

Christ Lutheran School Newsletter

February 2012



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Dear Parents and Friends of Christ Lutheran School,

Our 62nd annual boys basketball tournament is just 3 weeks away (Feb. 17-19). Our tournament is rich in history and is a major event for not only our students, but for hundreds of players, cheerleaders and parents who attend that weekend. I am always impressed by how many different people comment on their memories of our tournament.

As you can imagine, a tournament of this size requires a lot of volunteers. We have 32 games, a cheerleading competition, free throw and 3 point shooting competitions and a special Saturday evening worship service. We need help taking tickets, hallguarding, working in the kitchen, selling concessions, working in the Comet Cafe, providing security in our parking lots and much more.

Please keep our tournament and our guests in your prayers. If you are able to help volunteer, call the school office. Your help is appreciated.

God's Blessings,
Terry Mooney



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

CASUAL DAY ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

**SPIRIT WEEK & SPECIAL DRESS DAYS
FEBRUARY 13-16: SEE TOURNAMENT PAGE**



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During the month of February we reflect on the many contributions of African-Americans in our society.

Famous black Americans and their accomplishments will be featured throughout the month. We will have a special lunch on Wednesday, February 8th featuring some favorite ethnic foods: chicken drumettes, dressing, macaroni 'n cheese greens, cornbread, and banana pudding. Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch and/or the assembly. Please call the school office if you are planning to join us for lunch. Cost for adult guest lunches is \$3.00.

SCRIP PROGRAM It does take a little time and advance planning, but you can earn significant savings on your school bills; and if a lot of people participate, the school can earn a great deal that can go toward those “extras”. If you would like more information, please contact Mary Ryan (697-4374) or call the school office.

SPELLING BEE Our school’s annual spelling bee will be on Thursday, February 23rd at 9:00 a.m. The winner will represent Christ Lutheran at the Journal Star City finals the first weekend in March. You are welcome to come and watch as our students display their spelling prowess.



TUITION AND FEES We are already more than half way through the school year. Please be reminded that all tuition and fees need to be current in order for children to go on class trips, receive their end of the year report cards and participate in graduation.

BIDDY BASKETBALL This will be our 14th year for the CLS Biddy Basketball League, which is open to students in grades K –5. There are two divisions (juniors & seniors). Players are evaluated on “draft” day and then drafted onto teams. The cost is \$30.00 for the 1st child and \$20 for each additional child in the family. Games are played mostly on Saturday mornings beginning in February. The draft was held on Friday January 28th, but if you are interested it’s not too late to sign up. Please call the school office as soon as possible.



QUALIFIED EDUCATION EXPENSE RECEIPTS ARE READY As most of you know, there is an income tax credit for K-12 school expenses in the State of Illinois. Tuition, book fees, and lab fees (i.e. band) in excess of \$250.00 could make a difference in the amount of state income tax you pay. It does not have any effect on federal taxes.

We have compiled figures for all of our families and will gladly fill out an Illinois Receipt for Qualified Education Expenses for you if you wish. Please remember that you can combine fees for Christ Lutheran with fees from other schools. For example, if your fees at Christ Lutheran do not meet the \$250.00 minimum, they can be added to book fees that you may have paid for a high school age child. Please feel free to stop in the office to have a receipt filled out for you. Or, you can call the office and request that one be sent home with your child.

VOLUNTEER HOURS Are you short on your volunteer hours for the year? Here is a golden opportunity to get them taken care of.

1. Our annual basketball tournament is coming up this month on February 17, 18 and 19. We will need help in many areas over those three days. Sign-up sheets are available in the office.
2. The Lutheran Sports Association hosts a State High School basketball tournament February 24, 25 and 26. They use our gym and once again there will be ample opportunities to help. Call the school office for more information.



LENTEN WORSHIP Ash Wednesday is on February 22nd. Beginning that day and continuing for six consecutive weeks, we will have a Lenten worship service during our chapel time at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to join us for worship and for lunch at school.

FAMILY DAY Parents, Grandparents, preschool siblings (or any other students' family members) are welcome to join us for our Lenten worship service at 10:00 a.m. and then enjoy lunch with their CLS student with special emphasis on the following days.

6th-8th Grade Family Day on Wednesday, Feb. 22nd
3rd-5th Grade Family Day on Wednesday, Mar. 28th

FREE WEEKLY READERS speaking of saving money, thanks to all who filled out and returned the booklets for Weekly Readers. We still need more booklets filled out in order to have our Weekly Readers be completely free next year. Call the school office to get an extra booklet or two – especially if you have not yet turned one in.

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION We recently received a check for \$485.50 from the Box Tops for Education program. Great job everyone! Keep clipping those "boxtops" and sending them into school!

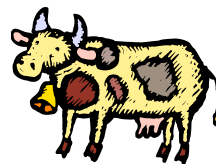
NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? Be a volunteer at CLS. Your help is appreciated by both the students and staff. You can make a difference.

OPEN HOUSE / ENROLLMENT NIGHT Coming up on March 15th is our open house and academic fair. It is also the night that we invite families interested in enrolling for next year to come and see the school and get information that they need. If you know of someone who would like to send their child to Christ Lutheran have them mark the date on their calendar. You can share their name and address with the school office as well and we will send them an invitation.

ALWAYS AVAILABLE ON THE WEB! You can get all the information you need on our web site at clspeoria.org. There is a form with tuition prices and payment options, a school supply list, the calendar for the school year and the 2011-2012 choir schedule. Along with the newsletter each month we publish a calendar and the breakfast and lunch menus.

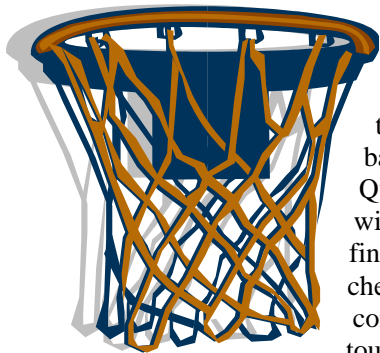


ITEMS NEEDED FOR SCHOOL We are always in need of extra spoons and forks. We also can use old towels (clean of course) and outgrown-but-still-good clothing for our uniform store.



CHAPEL OFFERINGS Chapel offerings over the next few months will go toward buying animals. When we purchase animals through the Lutheran World Relief program our gifts of love help to ease suffering, end poverty and promote peace. Our first goal is to buy one cow for \$375. A dairy cow will help a farmer work his way out of poverty by providing milk to drink and sell. If we reach our first goal, then we will work toward purchasing some chicks, ducks or goats. Please send in your nickels, dimes and quarters on Chapel Day!

62nd Tournament Page



62 AND COUNTING It won't be long and the referees will toss the ball into the air and begin our 61st boys basketball tournament. Questions abound – who will win this year? Will the Comets finish #1? Who will win the cheerleading and shooting competitions? The dates of the tournament are Friday – Sunday,

February 17th – 19th. The excitement is building as preparations are being made. If you would like to help, please fill out the response form. Be sure to include your home phone number and if you can take calls at work, list that number also. We will be calling you to arrange a time that is convenient for you. There are dozens of jobs to do – hall guarding, tickets, snack bar, clean-up, video, scorers and timers – something for everyone. Come and be a part of this special weekend as we watch to see who will be this year's champions. **We will not have school on Friday, February 17th or Monday, February 20th.**

SPIRIT WEEK is another tradition involving the tournament. This year we will have some fun and show our spirit in the following ways:

Monday is Mis-match Day – Wear mis-matched clothes and shoes.

Tuesday is Pajama Day – Wear pajamas – long legs please. No shorties or nightgowns.

Wednesday – Pink and Red Day – Everyone wear pink and/or red to school.

Thursday is Tournament T-shirt Day – wear your tournament t-shirt and join us for the pep assembly. Students who wear this year's basketball tournament t-shirt can wear non-uniform pants to school.

Mr. Mooney is keeping score of spirit Week. Each day, each class will be graded by the percentage of participation in that day's special dress. The class that gets the highest grade for all 4 days gets an extra casual day! We will also have individual winners for originality.

WORSHIP TOGETHER A tournament worship service will be held Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. in our church sanctuary for all tournament participants and anyone else who would like to come. Sunday services will be held at their normal times.

CLS BOOSTERS One of the easiest, least expensive and potentially most fun ways to get involved in the tournament is to put your name, your nickname, your pet's names, or a good luck wish on the booster list. There are prizes and rewards for active participation. Sheets with details and sign-up space were sent home and extras are available in the school office. **Boosters must be turned in by Wednesday, February 8th.**



CALLING ALL BAKERS We are also in need of homemade baked goods (cookies, pies, cakes, brownies, Rice Krispie treats, etc) for our snack bar at the tournament. Individually wrapped items may be brought to the school Thursday or Friday.

STUDENTS IN GRADES K – 5 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT WHEN ATTENDING THE TOURNAMENT. COME TO THE GAMES AND SHOW YOUR COMET SPIRIT!



VISITOR FRIENDLY PARKING We are also asking all of our tournament workers, especially those who will be here for long periods of time, to car-pool, which helps create as much parking space as possible for our guests.

TOURNAMENT ADS A big part of our tournament effort is selling ads for our tournament booklet. Sizes range from 1/8 page (business card size) to a full page ad. If you, your employer or anyone else you know would like advertise or make a donation, please call the school office. All ad copy must be in by Wednesday, February 8th.

Please be sure to call the school office and volunteer to help. You'll be glad you did! Tournament time is fun!