

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School
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Mary M. McKiernan, Principal

December 18, 2008

Dear Parents,



I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May the joy, peace and the love of the Christ-Child be with you and your family this Christmas.

It is hard to believe that our first semester for this school year is over. The semester has been filled with wonderful happenings both academically and spiritually.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week is "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service." St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School families have had an outstanding response to helping others, including food drives, soles for souls, dollars for hurricane victims, school supplies and our traditional toys and food collection for the farm workers in Okeechobee.



On the morning of November 20th, Diane Hanberry, from the Seminole County Title I program presented a parent workshop. Twenty parents of K-5 students listened attentively as Diane discussed the topic of "Main Idea and Summarizing." Our teachers have participated in workshops on the following topics: curriculum mapping, motivating students, reading intervention and literacy in the classroom. All of our teachers continue to take courses in the catechist certification program. On February 6th the faculty and staff look forward to sharing in a retreat day at San Pedro Retreat Center specifically designed for the St. Mary Magdalen Faculty. The theme will be, "Hope for our Future." On March 6th our faculty will participate in an all day in-service which will help us to expand our use of the accelerated reading program.

Thank you to Tom and Debbie Finn coordinators, and all families who bought Christmas trees. The proceeds this year were approximately \$3,500.00. This fundraiser supports the continuing education budget for our teachers. We are grateful for these opportunities to enhance your child's education.

Our special Nativity performance by our Kindergarteners and their eighth grade buddies gave testimony to the value of a Catholic Education. Thank you for sharing your most treasured possession(s) with us.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at our next Home and School Meeting where we will share our IOWA test results with you.

We wish you a very blessed and happy New Year.

God Bless,
Mary McKiernan, Principal

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