



BISHOP GARRIGA MIDDLE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



[December 4, 2015]



Greetings in the peace and love of Christ! As we continue our Advent journey, let us take time to reflect on the beautiful readings the Church gives us during this Holy Season. Additionally, let us prepare ourselves for the celebration of the coming of the Christ Child. I challenge all of us to do at least one random act of kindness each day during Advent. Let us also take time to pray daily as a family in order to prepare ourselves for the Feast of Christmas. Let us continue to give God thanks for our health, for family, friends, our beautiful children, and most importantly, for the gift of His Son, Jesus.

Holy Mass – December 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception: As you are aware, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and is a Holy Day of Obligation. BGMPs will celebrate its Mass on this day, in place of its regular Wednesday Mass. Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated at 8:30 a. m. in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the St. John Paul II High School campus. After the Mass, we will be presenting a short play in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. All are invited to this special Mass and to the play in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

BGMPS Prayer Partners: Our next gathering for the BGMPS Prayers Partners will be on **Monday, December 14 at 2:00 p. m.** Grandparents, parents, guardians, and any others are invited to come pray with us. We look forward to seeing you and praying with you. We have begun as a small group; my hope is that we will have more and more people attend this special time of prayer.

Christmas Tree Lane: You will notice 5 Christmas trees directly in front of the main building of the school. These Christmas trees will be lit in conjunction with the Live Nativity sponsored by St. John Paul II High School and throughout the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

As you are aware, I was on retreat with the other Diocesan Principals for most of this past week. When I arrived on Friday evening, I noticed the Christmas trees were already set up. I am not fully aware of the people who help set up Christmas Tree Lane. I do know of 4 individuals who were involved in the set up. They are:

- Mr. Ray Arellano, Sr. – Grandparent of Ray Arellano, III – one of our 7th graders
- Mr. Sean Higgins – Parent of Valentin Oranday – one of our 7th graders
- Mr. Julian Rodriguez – Parent of Lauren Rodriguez – one of our 6th graders
- Mrs. Sandra Morales – Parent of Joe Henry Morales – one of our 6th graders

Sincerest thanks are extended to the above names individuals who assisted in making our Christmas Tree Lane a reality. I will make sure to give thanks and credit to any others who assisted with the purchasing of Christmas trees and their set up in next week's newsletter.



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Many thanks are extended to Ray Arellano and Sandra Morales, School Advisory Council members, for their hard work in making this special project a reality. Thank you for all you do to help continue to beautify our school.

Christmas Play: BGMPs will be presenting a Christmas Play on Friday, December 11 at 6:30 p. m. We will begin in the courtyard of the school (the area behind the main building) with music provided by a Mariachi Trio, followed by Las Posadas. After Las Posadas, we will gather in the Kenedy Center/Gymnasium for the Christmas Play. Please come join us as we welcome our Savior through prayer, song, and fellowship.

Christmas Raffle: BGMPs has kicked off its annual Christmas Raffle Fund Raiser. Tickets were distributed to students on Thursday, November 19. This is one of our school's major fund raisers. Please help us raise the needed funds; proceeds from the raffle will go towards the general operating fund of the school. Tickets can be sold through Friday, December 11; raffle money will have to be turned in to the Finance Office by 12:00 noon on Friday, December 11. The raffle drawing will be conducted after the Christmas Play on Friday, December 11.

Parents/Guardians will receive 100% credit towards their fund raising commitment.

We, at Bishop Garriga Middle Preparatory School, are very blessed to have wonderful students who walk through our doors every day. We, too, are blessed with wonderful, supportive families. If it were not for you, we would not have our wonderful students – we would not have this wonderful school. Please continue to assist us with our school's fund raisers. It is through this funding and the tuition you pay that the school is able to pay its employees, the utility bills, and other related expenditures that allow us to form our students spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. I thank you, in advance, for your generosity and kind assistance with our Christmas Raffle. May God bless you for all you do to assist with the continued growth and development of BGMPs.



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Blanket Drive: As you are aware, BGMPs is sponsoring a Blanket Drive for the purpose of supplying warm blankets for the homeless in our community. The Blanket Drive continues through Wednesday, December 16. BGMPs would like to deliver the blankets to the Mother Teresa Shelter on Thursday and Friday, December 17 & 18.

We have already collected several blankets; thank you for your kindness and generosity. Please remember that for every \$10.00 that is applied towards the cost of the blanket, you will receive 1 hour towards your service hours' commitment.

As we are reminded in Luke 3:11 – “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none...” Thank you, again, for your kindness and generosity.

I was speaking to a homeless man a couple of weeks ago. He said to me that he was dreading the cold and rainy winter months. He also stated that he was looking forward to the warmth of a blanket and some dry socks. He stated that when his feet are cold, he cannot rest comfortably. In addition to the blanket I will be donating, I will be donating white tube socks. Hopefully, we can collect some socks for the homeless, as well.

Book Fair: BGMPs, through the kind assistance of Mrs. Twyla Meier, is sponsoring a Book Fair. You are invited to our Scholastic Book Fair, a reading event packed with excitement for students and families. The more a child reads, the stronger reader he or she becomes. Strong reading skills are essential to a child's success in school and life. Our Book Fair encourages this success by offering students access to great books at affordable prices. Children are more likely to read books they personally choose. The wide variety of choices offered at our Book Fair ensures that there will be something for everyone! Please join us to make this Book Fair the BEST our school has ever seen.

The Book Fair will take place on the following days:

- December 7th-11th from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- December 14th-15th before and after school

Please contact Mrs. Meier at TWilson@bgmps.org if you would like to volunteer to help at the Book Fair.





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Birthday Wishes: The BGMPs faculty, staff, and administration extend birthday wishes to the following students who will celebrate a birthday this week.

December 7 James Salazar
December 8 Bryan Villarreal

December 9 Valetin Oranday
December 10 Hannah Reynolds and Kaitlyn Rivera

December 12 Annabelle Plata

We wish these fine young ladies and gentlemen a wonderful birthday celebration and ask that God grant them many more years of excellent health of mind, body, and spirit. Enjoy your special day!

Students' Art Work: We invite all parents, especially those who have students who are in art this semester, to come by the school and look at the incredible work that our art students have completed. Each student has selected two of their art work to display. We take the Art Elements and create beautiful illustrations. We are very proud of their creativity. A big "Thank You" to Mrs. Le Grange for the wonderful work she does with our art students!

Schedule – Midterm Exams: Please be aware of the upcoming schedule for our school's Midterm Exams.

Midterm Exams
Review Week – December 7-11, 2015

Day	Date	Event (Period)	Time
Monday	Dec. 7	Review Day	Regular Schedule
Tuesday	Dec. 8	Review Day	Mass Schedule
Wednesday	Dec. 9	Review Day	Regular Schedule
Thursday	Dec. 10	Review Day	Regular Schedule
Friday	Dec. 11	Review Day	Regular Schedule





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Midterm Exam Week – December 14-18, 2015

Day	Date	Event (Period)	Time
Monday	Dec. 14	Review Day	Regular Schedule
Tuesday	Dec. 15	Homeroom	8:00-8:25 a. m.
		Exam – 6 th or 7 th Period	8:30-10:00 a. m.
		Break – Courtyard	10:00-10:25 a. m.
		Exam – 5 th or 6 th Period	10:30 a. m.-12:00 noon
		Homeroom	12:05-12:30 p. m.
		Classes Dismissed at 12:30 p. m.	
Wednesday	Dec. 16	Homeroom	8:00-8:25 a. m.
		Exam – 4th Period	8:30-10:00 a. m.
		Break – Courtyard	10:00-10:25 a. m.
		Exam – 3rd Period	10:30 a. m.-12:00 noon
		Homeroom	12:05-12:30 p. m.
		Classes Dismissed at 12:30 p. m.	
Thursday	Dec. 17	Homeroom	8:00-8:25 a. m.
		Exam – 2nd Period	8:30-10:00 a. m.
		Break – Courtyard	10:00-10:25 a. m.
		Exam – 1st Period	10:30 a. m.-12:00 noon
		Homeroom	12:05-12:30 p. m.
		Classes Dismissed at 12:30 p. m.	
Friday	Dec. 18	Movies	8:15-9:30 a. m.
		Games	9:45-11:45 a. m.
		Homeroom	11:50 a. m.-12:00 noon
		Classes Dismissed at <u>12:00 noon</u>	

****Please note that classes on Tuesday, December 15 – Thursday, December 17 will be dismissed at 12:30 p. m. Classes on Friday, December 18 will dismiss at 12:00 noon. There will be no Afterschool Care available on these days.****



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An Advent Prayer

Heavenly Father, we praise You for the light of creation:
the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.
We praise You for the light of Israel: the Law, the Prophets,
and the wisdom of the Scriptures.
We praise you for Jesus Christ, Your Son, the true Light of the
world, the Light which no darkness can overcome.
He is Emmanuel who saved the world from darkness and
brought humanity into the peace of everlasting Light.
We praise You for Mary, who held Your Son in her loving arms,
and who was given to us as a Mother at the foot of the Cross.
She is the New Eve, leading all her children into the Light of her Son, Jesus.
We praise You for the gift of faith, given us at Baptism, which enlightens
our minds to know and accept the Gospel of Truth and Life.
Grant that we may always walk as sons and daughters of the Light,
keeping the flame of Truth alive in our hearts, until we join You
and the Heavenly Host in the Kingdom of everlasting Light.

Amen.

Please be kind to one another and remember to say your prayers. ☺

****Hard copies of this newsletter are available in the lobby of the main building.****