



Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools are dedicated to providing a Catholic education ensuring educational quality for all families willing to enter into a partnership to develop each child to his or her fullest spiritual and academic potential.

**December 15, 2011** Please email information for system-wide distribution to Cathy Nelson at [cnelson@gtacs.org](mailto:cnelson@gtacs.org).

This [weekend's readings](#) include the much-quoted Gospel message, "for nothing will be impossible for God"

## COMING UP

- Be there as our fabulous choir sings His praises at 6:30 during the St. Francis parish Christmas concert, this Saturday 12/17 at the church. Bring a friend!
- The Christmas Band concert for grades 5-12 is Wednesday, 12/21 at 7 pm in the gymnasium; don't miss it!
- Boys basketball faces Brother Rice this Saturday, 12/17 (JV at 6 and varsity at 7:30); don't forget the Irish dinner being served from 5-7:30 pm for \$5-\$7.50 which benefits the high school play production of Guys and Dolls; the Bay Reps hockey game is also on Saturday 12/17 at 1 pm versus Manistee at Centre Ice Arena
- No school next Thursday or Friday, 12/22-23; school resumes on January 3

## RECENT EVENTS

- Congratulations to Gladiator wrestler, Isaiah Schaub, who broke the School's total wins record last weekend
- *Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow* about giving: Holy Angels preschoolers participated in Boots for Kids by generously donating more than 200 items. [Check out the photos here.](#)
- Light streamed in through the stained glass windows during the Immaculate Conception [Living Rosary \(photos\)](#)
- Need something to lift your spirits? Check out the smiles on the kids' faces during the [Balloon Launch \(photos\)](#)

## 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONCLUDES WITH ORDINATION

The Diocese of Gaylord will close its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with the Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Joseph Ortega on December 17. Bishop Hebda will preside at Evening Vespers in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament offered in thanksgiving for the generous response of Joseph and to pray for an increase in vocations. The service will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 16 at the Cathedral in Gaylord. On Saturday, Bishop Hebda will ordain Deacon Joseph Ortega to the priesthood at a Eucharistic Liturgy which will begin at 11:00 am. A reception will follow each service. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend these special celebrations,

### EXCHANGE STUDENT HOST FAMILY SOUGHT

In January, Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools will welcome Miss Luciano Rios, a Rotary Exchange Student from Argentina. We are seeking at least one additional host family (summer months). Contact [Al Zelinski](#) to learn more.

### START YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION EARLY; READ THIS!

Need help maintaining a healthy lifestyle over the holidays? [Chef Michael Bauer to the rescue with an LBI newsletter!](#)

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW COMPETITION

The K of C annual free throw contest will take place on Saturday, January 14 at St. Francis Gym. This competition is for boys and girls ages 9-14 as of January 1, 2012. Winners progress through local, district, regional and state competitions. Last year, more than 179,000 students participated! [Registration form is here.](#)s

### CHERUB TALES IS BACK!

Cherub Tales, the popular story time for preschoolers, will be offered again this winter. Dates are January 19 and 26, February 6, 16 and 23 and March 1. Time is 10:30-11:15 am and the location is the Holy Angels Library. There is no charge, and participants are invited to enjoy lunch in the school cafeteria for \$3 (children) or \$4.50 (adults). If you know of a family with young children that might enjoy this weekly outing, please extend an invitation to them!

### KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT

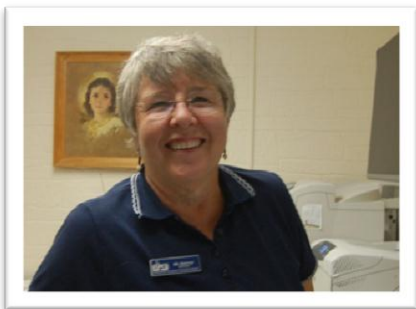
What are the signs of kindergarten readiness? What is kindergarten round-up like, and how can I help my child prepare for it? These and other questions will be answered during Kindergarten Information Night, Thursday, January 12 from 6-7:15 p.m. If you have a friend who is considering enrolling their child at Holy Angels Preschool and Elementary, please urge them to attend this informative session!

### BASKETBALL AT THE BRESLIN

The Breslin Center is among the best venues in the state for basketball, and the Gladiators will be there over Christmas break on December 29. St. Francis will take on Lansing Catholic at 2 pm. Presale tickets are available through Athletics; call 946-1180 for office hours and information.

### PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL (PTC)

The next PTC meeting is January 11 at 6:30 pm at Immaculate Conception Elementary; reminder: January is a Bonus Box Top month!



### WE WILL MISS YOU, MRS. SWEENEY

Mrs. Sweeney, beloved secretary at Immaculate Conception Elementary is retiring. How we will miss seeing her smiling face on a daily basis. Thank you, Mrs. Sweeney, for being our "glue" and for the countless ways in which you made it all look so easy – even though we know it's not!

The GTACS Family

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### REPEAT ITEMS

#### STEP RIGHT UP

Catholic Schools Week is January 28-February 3, and the PTC is looking for people to assist with the car lines. Anyone who can give our teachers a much-earned break should email Michelle Arntz ([michelle.arnzt@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.arnzt@gmail.com)). Help is needed before and after school.

#### GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

The bad news is, a page of names were omitted from the printed school directories. The good news is, you can [download that page here](#) – so even if you didn't buy a full directory (\$5), you can get one page of names and addresses free! If you are unable to print the document, please pick one up at your School's office. Sorry for the inconvenience.