



The Crusader Chronicle



www.cedarcrest.org

January 18, 2008

**Virtue for January:
Sincerity**



**Important
Dates & Events**

January 21

Martin Luther King Day No School

January 23

Report cards distributed

January 25

All School Geography Bee 9:00am

January 25, 12:00-3:00pm

Welcome Celebration and Mass for new Exec. Director S. Schmitz

January 28-February 1

Cedarcrest Spirit Week!

February 14

All-school spelling bee

February 14

St. Valentine's Dinner for Couples

February 20

Men's Lenten Study Group

February 23

Assessment Day

March 15-24

Easter Break

To Teach, To Educate, To Form

Principal's Ponderings



Ancient by her own admission, Sister Cecilia would slowly take her place on the dais in front of my elementary music class. Through narrow spectacles her tired eyes would suddenly shine brightly, as if she had just come in from the bitter cold. Seemingly summoned by a distant trumpet, the navy blue folds of her habit would come alive darting about following her music staff. As second graders, in a time when hologram stickers were gaining popularity, we thought that she was the closest thing to a hologram. Sister Cecilia was passionate about music. Sister Cecilia knew something that the Church discovered long ago: music moves the soul. Although impartial to the *Mass for Saint Cecilia*, composed by Charles Gounod, Sister Cecilia taught us, large and small, about the brilliance of Handel's masterful work, *The Messiah*. In all likelihood, you remember your music classes in elementary and high school with some clarity and, quite probably, affection.

Although music teachers are unique in their own right, often brimming with talent and enthusiasm, the simple act of studying and singing music forms us -- perhaps even transforms us. Music, as Saint Augustine observed, 'lifts the heart and mind to God-like praying twice.' At Cedarcrest Academy this year we doubled instruction time in music and art. Offering our students more time for the study of music theory and practice has resulted in a deepening of our program of Integral Formation. Just this year we have seen flashes of what has already been accomplished in the pleasing sounds at Grandparents Day and the Christmas Pageant, not to mention the sacred strains that accompany Mass each week. As I walk through the hallways before school, frequently there is the pleasant sound of students happily signing. As we consider what just a semester of increased instruction has done, let us contemplate what eight or nine years will accomplish.

Returning just a couple of years ago to a majestic Motherhouse rising along the shores of Lake Huron, Sister Cecilia was joined for the final time by nearly 55 years worth of music students. When Mass had ended we commended her in song to a loving Father, the choir of former students triumphantly sang those redemptive lines from Handel, "Even so in Christ, the dead shall be made alive!" Music moves us, and gives but a glimpse of Heaven.

*In Christ,
Jason E. Slattery, Principal*

Easter Break

Cedarcrest Academy will observe Easter Break from March 15th-March 24th. All students and faculty will return to school on Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

Many thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Men...Save the Date

The Men's Committee invites you to a Lenten Study Group on Mel Gibson's movie, The Passion of the Christ.

Four Wednesday evenings during Lent (2/20, 2/27, 3/5, and 3/12)
More details to follow.



Send suggestions and newsletter submissions to Rosanne Petersen at frontdesk@cedarcrest.org

Thank You

On January 14th, I observed my birthday. Like many others, a birthday had largely become another day in the year. However, this year the day had new meaning and in all honesty I think the best one yet. I usually spend some time reflecting upon the year. My birthday this year marked my first as a father. How much children change our lives and perspective, as cliché as it might sound. In the morning I received a tremendous gift from all of you. I spent the evening of my birthday reading through the dozens of spiritual bouquets and well wishes. Your generosity in praying for me and for our school certainly has made this year all the better and I shutter to think where we would be without your steadfast support. Parents, students and friends, please accept my sincere appreciation for your prayers. The tremendously generous birthday gift coordinated by CAPA was greatly appreciated and I scarcely know what else to say. How fortunate I am to be here with you at Cedarcrest Academy, a school of complete excellence, which is one of the greatest gifts that God has given me. Be assured of my gratitude and prayers. *Semper Altius!*
Jason E. Slattery, Principal

A Starry, Starry Night on April 5th!

We are currently collecting items for the **classroom themed baskets** which will be auctioned off at the **Gala**. Please send an item corresponding to your child's specific grade's basket. We suggest a \$5 **minimum** per item. Please place donations in the baskets located in each classroom **by January 25**. If you have any questions regarding, please contact Jennifer Newman at 763-422-9154 or at iad3996@msn.com.

Also, remember to take advantage of the early bird ticket price of \$125. That is \$25.00 off the regular price!! Hurry!! Special ends January 25th, 2008!

LIFE IS PRECIOUS!

The sixth through eighth grade students will join the annual "March for Life" on Tuesday, January 22, beginning with a prayer service at the St. Paul Cathedral and ending at the Capitol building. Students will attach the following card to roses (a rose is a sign of the pro-life movement) to give to each senator:

Life is Precious!

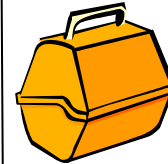
'It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish.' ~Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Help Build a civilization of love! Defend 'Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" for ALL persons.

The Cedarcrest Academy Students thank you!

Yes — it will be **cold!** But the students are determined to go and defend life. If you are interested in joining the students and thousands of other marchers, please contact Vickie Franzese at v.franzese@cedarcrest.org.

LUNCH BOX IDEAS



Message on a Banana?

When I put bananas in my kids' lunches, I lightly carve a little message on it with the tip of a steak knife. Like "Love You," or "Have a great day," the message turns brown so they can read it at snack or lunchtime. I want them to know that I am thinking about them each day. (Ericka Walz)

Peanut butter and jelly "burritos." One day when I ran out of bread for sandwiches, I decided to use tortillas instead. The kids loved it and kept asking for more! No more crusts returning home uneaten, and the whole wheat or whole grain tortillas add some extra protein and nutrition. Hold off a little on the jelly and put it more toward the middle of the tortilla or it might ooze out the ends ... Use or not - you decide! (Brenda McGrath)

Cedarcrest Spirit Week! January 28 – February 1

Monday	Winter Olympics
Tuesday	Slipper Day
Wednesday	Buddy Bingo
Thursday	Wear School Colors
Friday	Teacher Swap Day

New this year: Medallion Hunt and "Happy Fun Bags."

Remember to get your Family Shield project in by Jan. 22!

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FAMILY DANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Last Saturday evening many Cedarcrest Academy families attended the Family Fun Night that was held at the Rogers Community Center. Over 60 families joined in on the fun! There was music and dancing, great food, conversation, and various activities for family members of all ages. The highlights of the evening were the father/daughter dance, mother/son dance, and the mummy wrap--where many trusting moms allowed their children to wrap them in toilet paper to see who could fashion the best mummy. A duo of moms wrapped together by their children won the first place prize—Mrs. Dykhoff and Mrs. Wahlquist! However, they saved the best for the end when the dads proved their strength of character (and body!) in the push-up contest! The children enjoyed seeing their fathers, teachers, school board members and even grandfathers give it their all! The strong winners took home a box of push-ups to share with their proud children! (Mr. Becker, Bethany and Gretta—how were those push-ups?)



Top Left: Basgall Family doing the “mummy wrap.”
 Top Middle: Kieilty family dancing; Top Right: Dads doing push ups!; Upper Middle Left: Gina Dykhoff and Kelly Wahlquist — Mummy Wrap Winners! Upper Middle Right: Gretta and Steve Becker; Bottom: Cedarcrest students doing skit.

Science Museum Field Trip

On Thursday, January 17, the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th grades visited the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul. Favorite activities included: the Omni Theatre’s *Ring of Fire*, a documentary about volcanoes and earthquakes; hands-on activities like the air pressure demo, math puzzles and topology; and of course the dinosaur fossils and the tug boat!

