

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *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.*

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*Deadline for submissions to this newsletter is Thursday @ 11:00 a.m.*

*Please email information for the SF newsletter to Kathy Hunt at [khunt@gtacs.org](mailto:khunt@gtacs.org)*

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

## *Christ – Above All Things*

### **Merry Christmas from the Principal:**

“The incarnation sprang from the goodness of God. The humility contained in this mystery is amazing, marvelous, astonishing. It shines forth with a dazzling brilliance” (Blessed Charles de Foucauld). Every Advent Season the humility of God through Christ amazes me. A God willing to be born of Mary in a manger and then live with us until death on the cross is an unbelievable act of self-less love. The wonderful part of this humble life is that we can share in it to the extent that we are willing to grow in humility. As the scripture says in “weakness we are made perfect.” The best truths always seem to paradoxes – exalt the lowly, strength seen in meekness, blessings in suffering.

It is encouraging that humility depends partly on our effort and partly on God’s grace. Further, it battles pride which all great saints and scripture itself warns us against. During this Christmas Season, may God’s grace help us to forget ourselves and live wholly for Him and for others. It is as Saint Augustine says “Are you thinking of raising the great fabric of spirituality? Attend first of all to the foundation of humility” – humility modeled for us by Emmanuel.

May Christ’s peace fill your homes during break as you spend time with those you love the most. Thank you for sharing your greatest gifts with us!

Peace and Christmas Joy,

Mr. Erick Chittle

### **From the Counselor**

Happy Friday SF families,

The snow is falling, there is excitement in the air and Christmas break is right around the corner and there is nothing like an upcoming break to put a smile on your face. Spend some special time with your family and friends as we once again welcome the Christ child. Slow down, catch your breath, and hug someone who loves you and embrace this

special time of year. Know I continue to pray for you all as we enter into the Christmas season and I feel so blessed to be a part of your lives.

NMC dual-enrollment is well underway. If you are planning to take a class, you must pick up the necessary paper work from my office and then you MUST be sure to give me a copy of your NMC bill and your NMC schedule IF you want TCAPS to pay for the class. Failure to turn in the schedule/bill in a timely manner will negate payment by TCAPS. If YOU don't want to pay the bill, get the paperwork into me ASAP.

SCHEDULE changes are underway. If you would like a schedule change, please see me before the end of the semester. We would like to offer a new art class, World Art, which will include bead work, metal work, and jewelry making. If this interests you, please let me know.

JUNIOR GALS: Girl's State Applications are available in the guidance office. This is an exceptional leadership experience available to any junior girl. This week long camp will give you the opportunity to learn more about the government and how YOU can make an impact. Please stop by the guidance office for more information.



SCHOLARSHIP LIST has been updated and this is a good time to get busy applying! Some scholarships have already come and gone without any applicants. Please take some time to review the scholarships that are located in the box outside my office. Remember if you require letters of recommendations OR transcripts, you need to give me adequate to get this completed. ☺ Get busy, get applying and get some money!



### **Summer Opportunities**



How do you want to spend your summer? A summer scholars program may be just what you had in mind. The Pre-College programs at the University of Notre Dame offers students the unique opportunity to experience the life of a Notre Dame student. If this is something that interests you and if you would like more information, take a look at [precollege.nd.edu](http://precollege.nd.edu) and start the application today!

Many more colleges will have similar opportunities. Take some time over the upcoming break and start researching the summer opportunities which are available and see if any interest you.

Enjoy the weekend!

Beth Maday, School Counselor

### **St Francis Students for Life – Deck the Dresser Drive**

We are still collecting for this very special fundraiser to help single women who have chosen life this Christmas season. We are collecting baby supplies for 0-12

months to be given to the religions teachers to fill the dresser for 2 boys/2 girls. These gifts will go to four local women who are supported by the Pregnancy Care Center here in Traverse City. Last day to contribute is next **Tuesday Dec. 20th** Thank you so much for your generosity this special time of the year.

### **Christmas Choir Concert**

Come and enjoy beautiful Christmas music tomorrow at SF Church. The concert begins at 6:30 and features Immaculate Conceptions Children Choir, St. Francis High School Choir and St. Francis Parish Choir.

### **Upcoming:**

12/20 – Tuesday (Thursday Schedule) Mass at St. Francis Church 10:15 AM

12/21 – Adoration all day in the chapel – We could use coverage on Wednesdays for Adoration between 11:00-12:15. If you would be interested please contact Kathy Hunt.

**Christmas Band Concert 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 in the SF Gym**

12/22- No school Christmas break begins

1/3 – School begins