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Volume 1 Issue 3

November 2011

Did you enjoy waking up to snow on the ground at the end of October? I must admit that my daughters were very excited about it....and I did not share their enthusiasm! However, the snow did make me reflect on something profound, "A snowflake is one of God's most fragile creations, yet look what they can do when they stick together!"



Principal's Corner

Snowflakes truly do exemplify the whole idea of teamwork. Our focus for the last month has been on the idea that in order to be effective bucketfillers we need to work together as a team. During our chapels we have seen the value that God places on teamwork. God blesses those who work together in unity.

John Maxwell told this illustration in his book *Developing the Leaders Around You*, "A farmer noticed a highway department truck pulling over on to the shoulder of the road. A man got out and dug a hole, then got back into the truck. Then the other occupant got out, filled up the hole and got back in the truck. Every fifty yards this was repeated. Farmer: *What are you doing?* Driver: *We're on a highway beautification project, and the guy who plants the trees is home sick today.*" What's the bottom line in this situation?

Without Team work, not much is accomplished. **Together Everyone Achieves More.** Great TEAMWORK makes things happen more than anything else in organizations- more than skill, qualifications or money! Whether it's our family, church, school, or personal life we are called to unity and teamwork.

A well known manager said: *It's easy to get good players. It's getting them to play together that's the hard part!* That's the power of T.E.A.M. Teamwork is the FUEL that allows common people to produce uncommon results!

The Bible has many examples of people working together as a team to achieve a mission. Think of these examples: In the Beginning God said to Adam 'it is not good that man should be alone', Noah & his family, Nehemiah built a wall in 52 days with a team, Moses had a team of leaders around him, Jesus & 12 Disciples (one could argue constructed greatest team ever), Paul & Silas, Barnabas & Mark, Gideon's 300 men, and there are many others. One that truly sticks out is the story of the Tower of Babel. It is a picture of what can be achieved by a team that is UNITED - speech, actions, thoughts, goals, the vision.

Here at OSLS we are a Team! We are working with you for the common goal. Our goal is to teach with excellence, cherish each child as a gift from God, and to challenge each child to do their best all within a loving, supportive, Christ-centered atmosphere.

Teamwork is Biblical and part of God's will for us as believers. When we apply it God blesses us. So what are three practical steps to embrace effective teamwork? We need to care for each other, communicate effectively, and honor the teams' success above our own interests. We can achieve a lot more working together united as a team than divided as individuals. So let me challenge you to work on building up our team.

-- John March, Principal

Spotlight on Teachers

Mrs. Mueller

Mrs. Bonnie Mueller is our wonderful Kindergarten teacher. Walk into her organized classroom and you will find a hub of activities! The students experience hands-on, interactive lessons that help them understand God's creation and the love He has for each of them.



Mrs. Mueller holds a B.A. in Lutheran Education with concentrations in reading and early childhood education. She has had the opportunity to teach first grade, serve as a preschool director and teacher, as well as teach kindergarten. She is married to Mark Mueller, who is the Senior Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Delmar. Mrs. Mueller's husband will be our guest speaker at the School Banquet this year. They have two children – Emily, who is 16 years old, and Tim, who is 13 years old. Both attended OSLS for many years.

Mrs. Mueller and her husband were trained as Lutheran school teachers. When they moved to

Delmar for him to be pastor, they looked for a Lutheran school for their daughter, Emily. They found OSLS! Mrs. Mueller was able to serve as a substitute teacher in the school for a few years, and when the kindergarten position opened up she was asked to apply. She has been here ever since!

Mrs. Mueller's favorite Bible verse is John 11:25-26, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whoever liveth and believeth in Me shall not perish, but have eternal life." She is also actively involved in her church, Bethlehem Lutheran in Delmar, where she is part of the altar guild, a substitute Sunday School teacher, and part of the handbell choir.

Mrs. Mueller enjoys reading and uses her creativity to design scrapbooks for her family. She also loves to travel, so it is no surprise that this past summer Mrs. Mueller had the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Poland with 8 of her church members. They ran a week long English Bible Camp. On the Sunday they left, they were given a send-off by the camp children and church members in Poland. The hugs and tears from everyone filled her bucket! Even though they had a language barrier, she knew the love of Jesus came through all the work they did.

Thank you for sharing your love of Jesus with your students, Mrs. Mueller!

Mrs. Barnes

Walk into the first grade classroom at OSLS and you find students eagerly working and using technology to learn about reading, writing, mathematics and most importantly, God's creation. Mrs. Barnes has been the First Grade teacher since September 2001. She was introduced to OSLS from a friend who had told her about the position opening up and after she applied, and interviewed for it she was offered the position and has been here ever since.

Mrs. Barnes has been married for almost 35 years, has two grown children (Owen and Patrick) and three grandchildren (Rayne, Hailey and Aidan). She lives in Wynantskill in an old farm house built in the 1790s. She loves to garden, especially near the stream on her property. She absolutely LOVES being a grandmother. She likes to relax by knitting, crocheting or doing cross stitch.

Mrs. Barnes' life has been a long a winding road but she knows that God has guided her along the way, whether she knew it or no. Her life experiences have equipped her for the place God has her now. It is not surprising that Mrs. Barnes's favorite Scripture verse is Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths straight." Mrs. Barnes has been attending church at Terra Nova in downtown Troy.

Last March Mrs. Barnes's sister passed away after a two year battle with cancer. She lived her last two months at her house and they had a great time of friendship during that time. She was sad and exhausted after she died. The word went out throughout OSLS and many, many kind friends sent so much food to feed our large extended family. She was truly blessed and her bucket was filled! It was also a great witness to her family.

We are thankful that you are part of the OSLS family, Mrs. Barnes. Your love and excitement for your students is evident and we appreciate all that you do!



Operation Christmas Child

Students at OSLS have the opportunity to participate in Operation Christmas Child, in partnership with Samaritan's Purse. Participating students will fill shoeboxes with a variety of gifts that will delight children in need throughout the world. Students need to return their completed gift box by Thursday, November 10th. A list of ideas for the items were sent home earlier and include school supplies, toys, crayons and coloring books, and various hygiene items.



Demonstrate God's love around the world by filling a shoe box and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to hurting children around the world. The cost of shipping each box is \$7.00. We look forward to your child's participation! If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Flory at kflory@oursaviors.com

Friendly's

Great Tasting Fundraising

The 7th Grade class is hosting Family Fun Night at Friendly's! Come join the fun on Monday, November 14th from 5-8 p.m. Please bring the Friendly's FUNraising certificate in to the Central Avenue location and 20% of your check will be donated to OSLS for the 7th Grade field trips. Extra copies of the certificate can be found in the entry way on the brochure stand.



Christmas Store

Attention Parents:

We will once again be holding a Christmas Store 1st-8th Grade classes. Please send in any items you would like to donate for this 7th Grade fundraising cause by December 2nd. Items should be in very good, gently used condition. For health reasons, please do not send in

any used stuffed animals. These items will end up being gifts for the student's immediate household family members, so items of all types are needed (men's, women's and children's).

Children from each grade will be coming to the store on December 9th from 8:30 to 2:00. Any parents interested in manning the store on December 9th or helping with organizing (ongoing) or set up (old gym-December 8th at 6:00 pm), please call Terri Zuelsdorf at 462-8209 or email to justlive4him@gmail.com

Newly Designed Report Cards

This year at OSLS look for a newly designed report card! These reports are more informative and will aid in our teacher-parent communication and partnership to provide an excellent, Christ-centered education for your child(ren). Our new Report Cards will be debuted the week of November 21st.

Mark your calendar!

1st - 8th Grade Parent-Teacher Conferences will be on Wednesday, November 30th. Students have a half day.

Please note that Pre-School and Kindergarten conferences will be held at the end of January.

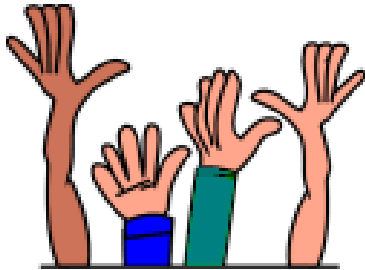


SNOW DELAY

On mornings when there is a 2 hour snow delay, ½ day Pre-School and Kindergarten students will NOT have class. Full day Pre-School, Kindergarten, 1st - 8th grade students will have class starting at the end of the delay.

Volunteers Needed!

One of the great aspects of OSLS is the opportunity to become involved at the school, whether it is by driving on field trips, assisting with class parties, helping with fundraisers, there are always things that need to be done to enrich the educational experience for your child(ren).



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Many hands make light work is an expression that is repeated many times here at OSLS. If everyone just takes on a couple of volunteer responsibilities, think how much our school will benefit. Consider how you can benefit the school this year. How can you fill the school's bucket? Where can you be of assistance? If you are looking for a way to become involved, keep checking our school website under the "Getting Involved" tab on the left-hand-side. For more information about any of these opportunities or to volunteer in other ways, contact Nancy Neff at kn.neff@verizon.net

School Banquet

On Saturday, November 19th we will be enjoying a banquet in honor of the more than 50 years that OSLS has been serving the Capital Region.



This banquet is a great chance for teachers, parents, grandparents, alumni, church members and friends of OSLS to come together and reminisce about the past and look forward to the future and really celebrate the school. Our speaker this year is Pastor Mark Mueller.

We hope that you will mark the date on your calendar and make plans to attend. If for some reason you have not yet made your reservations for this fantastic evening of fellowship, there are additional reservation forms in the school office or you can find them at oursaviorslutherschool.com. We look forward to seeing you at the Banquet!

Silent Auction

The Annual School Banquet is quickly approaching and the silent auction committee has been busy soliciting donations to make this a very fun evening full of exciting items for you to bid on. We thought we would just give you a small idea of some of what will be available for the evening of November 19th.

Some of the larger items will actually be live auctioned



by our guest speaker of the evening, Pastor Mark Mueller. A sample of these include: 2 tickets to the December 4th Patriots vs. Colts game in Boston, Season tickets to the SUNY men's and women's

basketball games, a queen size mattress and box spring set.

To give you an idea of some of the items in the silent auction, these are a few of the vendors that have donated gift certificates so far: Spectrum Theatre, Drama Kids, Lake George Steamboat Company, FunPlex, Hoffman's Playland, iSmiles, Tri City Valley Cats, Saratoga and North Creek RR, Albany Aquaducks, Krause's, Hannaford, Bellini's, Starbuck's, Delmar Bootery, Catamount Mountain, Ryan's Wake, Susie's Cafe.

This is just the beginning, we are still seeking donations, so if you have a contact at any restaurants or any activities that your family frequents, please stop in the office and get a letter on OSJ letterhead and take it to the business and see if they will donate to the

school. Their donation is tax deductible and our student assistance fund will benefit tremendously!

We look forward to seeing you the banquet. Come and find some unique items for your holiday shopping. Also, keep an eye on the school office, you will see your child's class's basket on display. If you have any additional questions or ideas for donations, you can contact Nancy Neff at kn.neff@verizon.net or 478-7855.

Don't forget to send in your



Box Tops for Education!

And

Your Campbell Soup Labels



Classroom Updates...

Pre-K

As the weather begins to get chilly, we have turned our attention to the seasonal changes happening all around us. Our themes for October included: fall leaves, Christopher Columbus, fire safety and

pumpkins. These themes guided our literature selections each week as well as our math/science activities which included work with: numbers 6-10, colors, shapes, patterns, making Dalmatian Pudding and removing the seeds from a pumpkin. We used pumpkin spiced Play Doh to make

pretend pies and cookies. In our Bible Time, we read about Abraham's obedience to God as well as Jesus' parable of the seed that grew in good soil, much like our hearts (Matthew 13:3-23). We are doing great with being able to enunciate the sounds of the letters we have reviewed so far: N, W, A, B, C, F and P. Everyone who has received a ME Bag has shared some very nice aspects of themselves that we would not already know about!



In November, we will spend a week studying the hibernation of animals. I will also conduct a baseline assessment of students based on their learning so far this

quarter. In addition, a Fall Harvest party as will help us to prepare our hearts and minds to be thankful for the blessings of family and friends in the coming weeks.

- Mrs. van der Wouden

Thursday, November 10th, from 8-9am. The preschool children in Mrs. Abbott's classroom have had a busy month! We have talked about Fire Safety, practiced fire drills, and began our unit on Community Helpers. We have had visitors from the fire department talk to us about fire safety and show us some of their equipment. We have also started our own classroom Post Office. We have 2 mailboxes that our mail carrier checks daily. The children are so excited to receive their own "special deliveries"! We are also looking forward to our Fall Harvest breakfast which will take place on Thursday, November 10th, from 8-9am.

-Mrs. Abbott

The kindergarten class is busy and hard at work. We are enjoying the fall weather and have done some art work related to fall. Our Bible lessons over the past few weeks have been about the journey of the children of Israel to the promised land. We have learned that God is always there to take



care of us!
Our new unit in science is the five senses.

There are several fun activities coming up that involve tasting, smelling, feeling, hearing and seeing! In math we continue to explore with many manipulatives. We are learning to make patterns and sort with linking cubes, pattern blocks and teddy bear counters. Christmas musical practice has begun. The children are picking up the songs very quickly! You won't want to miss the show!!

- Mrs. Mueller

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1st

FIRST GRADE HAS HAD A GREAT START TO THE YEAR. WE HATCHED BRINE SHRIMP AND WATCHED THEM GROW. WE "PLANTED" SEEDS ON PLATES AND WATCHED THEM SPROUT. ALTHOUGH WE MISSED OUR APPLE PICKING TRIP DUE TO RAIN, GOD BLESSED US WITH A GLORIOUS DAY TO TRAVEL TO LIBERTY RIDGE FARM FOR A DAY OF FUN! I THINK THE PARENTS HAD AS MUCH FUN AS THE CHILDREN!

WE ARE NOW HARD AT WORK LEARNING OUR SONG FOR DECEMBER'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL. WE ARE ALSO BUSY WITH PHONICS, PATTERN BLOCKS, UNIFIX CUBES, PLACE VALUE, ADDITION, SUBTRACTION, READING, LEARNING ABOUT PLANTS AND ANIMALS AND HABITATS, TOSSING BEAN BAGS AND FILLING BUCKETS!! THERE IS NEVER A DULL MOMENT IN FIRST GRADE. AS WE SAY "FIRST GRADE IS AN ADVENTURE!"
- MRS. BARNES

2nd

Fall happenings in Second Grade

In math, we have been working on time to the hour and half hour. We have been investigating insects, identifying trees, learning about Iroquois Indians of the Northeast Woodlands. On our first field trip visit we went to the Nature Center for Thacher Park, where we walked through trees of many kinds, looked under microscopes at various bugs, looked at a beehive in action, a model of the escarpment of Thacher Park and parts of Albany, and touched several animal hides.



Soon we will have made personal models of Iroquois Villages which will be on display in our classroom. We are writing notes on books borrowed from our local library to form reports on the Iroquois Indians.

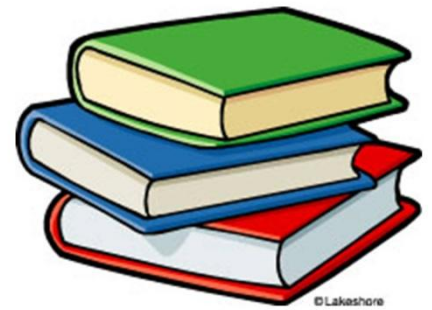
We made food from Cherokee recipes making samp and green corn dumplings made with fresh corn on the cob and sugar snap peas. These ingredients are combined as in succotash and steamed in the corn husks. We learn that it was hard to cook this food with no tools of convenience and bland with no spices as made 100's of years ago.

We have many more interesting things to learn. It has been a very good beginning to the new school year.

- Miss Kocsis

3rd

Third grade has been very busy getting into the routine of independent reading and reading "just right" books. We are working on our reading stamina, which will enable us to become fabulous readers. Reading stamina is a very important factor in student's who score well on standardized tests. Guided Reading groups began the last full week in October.



We are working our way through our Water and Weather Unit in Science and our Communities Unit in Social Studies. There is a possibility of a field trip (weather related) in November.

We're getting ready to begin a study of the Holy Spirit in our Bible curriculum. Students have been doing nicely with their memory verses.

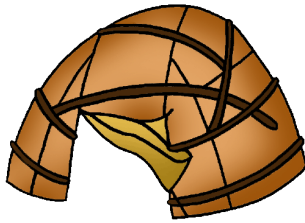
Plans are underway for the First Annual Third Grade Thanksgiving Feast. Sara O'Connell and I will be in contact with you as to how you can help.

Thanks for all the donations to the classroom! Your generosity is much appreciated.

-Mrs. Williams

4th

Fourth Grade has been studying the geography and history of early New York state. We were able to go on two field trips in October to enrich our curriculum and help us better understand the history of Albany and its early people. We went to The Albany Visitor's Center and the Halfmoon, where we learned about Henry Hudson and his crew. We also went to The Brookside Museum to hear about New York's early Native Americans. We huddled together in a Wigwam, listened to a Native American story, learned about the "three sisters" and played some Native American games. Some of us were pretty good at lacrosse!



For our latest science lab, we are trying to grow a potato plant without a seed....hopefully we will start to see roots soon! Feel free to stop in to see if anything is "sprouting"!

We have started to practice for our Christmas Musical with Mr. Baird and are practicing our recorders every week with Miss Niemann.

-Mrs. Flory

5th

Five Rivers

Fifth Grade traveled to Five Rivers in October and explored the ecosystem of a pond. We had great fun classifying pond creatures, identifying the ages of different ponds, and especially collecting specimens. It was a beautiful day spent exploring God's creation.

Athletics

Go Bobcats!

The 6th-8th graders volleyball team has had a great season. On Friday they played their last game and it was apparent they gave it their all. They won the second set, bolstering their confidence as they continue to build their skills, and showing their sportsmanship as they later thanked the Grapeville girls for coming to play them twice this season. I think one of the highlights of the game was when Brianna assisted in gaining the team a point with a great bump, sending the ball over and



causing her to smile from ear to ear. She, along with the 9 other players, have worked hard this season and their coaches and parents are so proud of what they achieved. Our two team captains, Abi and Rachel, set a wonderful example of teamwork and leadership and work hard at encouraging the girls and

focusing their game play. Thank you for all of the support for our team in attending the games and helping take down the chairs. Thank you also to Nancy and Ken Neff for being the referees at all of our games. To God be the Glory!

– Mrs. Schlie

5th & 6th Spanish

Students in Fifth grade Spanish class are now known by their new Spanish names and have created and presented their first simple conversations in front of their class mates. They are able to introduce themselves to another person, as well as introduce a friend. We are swiftly moving on to more courteous and polite expressions, and will shortly begin to learn numbers 1-30 and various ways to use them in conversation as well.

Sixth grade Spanish class is able to discuss the characteristics of various items, and use that to play interactive games as well as carry on conversations related to shopping. Their next topic of review will enable them to discuss the weather and clothing.

– Mrs. Mendoza

7th & 8th Spanish

7th Grade Spanish

We learned how to say hello and goodbye, how to introduce people and respond to an introduction and ask how someone is and say how you are. We discussed why Spanish people have such long names, how they greet one another with a handshake or a kiss and that children are often named after a Catholic saint celebrated on the day they are born. We had fun acting out a story about Oscar, a troubled student.

8th grade Spanish

We learned vocabulary to say how often we do things and negative words such as no, one, nothing, never. Did you know that it is okay to use a double negative in Spanish? We enjoy acting out a story about Joaquin, a lawyer and his wife. Ask your child what Joaquin discovered when he goes to work.

–Mrs. Ginnan

Middle School Math & Science

Middle school math is making great progress. In Science we have been learning many things. Eighth graders have been working on Newton's Laws and forces; they have even been working with rockets! Seventh graders are knee deep in cells, learning their parts and how they work and examining them with the microscopes. Sixth grade has been having a ball with minerals. They have been testing the luster, streak, hardness, and other characteristics to identify various minerals.

–Mrs. McCreary

Middle School Social Studies

What's Happening in Mr. Milkins' Class?

In 6th grade Bible we have talked about the importance of knowing God's word and memorizing scripture to help us grow into healthy Christians. This also includes prayer, fellowship and repentance. We tried to identify how we're doing in each of these categories.

Grades 6-8 are all doing different, but interesting things in social studies. Sixth grade is doing a unit on ancient Egypt. We have learned some funny, but true facts about this civilization. Some of the hands-on projects that they will be doing are: pyramids, a mural

such as found on the wall of a pyramid, and they will draw a profile on an ancient Egyptian using their own likeness.

In all middle school social studies classes, I taught a unit on the geography of the continents, oceans and several countries in each continent. After this unit, seventh grade started studying the ancient American civilizations. Currently, they are making a chart comparing and contrasting the Incas, Aztecs and Mayans. The eighth graders have been learning about the growing pains that the early 19th century Americans endure. This was a time of industrial revolution, which led to many changes in how these early Americans led.

There is much more going on each day in my classes. I continue to pray for opportunities to share with them how much Jesus loves them and how they can show this in their lives. Join me in this prayer.

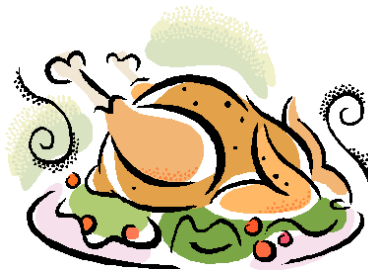
- Mr. Milkins



A note from the Nurse....

Thanksgiving Day signals the start of the six-week long holiday season. It is a time to celebrate with family and friends by continuing old traditions and creating new ones. Many of our holiday foods are rich in tradition as well as rich in fat, sugar, and calories. It is difficult to maintain a healthy diet and active lifestyle during this season due to our busy schedules. Unfortunately, the average weight gain during the holiday season is about

six pounds. Here are some tips on how to enjoy the holiday season and still maintain a healthy lifestyle.



1) List all of the holiday festivities that you and your family will be involved in. Plan a workable schedule that includes time for healthy eating and physical activity.

2) Use a sensible approach to eating. Eat a snack like an apple or a small bowl of cereal before going to a party so you won't be too hungry when you get there. Check out the food first and choose carefully. Load up on fresh fruits and vegetables from the buffet table. Socialize away from the food.

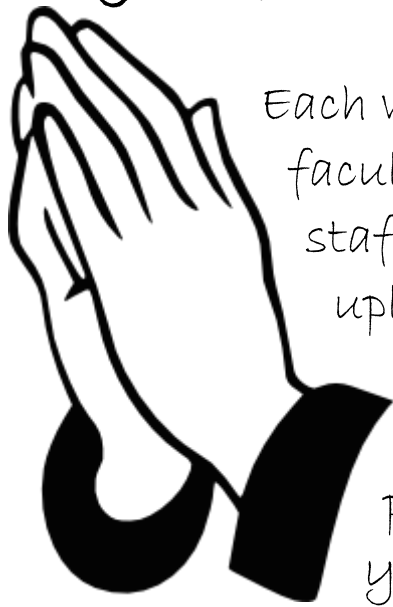
3) Be adventurous and try new recipes. See if you can trim down the fat and sugar in recipes to make them healthier.

4) Volunteer to bring a raw vegetable tray and low fat dip, or a tray of fresh fruit and yogurt to a party. Serve these at home to your family. Other low fat hors d'oeuvres include low fat cheese and whole grain crackers or a snack mix of whole wheat crackers, mini pretzels, peanuts and air popped popcorn.

5) Being physically active is so important at this time of year. Encourage family and friends to take holiday walks together. Try to participate in more physical activities like walking, ice-skating, hiking, and playing basketball or purchase aerobic CDs to use.

Happy Holidays!
Mrs. Ault, School Nurse

Praying for our Families



Each week the faculty and staff will be uplifting three OSLS families in prayer. If you have any

specific prayer requests, please let us know, as we would like to be as specific as possible in our prayers. We encourage you to pray for these families as well.

This Month...

Nov. 7-10-

Clink, Coleman, Coon

Nov. 14-18 -

Dahl, Davey, Derenches

Nov. 21-23 -

Dickson, Ditton, Drange

Nov. 28 - Dec. 2

Dwyer, Ehasani, Engwer

Dec. 5 - 9

Faucett, Fields, Fitzgerald

OSLS Mission:

Our Savior's Lutheran School offers a Christ-centered program of academic excellence where each student is cherished as God's child and challenged to do his/her best to the glory of God and in service to others.

Dates to Remember...

November 11th - No school

November 19th - School Banquet &

Silent Auction

Week of November 21st - report cards

November 23rd - 1/2 day School

closing at noon

November 24th - 27th - Thanksgiving

Break

November 30th - 1/2 School Day

November 30th - Parent/Teacher

Conferences

afternoon

December 16th - Elementary

Christmas Musical

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