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Tiger Pause

Newsletter

As One Family, Committed to Christ, We are Called to Learn, Love and Lead

B's Blog by Principal Mike Brennan

As we offer our prayers of thanksgiving for the bounty of blessings with which we have been graced, and make preparations for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we give thanks for His eternal and infinite presence in our lives, for His gift of salvation and for the model of servant leadership to which He has called us all to follow. We are thankful for our families, for our homes, for our educational opportunities and for the comfort of the lifestyles we so fortunately live. And when we are still, and take the time to pause and listen- especially in what can become a rather hectic and commercialized season of the year, we begin to recognize the subtleties of our lives; the often invisible graces that fill the cracks and crevices of life's more "significant" moments and yet serve as the mortar that binds them together. The sun shining warmly upon our faces, soft grass between our bare toes, the laughter of children, the stars at night or the kindness of a stranger all serve as beautiful reminders of God's hand at work in our lives.

I feel it necessary to pause and reflect on the activities of our MHT students over the course of this academic year. As educators in Catholic schools it is imperative that we recognize inwardly, and profess outwardly, our belief in the Church's educational philosophy; that there be no separation, no divorce between time for learning and time for formation. That the two go hand in hand and are forever forged as one in the educational mission of Most Holy Trinity Catholic School. MHT is indeed a place of academic excellence, but at the same time an environment for the holistic formation of our young people rooted in the mystery of the very Incarnation for which we are presently preparing. I can go on and on about our students' academic and athletic achievements, however, the true success of a school cannot be measured in test scores, accreditation results, and team records. It is found in the actions of its students and in their response to God's call for active service, love and commitment to those less fortunate- a call for justice in this world and to ensure the common good of all His people.

"The life and words of Jesus and the teaching of His Church call us to serve those in need and to work actively for social and economic justice. As a community of believers, we know that our faith is tested by the quality of justice among us, that we can best measure our life together by how the poor and the vulnerable are treated." ([Economic Justice for All](#), 8) This year our students have been actively engaged in countless acts of self-giving...answering this very call to serve the marginalized and become an equalizing force in this world. As a whole school community we have for the third year in a row hosted over twenty orphaned and abandoned children from Miacatlan, Mexico in the Friends of the Orphans/Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos' "Celebration of Life" school mass and cultural exchange. This event not only promotes solidarity but also materializes in the numerous classroom and individual family sponsorships of these children. As we speak, I am also in the process of making preparations for what will be our third mission trip of seventh and eighth grade students to the NPH orphanage in Miacatlan this coming April.

Our students also continue to impress me with their dedication to a long-standing relationship with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Weekly collections for canned goods and other non-perishable items are presented during the Offertory at our Student Liturgies each Friday and then carried over to the parish pantry to ensure the shelves remain stocked for those members of our immediate community in need. Our National Junior Honor Society students collected toiletry items for the homeless in exchange for decorating pumpkins with students. In addition to these ongoing efforts, students recently assisted SVDP in putting together 1,000 collection bags for their annual can food drive.

Collections are wonderful and indeed these efforts must be commended, however, and better still, is when our students have the opportunity to engage interpersonally and in the flesh with those they serve. Our Eighth Grade class as well as our 5-8 grade Elective Enrichment Program class, "Service...Why Me?", have made several trips to SVDP's numerous kitchens preparing and serving warm meals and engaging in conversation and relationship with members of our community- Catholic or not- who continue to suffer as a consequence of life's many obstacles. It is here where the true participation in and experience of solidarity begins. Our Student Council sponsored a "Christmas Cheer" items needed drive for our military troops overseas and participated first-hand in the distribution of these items to Luke Air Force Base.

And these are just the bigger ones. Our students, on a continual basis, make cards and small gifts for the veterans of the Phoenix VA Hospital and for our Parish's Ministry of Care led by Sr. Sarah. They visit the local nursing home, with their own pets in fact, and engage in conversation and prayer with the elderly of our community. They have sponsored a "Spiritual Adoption" as a way to pray for the unborn and their mothers. They do amazing things plain and simple...and the best part is their desire to do so. They are not dragged by the ear, but rather ask eagerly of our faculty for the opportunities to give...truly a beautiful sign of our commitment as a Catholic community and our success as an educational institution to instill the qualities of servant leadership deep within our hearts.

"No one may claim the name of Christian and be comfortable in the face of hunger, homelessness, insecurity, and injustice found in this country and the world." ([Economic Justice for All](#), 27) This is certainly the essence of Most Holy Trinity Catholic School...where a mission of learning, loving and leading is being lived to the extremes.

On behalf of myself and the entire Faculty and Staff of Most Holy Trinity Catholic School, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to a wonderful New Year.

Mr. B.

Interested in Singing on Christmas Eve?

We're looking for choir singers and readers for our MHT Christmas Eve 5:00pm Mass. If interested please contact **Mrs. Tucker** at tucker@mht.org or **Mrs. Riccitelli**, rriccitelli@mht.org.

THANKS

Thank you **Mrs. Tucker, Ms. Watkins, Mr. Tucker, Mr. Wetzel, Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Probst**, for all of your hard work on our Advent program. It was simply beautiful!

While we're on the subject, we would like to extend a heartfelt **Thank You** to the all of the people that have given their time, talent, and treasure to our school over the years. While many request to remain anonymous, we would be remiss not to mention how incredibly appreciative we are.

One More Thank You

Chris McCann's name was inadvertently missed in last weeks' Tiger Pause. Thank you Mrs. McCann for giving of your time and wrapping talents at our Christmas Shop.

Time to Rummage

Your Trash is Someone Else's Treasure! If you're cleaning out those closets and garages to make room for your new Christmas gifts, please consider donating your treasures, as well as your helping hands, to our annual Rummage Sale. Thanks to the generous **Garner** family, we again have a pod for storage use. Contact **Lina (602-944-3375)** for information.

Congratulations 4th Grade

Mrs. Sosnicki's 4th grade class was the winner of **Operation Christmas Cheer** bringing in 481 items, averaging 28 items per student. Miss Watkins 8th grade class came in 2nd averaging 18 items per student. Great job Tigers!

"Buck a Jean" Day

Student Council is sponsoring a "Buck a Jean" day on **Thursday, January 6th**. It is Spirit Day so wear your favorite MHT spirit shirt, bring a dollar and wear jeans too.

Tiger Pause is published each Friday during the school year.

Please submit story ideas to marketing@mht.org no later than Tuesday.

Redirect Your 2010 Tax Dollars!

Have you redirected your 2010 Arizona tax dollars to the Catholic Tuition Organization of the Diocese of Phoenix (CTODP)? CTODP is a "no-cost contribution" toward tuition assistance, allowing Arizona taxpayers a tax **CREDIT** of up to \$1000 (married filers) or \$500 (single filers) on their state income taxes. You receive every dollar back from the State that you contributed prior to April 15th. Yes, the deadline has been extended to April 15th. By redirecting your tax dollars to support Catholic education, **YOU** are deciding how you want your tax dollars to be used. By designating MHT as your school of choice, (using the **MHT school code – 116**) your CTODP contribution will go directly to providing tuition assistance to MHT families with a verified financial hardship. Share this message with your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. By being good stewards of the time, talent, and treasures that the Father has provided for us, He will smile proudly when He sees the students who are able to attend MHT Catholic School because of the generosity of others. Redirect your 2010 tax dollars online at www.ctodp.org.

THANK YOU to **Miranda Albo, Ian Baker, Bob Brandt, Hannah Brizze, Hayley Brizze, Sydney Cereska, Milo Charbel, Carter Chase, Haily Fadden, Gabrielle Gaspard, Gage Gaspard, Grayson Gaspard, Noah Gordon, Hailey Habra, Jamie Habra, Emily Habra, Natalie Halsey, Gabriel Herrera, Ross Johnson, Lance Johnson, Benjamin Kot, Breanna Miller, Kelsey Quenneville, Camella Riccitelli, Bret Ruff, Laurel Senn, Jamie Tucker, Andy Vainauskas, and Corelle Wickramasekera** for helping to spread the CTODP message by distributing CTODP brochures and representing their school in uniform after Masses the past several weekends. As a community we can make the choice of a Catholic Education affordable for everyone.

Volunteer Opportunities...

Catholic Schools Week – Open House

Once again **Debbie Halsey** has graciously offered to organize and host the hospitality area for our **Catholic Schools Week Open House for prospective new school families on Sunday, January 30th**. The Open House will be from 11:30am – 2:00pm at the Youth Center kitchen. Please contact Debbie @ halsey20@msn.com if you're available to bake some goodies or help to set up and serve.

Annual Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will begin during Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, **January 30th**, 11:30 – 2:00pm and conclude on Friday, **February 4th**. If any parents, who have attended the Called to Protect training, are interested in volunteering at the book fair, please email **Mrs. Johnson** at djohnson@mht.org.

Dinner Auction Committee Volunteers Needed

If you are looking for a fun way to earn your Time and Talent hours, the Dinner Auction Committee is your answer. The next Dinner Auction Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on **Monday, January 10th @ 6:00pm** in the **Science Lab**. Please contact Rose @ the school office if you're interested in helping out.

Golf Committee Volunteers Needed

Another fun way to earn Time and Talent hours is helping to plan our annual Golf tournament, please contact Peter Baker @ peterbaker@cox.net or JJ Berglund @ JasonB@qdiwireless.com if interested.

Upcoming Dates of Interest

Please regularly review the school calendar on the MHT website for changes.

December 20th – 31st Christmas Break
December 24th MHT Christmas Eve 5:00pm Family Mass (see above article)
January 3rd School resumes
January 3rd House mtg. – 11:00 – 11:40
January 4th Rosary Night – 6:00pm, Jr. High Quad
January 5th Student Council mtg. 7:15am room 204
January 5th 7th – 8th grade Math lab – 3:30 – 4:30, room 206
January 5th Webkinz Club – 3:30 – 4:30, computer lab
January 6th Epiphany – House gift exchange
January 6th Spirit Day (Spirit shirts with uniform bottom or "Buck a Jean")
January 7th 2nd Quarter Ends
January 8th Saturday Service School 8:00am – 11:00am