

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. ~Colossians 1:17

DEVELOPING MINDS. BUILDING CHARACTER. STRENGTHENING FAITH.

Advent Service Project

Each year, MQA supports the Try Life organization in Lower Burrell. Because it is the Advent Season and not yet Christmas, we set up an Advent tree and “decorate” it with items that the Try Life Center can use. Baby outfits, toddler pjs, bibs, onesies, toys, and the like. We also put formula and diapers and baby food under the tree. Please consider sending in an item for our tree.



Early Release Day

Friday, December 14th is an early release day. There are no clubs or extended day that day. Freeport Road dismisses at 1:00 for buses with cars following and 1:10 at Greenwald.

Christmas Vacation and Last Day 12/21

Friday, December 21st is the last day of school for the year! It is a full day of school. However, the Extended Day program will not be available that day. Please make arrangements.

Valos Candy Order Pickup

Thursday, December 13th is delivery day for Valos Candy orders at both locations. Pickup is available any time after noon on that day. You can also pick up on Friday, December 14th in the morning or at dismissal. If you are electing to pick up your candy, let the office know. Otherwise, the order will be sent home with your child at dismissal on Thursday.

Dismissal Changes and Absences

This is a reminder that dismissal changes are requested in writing with a note to the teacher, who will present it to the office. The other option is to send an email to both the teacher and Mrs. Becker or Miss Fliss which can be printed. It is impossible to know that a teacher will be available to read an email. Plan periods for teachers vary throughout the week. Changes are best made in the morning. A child's word on what is to be done at the end of the day, is not the way to organize dismissal. Please be mindful of our request for written confirmation. Emergency changes are, of course, another matter.

Please be sure to call the office for absences and then send in a written excuses upon return. The other option is to email the teacher and Mrs. Becker or Miss Fliss with the call off. That email, stating the reason for the absence can be used as an excuse since it can be printed. Doctor excuses are always preferred when a child misses for an appointment.

Awards



First Lego League teams continue to work on their robots and programs. We have attended three scrimmages and had a good showing for both teams while learning and refining our robots and programming. At the Sharon SD scrimmage, the teams took home trophies for third and second place for the mission boards. The finals are this weekend.

The Forensic Team has completed in two tournaments so far this year. One was held at MQA in November. We placed third in the team award! Our students had a total of 13 firsts, 13 seconds, and 2 thirds at this tournament. We hosted the tournament with class! The schools that attended were impressed with our school and grateful for the hospitality.

Then in December, with a partial team competing at Mellon Middle School, we took 6 first, 3 seconds, and 1 third. Congratulations!



Christmas Concert

The Christmas concert is on December 18 for those in grades K-3, chorus, and band will be held at St. Margaret Mary in Lower Burrell. The concert begins at 6:30 and student report at 6:00 for warm ups in Sullivan Hall in the basement of the parish hall. All students and families are invited to attend.

SCG Fundraiser

Every organization has fundraisers. Please do the right thing because it is right and just. Do not base your decisions on other adults who do not do what is expected. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to this first SCG fundraiser, the Holiday Shopping Prize Package Raffle. The winning ticket was sold by the Evans family to Jeanne Stefano.

This year so far, SCG has funded a portion of our new computers for K-3 this year with the profits.

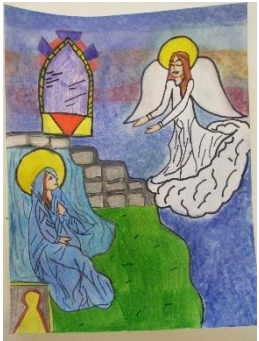
We sold 509 tickets, 4 fall opt outs, and 3 full year opt outs. After expenses our profit was \$7,150. We have a goal of raising an additional \$8,000-\$10,000 this year to support field trips and other school needs.

Reminder! The SCG Winter Carnival is Friday, December 14. RSVPs are due today with payment. It is held at the Greenwald Site!

Student Council News

Student Council has asked for permission (and granted) for everyone to be able to wear Christmas socks with their uniform every Tuesday and Thursday in December for a fee which will support Try Life Center. This is optional, of course.

Christmas Art Work



This December, Aurelia Tomayko one of our 8th grade students is being presented with an award for her Christmas art work at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Only 24 works were chosen across the country! The art is being made into e-Christmas cards. Congratulations to our Aurelia for her lovely work of art, The Annunciation! The art can be found on www.mcakids.org.

Save Day Reminder

December 13th is the fourth Save Day at MQA. Send in any amount of money to be deposited into your child's account. This is only for those families that have already established a Save Day account with the credit union. It is never too late to join, however! If you would like to start saving, please contact Pheple FCU at 724-834-5580 or school@pheplefcu.org.

New Tax Laws Allow 529 Savings to be used for K-12 Tuition

Just an FYI, that if you have a 529 savings plan set up for college, that plan can also be used for K-12 Tuition.

Updated Scrip List of Vendors Online

Just an FYI, Mrs. Farrell updated the Scrip list and it has been uploaded to our web site at

<http://www.mqaschool.org/resources/Pages/Tuition%20Credit%20Programs.aspx>. Remember that the SCRIP order is placed by Wednesday of any given week and pick up of the gift cards is the Wednesday following. The amount of tuition credit varies with the vendor. Don't forget that Shop N Save, Community Market, Golden Dawn, and Giant Eagle cards also earn tuition credit for the upcoming year. It is important that you purchase the MQA cards from the New Kensington stores' Service Desk and provide the family name/number. You can also get the gift cards from the Greenwald Site Office and Mount St. Peter and St. Margaret Mary church offices. Questions can be directed to Mrs. Farrell at 724.339.4411 or mfarrell@mqaschool.org.