no longer accept paper applications. All applications must be submitted online at [www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com). Your 1040 Income Tax form and your W-2 statement for 2011 must be submitted when available. They do not need to be submitted at the time you apply for aid but no applications are considered until the required forms are sent to FACTS Grant & Aid.

Please remember:

- \*You must complete a new application form each year.
- \*You must be an active member of a Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Springfield.
- \*Tuition aid is not available for Pre-K students.

Completed applications will be processed March 15<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>, as long as funds are available. The process involves consulting with the pastor with regards to membership.

### Lottery Calendar Raffle

The last name was drawn on January 31<sup>st</sup>. A list of winners is on our web site. Congratulations to our lottery winners.

### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday falls on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> this year and is during School Vacation. Masses at Ste. Rose de Lima Church are at 7:00 am, 9:00 am and 6:30 pm. Please try to attend with your family.

### State Boxes

Grade 4 will present their State Box projects in the School Hall on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>. All students will get the chance to go see the hard work the fourth graders have been doing for the state they have chosen. Friends and families are welcome to come in and see this presentation.

### Performing Arts Club

#### Holyoke Catholic High School

Holyoke Catholic High School Performing Arts Club proudly announces their performance of *Curtains*, a musical murder mystery whodunit, which will be performed at Elms College, February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. (Snow date is Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 and 7:00 pm. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Prices are \$10 for students and seniors, \$14 for adults.

### Registration and Information Night

For all new students, Pre-K through Grade 8, registrations will be held Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the School Hall. Join Miss Jenkins, the Pre-K and Kinder staff for information regarding our school academic programs, extracurricular activities, school policy and answer any questions you might have. Applications will be accepted for all students. Please be aware that we will be accepting students on a first come-first serve basis.

*Winter School Vacation*  
*Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> through Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>.*  
*Enjoy!*



## Looking Ahead:

- \*Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> – Grade 4 and 5 Spelling Bee. Grade 4 at 10:00 am and grade 5 at 1:00 pm, both grades will be held in the School Hall. Friends and families welcomed.
- \*Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Performance of the “Ugly Duckling” in the School Hall at 10:00 am. This performance is by the Pioneer Valley School of Performing Arts.
- \*Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Chess tournament begins at 1:00 pm
- \*Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Catholic Schools Mass at 9:00 am with the NJHS induction ceremony. Early dismissal at 11:30 am.
- Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Father-Daughter Dance in the cafeteria 6:00 pm.
- \*Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> – Information and Registration Night for all new students in the School Hall at 6:00 pm.
- \*Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> – Friendly’s Restaurant Night on Memorial Drive in Chicopee from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. No coupon required.
- \*March 15<sup>th</sup> – Grade 8 versus Faculty Volleyball Game at 6:00 pm at Elms College.
- \*March 29<sup>th</sup> – Texas Roadhouse Night from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Coupon required.
- \*April 12<sup>th</sup> – Spring Concert at 6:30 pm at Ste. Rose de Lima Church in the church hall.
- \*April 26<sup>th</sup> – Doogan’s Deli Night from 4:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Coupon required.
- \*May 24<sup>th</sup> – Wendy’s Restaurant from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. No coupon required.

Faith. Academics. Service.  
**Catholic Schools**