

# From the Principal's Desk

December 17, 2015



## Quick Links

[School Site](#)

[School Calendar](#)



## The O Antiphons

As the hustle and bustle of the season hits the high point in the last week prior to Christmas, this is a wonderful time to pull back a bit and re-center ourselves on our preparations for the birth of our Savior. One of the most ancient of traditions is the O Antiphons: seven responses, or antiphons, that are sung or recited to introduce the canticle of Mary (the Magnificat) at evening prayer from December 17 to December 23, the octave before Christmas. These antiphons are based on Isaiah's prophecies and refer to the different ancient titles given to the Messiah:

- O Sapientia (O Wisdom) See Isaiah 11:2-3; 28:29.
- O Adonai (O Lord) See Isaiah 11:4-5; 33:22.
- O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse) See Isaiah 1:1; 11:10.
- O Clavis David (O Key of David) See Isaiah 9:6; 22:22.
- O Oriens (O Rising Sun) See Isaiah 9:1.
- O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations) See Isaiah 9:5; 2:4.
- O Emmanuel (God with us) See Isaiah 7:14.

I encourage you to share these readings with your children to help remind them of the "reason for the season."

A few date reminders:

- Friday, December 18th is the date that 2nd Quarter interims will go home, as needed;
- Monday, December 21st is a regular, full day of school;
- Tuesday, December 22nd is an 11:30 am dismissal with NO Extended

Day;  
Monday, January 4th is the first day back after the Christmas break

*-Maureen Ashby*

Principal

*"The future starts today, not tomorrow." - Pope John Paul II  
Holy Spirit School Class of 2015*



## **Congratulations Confirmandi**

Congratulations to the 8th grade students who were confirmed last Friday evening. We are proud of the preparation you completed and know you will move forward with confidence to spread the Good News through your words and actions.

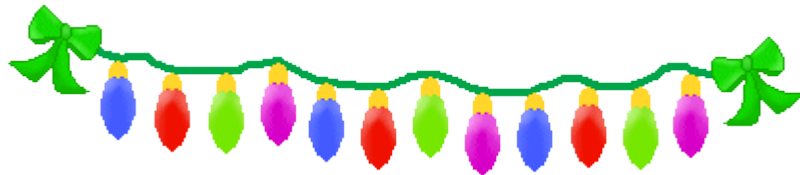


## **Middle School Geography Bee**

Congratulations to 7th grader Sam D. on winning this year's National Geographic Geography Bee!

Sam will go on to take a written exam with the opportunity to advance to the Commonwealth of Virginia's state competition.

Good luck Sam!

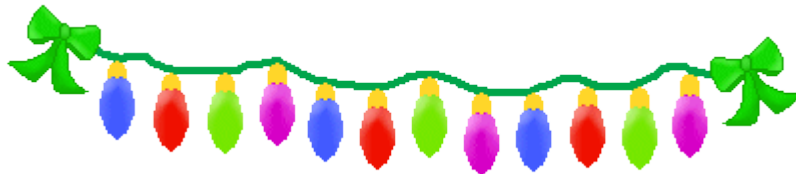


### Three Wee Kings Wrap-Up

The kindergarten through 4th grade students provided a wonderful performance to all in attendance on Tuesday evening. The singing was beautiful and we obviously have many budding actors and actresses in our school community.

A special thank you to Mrs. Gullickson for all of the time and effort she put into the production.

We know that many did not receive a program on Tuesday evening. If you are in need of one please [click here](#).





## "Santa's Secret Shop"

Grades kingergarten through 8th will have the opportunity to shop tomorrow, Friday, December 18th 2015!  
(PreK shopped already shopped today.)

Prices are very affordable, ranging from \$1.00 to \$15.00.

Each student received an envelope on Monday; please be sure they bring it back on the scheduled shopping date with the cash for their shopping. Santa's helpers will be there to assist the students with their purchases. All gifts will come home, wrapped, and ready to go under your Christmas Tree!

If you have any questions please  
email: [anavickyu@hotmail.com](mailto:anavickyu@hotmail.com) or [ynlcastellon@gmail.com](mailto:ynlcastellon@gmail.com)



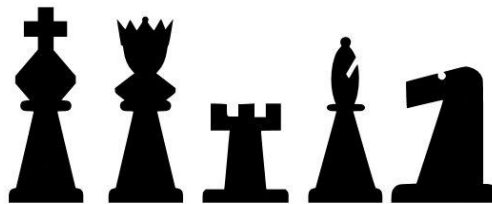
**Christmas Dress Down Day!**

The National Junior Honor Society is hosting  
a  
Dress Down Day on Monday, Dec. 21st

Prekindergarten thru 2nd Grade should dress  
as Santa, or Mrs. Claus

3rd Grade thru 5th Grade should dress  
as Elves

Middle School students should dress  
as Christmas Ornaments



Chess Club  
Winter Session

Sign-ups for the winter session of Chess Club have begun. [Please click here for more information.](#)



## January Lunch Calendar

The January lunch calendar is now available. Please see the link below in the Family Folder Flyers section or under the Current Families tab on the school website click on Lunch Menu.

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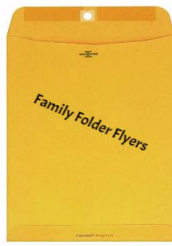


## Respect for Life Club Coat Drive

The coat drive has been a huge success thus far! We are quickly closing in on 200 coats having been donated. Thank you for your generosity!

The drive will continue until February.

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## Family Folder Flyers

The following flyers can be found on the website in the folder labeled "December 17, 2015" (or follow the links here) For your convenience, some flyers are repeated with the newest flyers at the top:

### School Flyers:

1. [Wee Three Kings Program](#)
2. [Chess Club - Winter Session Sign-up](#)
2. [January Lunch Menu](#)

### Parish Flyers:

### Community Flyers:

1. [Arlington Diocese Job Fair flyer](#)
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