



Tiger Talk It's About Them. . .



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Help Your Child Succeed in School-Create a Study Place

A special place for studying will give your child a sense of purpose- a sense of being at work with a job to do. For many children, the ideal is a study area in a quiet room, such as a bedroom. Wherever your child chooses to study, make sure that the area has good light and a smooth flat work surface. If your child's study space is going to be the kitchen table, then create a kit of supplies (such as a paper, pencils, and pens) and keep them together in a drawer, a covered box, or a sturdy shopping bag. At the start of study time, have the child set the space up for study the way you would set the table for dinner. If more than one child needs study space, give each one an assigned place at the dining or kitchen table. From *Help Your child Succeed in School-Simple Strategies for Parents*

News from the Athletic Department

Team Pictures

Soccer, Volleyball and Cross Country team pictures will be taken tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. Please bring your uniforms. All uniforms will be turned in after pictures.

Are you ready for some baseball?

Remember the Baseball/Softball Meeting, Dec. 7, 2009, 6:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. All those interested in having their student play baseball/softball are asked to attend. Kinder through 8th grade students are invited to participate. We are trying to put together a softball and a baseball team to play in the middle school ISAL league this spring.

Scoreboard update

The faculty has challenged the varsity volleyball team to a match. The game will take place on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009 at 3:45 in the gym immediately after school. Come out and cheer on your favorite team.

Lady Tigers and Tigers basketball A-Teams participated in the Holy Spirit Tournament Nov. 19-21.

The girls ended the tournament 0-2 but played two spirited, hard fought games against St. Monica and Holy Spirit. The Lady Tigers are Ann E., Caroline C., Natalie R., Regan B., Susannah W., Brook C., Elise N., & Catherine S., Susannah W. Susannah was named to the All Tournament Team. Way to go Susannah!

The boys ended the tournament 2-1, with a victory over St. Monica, then St. Peter's won over the our boys team, which put the Tigers in the 3rd place game on Saturday

evening vs. Holy Cross. The Tigers beat Holy Cross in "double overtime" to capture the 3rd place trophy. GO! TIGERS! GO!

The tournament director called the contest "the game of the day," and everyone in attendance felt it was worth the price of admission. The parents and students who were in attendance can defiantly relate to that statement, as the game kept everyone on the edge of their seats. Through regulation the game was knotted at 49-49. Then 57-57 at the end of the 1st OT, and finally 64-62 at the end of the 2nd OT.

The energy in the 4th quarter of the game was electric, and I know it helped propel our boys to victory. In doing so the Tigers erased an 11 point deficit, which lead to the overtimes, and to the eventual victory. That could not have been done without the tremendous support of our students and parents, so thank you.

The Tigers are Charlie S., Chris P., Henry K., Jake F., Matt M., Steele S., Cole D., Wilson T., & Alex R. For his outstanding play and leadership, Chris P. was named to the All Tournament Team. However, as one of the Holy Cross coaches said to me after the game, "That #17 (Chris P) was the best player on the floor, maybe the best player in the tournament." I agree completely!

Please take a moment to thank any of the student/athletes you might see throughout your day. These girls and boys represent St. Luke's, and all of YOU! They do so with dignity and class befitting a champion.

Don't forget we also have two 6th grade teams that compete on Friday nights for the girls, and Saturday afternoons for the boys. They could use the same support our A-Teams receive. Thank You! Coach Art

Eighth Grade Fundraiser

Buy your TAMALES for Christmas! Buy them for yourself or to give as a gift! The 8th grade is now taking orders for delicious tamales cooked by Sonia Hernandez, SLES parent. There are four fillings to choose from and the tamales are sold for \$10 a dozen. An order form is being emailed to all parents and is available in the school office. Orders also will be taken at afternoon carpool starting Thursday, December 3rd. The deadline for orders is Friday, December 11th. The pick up times will be during afternoon carpool Monday, December 14th - Thursday, December 17th. If you need further information, please contact Jessica Koontz or Susan Janes. OLE! See attachment for the order form.

The San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

The San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo is offering discounted pre-sale carnival tickets to local schools. You can purchase online at www.ticketmaster.com/promo/3B159Q. Special Offer Code: bste

Seventh Grade Girl Scouts Making a Difference

The Girl Scouts of 7th grade Troop 1299 have done a service project to complete their study of clean air issues. The scouts decided to use plants to improve the indoor air quality in the offices of Any Baby Can, a local charity. The girls purchased plants and delivered them to the staff of Any Baby Can on November 4th. They provided care instructions and distributed flyers promoting their slogan, "Keep the plants green, and they'll make your air clean!" The six St. Luke's students in Troop 1299 are Serena Koontz, Virginia Noble, Elise Notzon, Ricarda Temple, Margaret Vassar, and Christine Zachry. They are now ready to begin planning their Silver Award Project.

Dance Footnotes

Ms. Gorman, our Dance Director, is planning a dance program field trip December 6th to attend the North East School of the Arts Stepping into the Holidays dance production. This annual NESA dance production is a showcase for some of the most talented high school dance students in San Antonio. It is San Antonio's answer to the Fame movie and a delightful way to get into the Christmas spirit. As a Fine Arts satellite school located on the campus of Lee High School, all the auditioned attendees plan to become either professional dancers or to pursue dance education careers. The production runs from Friday December 4th through Sunday December 6th. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. with 2:30 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday. The SLES dancers will attend the Sunday afternoon performance and leave by bus from St. Luke's at 1:30 p.m. and return to St. Luke's by 5:15 p.m. for parent pick up. This field trip is for dance students' kindergarten through eighth grade and parents are welcome to join us. The \$10 ticket fee should be turned in to Ms. Gorman by Friday Dec. 4th. The dance costume parent letter and the costume order form are on the SLES home page and will be on the Dance Program web-page for downloading. All costume/recital fees are due by December 18th. A hard copy will also be sent home with your young dancer. An exciting dance semester is coming up!

SLES students have big hearts and willing spirits.

Community Service

Teen Volunteer Fair was held at the downtown campus of UTSA on November 7th. This event offered opportunities for teens to find organizations in need of volunteer service. The St. Luke's Middle School was notified and, to our credit, there were 19 students whose parents took them to check out ways to reach out to others and to make a difference in our community. St. Luke's had the most students per capita of any school in attendance....including all the larger public schools!!! Mrs. Cabello and Ms. Howell attended with the students.

Before the Thanksgiving holidays, our students participated in a fundraiser for Juvenile Diabetes raising more than \$6,000. They also helped with the Special Olympics Bowling tournament. There will be more opportunities this spring, including a *Graffiti Wipe Out* where students will be working to help beautify our city. Look for this one in February.

MLK Day will be a school wide organized community service day. Stay tuned for more details.

If you find a great opportunity for volunteer service, please email Ms. Howell at showell@sles-sa.org.

Christmas Dinners for the Needy

Each year, the Good Samaritan Center sponsors what they call the "Good Neighbor Christmas Dinner Program." The Good Samaritan Center is a neighborhood center on the west side of San Antonio and is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. The Good Neighbor Program provides Christmas dinners for approximately 350 needy families. St. Luke's School families are invited to partner with church families to collect food for this project.

Here's what you need to do: Purchase the items provided on this list on one of your regular visits to HEB. Then bring your bag to the School by Monday, December 14th. ****Note that this year they are requesting that the items be brought in one of the green recyclable HEB grocery bags rather than paper bags.** The National Junior Honor

Society will be transporting the filled bags to the Center the afternoon of Monday, Dec. 14th.

Here's the list:

- 1 approx. 14 oz. can stewed tomatoes
- 1 approx. 20 oz. can pineapple
- 2 approx. 14 oz. cans green beans
- 1 approx. 10 oz. can low fat cream of mushroom soup
- 1 small pkg. sliced almonds
- 1 approx. 1 lb. can cranberry sauce
- 1 approx. 8 oz. pkg. stuffing
- 1 approx. 14 oz. can chicken or turkey broth
- 1 approx. 7 oz. package instant mashed potatoes
- 1 approx. 12 oz. can low fat evaporated milk
- 1 1 lb. bag pinto beans
- 1 1 lb. bag rice
- 1 package of Christmas napkins
- 1 package of candy canes

Please add 1 item that makes Christmas special to you (nuts, an ornament, a candle, Christmas storybook, etc.)

Your child will bring home a hard copy of this list today. Christmas is a time of giving. Let's all bring one or two bags to support the cause.

Shoes for Piedras Negras

Shoes For Piedras Negras" is an outreach program of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. This group is currently accepting men's, women's and youth's shoes(so basically anything used OR new)! This is the last week for collection, so if any families want to bring in shoes, a bigger box will be provided in the crossing area today-Friday! Thank you so much!

St. Luke's Professional Development

As a part of our analysis of our current program and our exploration of innovative work at other leading schools, four of our teachers will be in Houston this week. Linda Redden, Alison Urbanowski, Sara Santagata and Anne Pennypacker will attend the Annual Texas Gifted and Talented Conference. Later in their visit they will spend time at two schools. At Beth Yeshurun School they will continue their investigation of the Singapore Math program (Beth Yeshurun has been running this program for four years) and later at St. John's School, without question one of the best Independent schools in America, they will meet with Math and English teachers in Middle School to discuss, amongst other topics, math teaching at St John's, cross-disciplinary writing, and study skills classes for Middle School students. We are very grateful to the teachers and Heads of School at both Beth Yeshurun and St. John's for opening their schools to our faculty.

Mary Milligan, our school librarian, has been very busy indeed. She has just returned from the Annual Meeting of the American Association of School Librarians in Charlotte North Carolina. At the conference she presented the chapter that she has written for the definitive American Library Association book on Independent School Libraries and the vital role they play in co-curricular learning.

This week Mary will also represent the Independent Schools of South Texas at a meeting of the Educational Services Center for Region 20. At the meeting planning will begin to shape the future services (teacher professional development training, the Living Science program, the use of Library databases amongst other topics) for this large region of the state.

Not only do these teachers work hard each day in their classes, but they also see that a core element of their calling as teachers, is to grow and to learn alongside their children. We are lucky indeed to have so many teacher / learners on our faculty.

Vision of Sugar Plums in PK4!

Students in the PK4 classes of Mrs. Haden and Mrs. McGehee, had a terrific gingerbread week. Students estimated the number of mini gingerbread men in a jar and then ate them all up. Students made a gumdrop bar graph to practice the concept of greater and less than. Conclusion: We want more gumdrops! After reading the *Gingerbread Baby* and the *Gingerbread Boy*, students worked on their HOTS (higher order thinking skills) to compare and contrast the literary elements of each story using a Venn diagram as the graphic organizer. A special culminating treat was decorating a gingerbread cookie. Like the mini gingerbread men, the decorated cookies were eaten up because as we all know, gingerbread men are made to be eaten.

Things are Fantastic in Fourth

Mrs. Urbanowski's Fourth Grade science class completed ABO-Rh blood typing in the science lab this week. The students' abilities to understand blood types is in accordance with the National Science Standards. Students performed blood testing activities using the scientific inquiry methods. Students worked collaboratively as they gained an understanding of the importance of blood type identification and its uses. This lab was a wonderful extension to classroom activities where students had been learning about the form and function of blood components.

Fourth Grade students are working on enriching their understanding of fractions and applying algorithms to solve problems involving fractions. Also, they are using algebraic thinking skills to solve for "x". Mrs. Urbanowski is very proud of their expanding math vocabulary and problem solving skills. Hats off to the Fourth Grade math students!

The Fourth Grade classes and their teachers, Mrs. Bambace and Mrs. Urbanowski, spent last Thursday enjoying TERK Outdoor School in Seguin, Texas. Students conducted investigations using the scientific method, enhanced their outdoors skills canoeing and shooting arrows, and performed ropes activities. The students also learned about aquatic life and water quality through hands-on classification activities. The group received glowing praises from the center for their behavior and depth of understanding.

6th Graders study the planets and visit the Scobee Planetarium

Mr. Owen and Mrs. Clark have implemented an exciting math and science unit for our 6th graders. After studying the movement, size, distance, and velocity of the planets, the students will be visiting the Scobee Planetarium for an exhilarating show on the morning of Wednesday, December 9th.

Semester Exams in Grades 6th - 8th

Semester exams are on the calendar for Dec. 11th - Dec. 17th. Parents in grades 6th - 8th will be e-mailed grade level specific schedules by Friday Dec. 4th.

Parent Council meeting on Thursday, December 10th at 8:05am in the Parish Hall. Dr. Reford will report on the Academic Committee work in the second semester.

Important Reminders:

- Dec 4th - Declamations after Chapel
- Dec. 5th - ISEE Testing at SLES (FYI)
- Dec. 9th - 7th & 8th grade Christmas Pageant Practice with Ms. Ritchey 8:10 - 8:45 am
6th grade to Planetarium 10:15 - 11:50 am
- Dec. 10th - Parent Council Meeting 8:05 a.m. in Parish Hall
- Dec. 11th - MS Foreign Language Semester Exam
4th grade ISEE field test
- Dec. 12th - ISEE Test Prep for current 8th graders 9:00 - noon
- Dec. 14th - MS (6th - 8th) English Semester Exam
- Dec. 14th - NJHS to deliver Christmas Dinner Bags to Good Samaritan Shelter
- Dec. 15th - MS (6th - 8th) Mathematics Semester Exam
- Dec. 16th - MS (6th - 8th) History Semester Exam
- Dec. 17th - MS (6th - 8th) Science Semester Exam
- Dec- 17th - Pk3-4th Christmas Pageant 9:45 a.m. in the Church
5th-8th Christmas Program 2 p.m. in the Church
- Dec- 18th - Classroom Christmas Parties(Before Lessons and Carols)
Lessons and Carols 10:30 a.m. in the Church
Early Dismissal at 11:30 am - No after school care available

Learning the Art of Life