



Grace and peace, dear parents,

Tomorrow is the Feast of St. Nicholas and we will be celebrating at St. Matthias School. Students will put one of their shoes in the hallway in hopes that the spirit of St. Nick just might place a small gift. We will be looking.

This coming Friday, December 7 we will cheer together at our Annual Pep Rally. The celebration begins at 1:15 and we look forward to applauding our teams. One of our students is sponsoring a Bake Sale during the lunch periods on Friday, December 7 to offer assistance during this holiday season for less fortunate families in our community. If you would want to donate some baked goods for sale on Friday, just send your item to the school office on Friday morning. Don't forget to bring the pajamas for the Annual Pajama Drive. HSA officers will be packing the pj's on Monday and prepare them for delivery.

On Tuesday, December 11, please join the school family for our Annual Band Concert. The concert under the direction of Mr. Mallinson will begin at 6:30 PM. On Wednesday, December 12, the school students will gather in church to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The entire Diocese will spend the following year preparing us to set our hearts on fire for Jesus through his Mother, Mary. At this gathering the students will hear the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Juan Diego.

The Pontifical Mission Societies are sponsoring an annual Christmas Artwork Contest. Twenty-two winners will be selected in this national competition; their artwork will be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC during Advent and Christmas 2019. Two grand-prize winners will also be selected, and their artwork will appear as the official Christmas card of the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, Reverend Andrew Small, OMI.

National contest winners will be notified in late spring 2019 and announced to Catholic media in Fall 2019; all winners receive a commemorative plaque. Past winners may not enter this year's contest.

Submit all entries to:

Missionary Childhood Association Artwork Contest
PONTICAL MISSION SOCIETIES
Diocese of Metuchen PO Box 191
Metuchen, NJ 08840-0191

Entry forms and guidelines may be obtained from the school office. The deadline for submission is January 18, 2019.

We have reason to be very proud of our eighth grade students who represented St. Matthias School as our team at the Annual Immaculata Scholastica. With six rounds of stiff competition, the team was able to win two rounds. We are so very proud of them. Lukas K served as our team captain working together with team members, Grace G, Jeremy M, Timothy N, Juliet B and Alex H.

Next Friday, December 14, we have a team of four students representing St. Matthias School in the National State Final Round of the New Jersey Cyber Robotics Coding Competition. These students will be going to the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) to compete with other schools.

The St. Matthias School Student Council has done an amazing job in leading the school students in worship and outreach. One of their present projects is to raise money for new water fountains, which can be used for water bottles and provide pure water. Not only will we be able to use less plastic on this planet of ours, but we will also have purified water. We will also be collecting food items for the local Franklin Food Bank. We suggest that the students in the following grades bring the corresponding item.

PreK and K	ramen noodles and pasta
1-3	cereal
4-6	canned soup or vegetables
7-8	rice

Thanks so much to many of you who completed the survey for AdvancEd included in last week's Wednesday envelope. Please refer to the links in the document below and assist your child in completing the survey. Thank you so much.

[Climate and Culture Survey Links](#)

As always, thanks so much for partnering with us for best practices for our students.

Eileen Brett
Principal
Saint Matthias School