



Junior Kindergarten through Eighth Grade

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<http://www.stmartinsun.org>

December 17, 2008

Principal's Newsletter

Upcoming Events

December 18 7th & 8th grade field trip

December 19 Minimum Day/No ext. care after 12:30

December 22-Jan 2 Christmas Vacation

January 5 School Resumes

Friday Dismissal

There will be no extended care after school on Friday, December 19th. Please make arrangements to have your child picked up promptly at 12:30 p.m. Thank you.

Novena

Thanks to your generosity, we delivered over \$4300 worth of items to Sunnyvale Community Services. This is in addition to clothes collected for the Diocesan Layette Collection and the books for the Mercury News.

Friday Mass

The Student Council will prepare Friday's Mass, which will be held in the church at 8:05 a.m.

Christmas Program

We are very proud of our students who participated in the Christmas Program. The narrators and singers did an excellent job of sharing the message of Christmas. It was heartwarming to see so many parents and grandparents supporting the students.

Annual Parent Contribution Program

Thank you to all of you who have already made your Annual Appeal gift to St. Martin School. If you have not yet returned your Pledge Card, we encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience. Remember, your gift is tax deductible and December is a great time to make a donation. Please help us reach our goal of 100% participation where ***Every Family Counts!*** St. Martin School is the school it is today because of the generosity of our parents, alumni and benefactors who have helped make the school a better place for our students.

If you have not yet made your gift, you can do so online at: www.stmartinsun.org/Annual-Appeal.html; or check with the front desk.

Sock Hop

Gals - fluff up your poodle skirts. Guys – get ready to slick back your hair & get out your leather jackets. Join us as we retro back hoppin' and boppin' to the 1950's rock & roll. Be there or be square, Saturday, January 31, 2009, 6:30 pm to 10:00 p.m. This sock hop is open to St. Martin School families. There will be a \$5.00 admission charge per family and we would like each family to bring a snack or soft drinks to share. We'll have games, music and fun for the family.

Class News

Merry Christmas from 2nd Grade! The 2nd graders have been studying long and short vowels and made a book called, *I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed Long Vowels*, to help them practice. They also have been working on writing, and everyone wrote a letter to Santa telling him what they would like for Christmas and asking him questions like who is his favorite reindeer. In Social Studies, the students are studying maps and are now working with a partner to create a map of our classroom. Then for the season of Advent, every student made his or her own Advent wreath out of construction paper. The students have learned what the green leaves, the colored and lighted candles, and the circular shape symbolize. Each week of Advent we have had a prayer service in our classroom to "light" our candles. This has been a wonderful and meaningful experience for all the students, and I have encouraged them to take the prayers home and share them with their own family. Please have a fun and safe holiday, and I look forward to seeing everyone in 2009 ☺

The Kinders are still counting the days. We have been in school for 75 days! We have learned and grown a great deal since September. We are writing math stories horizontally and vertically. We know how to run around the perimeter of the field and how to walk around the perimeter of the table in class. We can identify numbers 1-100 and are working with math concepts of more than and less than. We can make one, two and three digit numbers. Wow, they are doing a great job! In language arts we are practicing reading every chance we can. The Kinders are playing games to reinforce their reading skills. The Kinders' favorites games are change a letter - change a word and hang man. They are really good players. We enjoyed our last field trip to St. Francis to watch a play, where many of the Kinders were chosen to get up on stage and dance with the cast. We are getting ready for our next field trip with our buddies to go ice skating and go to Christmas in the Park. I think we will have a surprise visitor come to class on Friday to pass out candy canes and wish us a Merry Christmas before our vacation. I would like to thank all off the wonderful parents who have helped with parties, driving on field trips, and sending in supplies. Your support is very much appreciated. THANK YOU!