

MR. KELLY'S FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

December 15, 2023



Dear QCA Families:

These days are certainly buzzing with the Christmas Spirit. The students are busy making Advent wreaths and Christmas cards, practicing for concerts and Nativity performances, tracking down the elf of the shelf and counting the days until vacation. It is a fun time to be part of a Catholic Elementary School. The JOY is alive and palpable and the final three days next week are sure to crescendo to an excitable finale!

As December 25th quickly creeps up on us, I hope you are able to get through your “must-do” list quickly and painlessly so that you can build in some time for the “should-do” list. Time can be our enemy when we allow it to control us and so often we neglect to deliberately make the time for ourselves, our families and our spiritual nourishment.

We hope that your Christmas is filled with the simple and most important gifts of the season – blessed time with family and friends and a chance to renew and reflect. At QCA, we continually focus on our goal – to nurture the *whole person*.... mind, body and soul. So often the “soul” is the part that gets neglected, which is why we intentionally look for ways to cultivate that aspect of our students’ lives. I hope we are successful in that regard.

During these Advent weeks, we’ve heard the refrain....*Emmanuel, God is with us*. As Christians, we believe this to be true.... God IS with us. Every Christmas, we recall the unimaginable...God became one of us through Jesus, so that we could begin to comprehend God’s love for us in our own limited human way. When God proclaimed, “Let there be light”, we believe He ultimately sent us THE Light of the world on that first Christmas day, so that we, in turn, can choose to live our lives with hope, grace and purpose.

This will be my last Friday Newsletter for the year. Thank you for keeping in touch by reading these weekly messages. And so, from our QCA Family to your families we wish you a very Merry and blessed Christmas. See you in 2024!

In His peace,
Paul Kelly
Principal



Some Highlights:

- **Openings in PreK Classes** – We still have a few openings in our PreK classes. If you know any 3 or 4 year olds, who are interested in starting PreK in the new year, please encourage them to contact the office for more information or go on-line to begin the Application Process!
- **Christmas Bazaar Success** – Sincere words of gratitude to the many volunteers who helped out over the weekend to help make our Holiday Craft Event such a success. Led by our illustrious leadership team, many “elves” stepped up to lend a hand selling food, supervising the bouncy house, overseeing merchandise tables, setting up, breaking down... Honestly, it was the strongest showing of FSA volunteers that we have seen and it was terrific. Thanks, too, to all who brought their family and friends to attend the Bazaar to support the vendors, take a few chances and be part of the QCA Way. We are most grateful to ALL!
- **Grand Prize Raffle Winners** – Congrats to all the winners of our raffle prizes. We had quite a few QCA families luck out by winning some of the big prizes like the Holiday Pops Tickets, Celtic Game tickets, 50/50 Raffle and more! Thanks, also, to the donors for their incredible generosity. Congrats!!

- **CALENDAR DRIVE**

The January, 2024 Calendar Raffle is due. Raffle will begin when we return from Christmas break, on January 2nd . We are asking each family, that has chosen to do fundraising, to sell 15 calendars to help reach our goal. However, if there are other families who may want to contribute to the wonderful drive, calendars are available in the school office. All support is appreciated. Designed as a Christmas card, this calendar raffle makes a great gift to give that special someone, whether it's a family member, mail carrier, or neighbor. Calendars are \$15 each, and participants have 31 chances to win, totaling \$3,000! This fundraiser plays an important role to QCA's success -- your participation is tremendously appreciated! If you have any questions or need calendars, please call our main office at 617-328-3830.

INCLEMENT WEATHER:

Weather-Related Announcements – ‘Tis the season.... Inevitably there will be stormy days ahead. Please note the guidelines for communication:

When the city of Quincy declares NO SCHOOL due to inclement weather, Quincy Catholic Academy does not have school. This announcement will be made over all the major television networks in the Quincy area. In addition, families will receive an **Instant Alert text message** through the Renweb Student Information system.

When there is a delay called in the city of Quincy, Quincy Catholic Academy will open at the following times:

One-hour delay, school doors open at 8:15 a.m.

One and one-half hour delay, school doors open at 8:45 a.m.

Two-hour delay, school doors open at 9:15 a.m..

Please do not call the school, rectory, police, or fire stations concerning no school due to inclement weather.

Wrapping up the year in Celebratory Style:

Monday, December 18 – 9:00 ~ **Early Childhood Performance** in Gym
10:15 – **Christmas Concert** (K-5) in church
**ALL are encouraged to join us for either or both performances!

Tuesday, December 20 **Pajama Day**

1:55 – *Band Performance* during pick-up dismissal. Please pop into the GYM to pick-up your children today and hear some of your Christmas favorites played by the QCA Band!!

Wednesday, December 21 9:00 ~ **All School Christmas Assembly**

This is a GRAND FINALE CELEBRATION!!
MANY of your children will be performing at this event. We hope that MANY of you are able to join us from 9:00-10:00 in the GYM, as we wrap up the Christmas Season in QCA-style ~

The Program includes:

- A beautiful Advent Prayer Service
- QCA Musical Revue by our QCA Choir Members
- QCA Dance Club Performance
- Special Guest Singer ~ Sarah Kelly
- Live Nativity presented by our Grade 8 students
- Christmas Sing-A-Long

11:15 ~ Dismissal for Early Childhood

11:30 ~ Dismissal for K2-8

2:30 ~ Extended Day Program ends at 2:30



What to Wear???

Since we only have three days of school next week, we will allow optional ***“Dress Up and Dress Down”*** each day. Please note:

On Monday, December 18th - *Students involved in the Concerts are not required to be in uniform. Instead, all participants (Pre-K through grade 5) are encouraged to wear “DRESS UP” clothes (Christmas colors are preferred) for the performances. Middle School students may dress down in comfortable, appropriate “dress down” clothes.*

On Tuesday, December 19th – We will have an all-school **PAJAMA DAY** as part of the holiday fun! If students (and teachers!) have holiday PJ’s, they are encouraged to wear them. Slippers are not allowed (for safety reasons), but sneakers and other comfortable shoes are appropriate. No “feetsie Pajamas, again, for safety reasons. Middle School guidelines were sent home separately.

On Wednesday, December 21st – Students may “dress DOWN” in comfortable clothes (again Christmas colors are encouraged). We will dismiss early ~ 11:15 for Early Childhood and 11:30 for grades K-8 ☺



Attachments:

- January Calendar
- Christmas Performance Events
- Stuffed Bear Raffle