



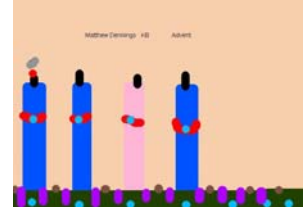
St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School

869 Maitland Avenue, Altamonte Springs, Florida 32701

## Principal's Newsletter

December 2007

This computer generated advent wreath was prepared by **Matthew Denning** (KB) during computer class. Each of the candles has been decorated, a candle has been lit signifying the first Sunday of Advent and this detailed image includes smoke radiating from the lit candle. We applaud Matthew's artistic creation in the spirit of the season.



### PRAYER CORNER

Please continue to pray with us for the repose of the soul of:

† Mary Merdian, mother of Mrs. Julie Slebodnik, grandmother of Marygrace (7GF), Catherine (5DC) and Emily (4R) Slebodnik.

Please continue to pray for all the members of our school and parish community who are ill and/or healing, especially for **Sr. Maria Sciortino**. May our Gracious God bring them healing, peace and continued good health.



### CONGRATULATIONS

Kudos to the St. Mary Magdalen Band, Mustang Music Ensemble, Show Choir and Kindergarten and Grade 8 for their spectacular performances in celebration of this very blessed season! We are very proud of all the enthusiasm, hard work and talent exhibited by St. Mary Magdalen School students.

### TECHNOLOGY

During this school year, we purchased nine teacher computers. In addition, the SMM Home and School Association purchased seven computers in the primary classrooms for students to take Accelerated Reader tests, motivating the students to read more and enhance their reading skills and comprehension.



A new firewall system has been installed to increase security while using the internet.

Over the Christmas break we will be upgrading our main servers and switches (hardware) which will increase the capability for technology-related curriculum for our students and increase the security for students while using the Internet. We are looking forward to these improvements.

If you experience any difficulty accessing our website, please keep trying. Edline is still available @ [www.edline.net](http://www.edline.net). Once you enter your user name and password you will be able to review grades and class pages.



Thank you to Mrs. Judy Froehlich, Kristen Gutierrez and committee members for the fabulous Thanksgiving Feast! It was scrumptious!

Thank you to Jim and Cathie Bucko and Debbie and Tom Finn for the very successful Christmas tree sale. Proceeds from this sale are used for continuing education for our teachers.

Thank you to the athletes who participated in *The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship* on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – Christopher Holt, Matthew Salazar, Duncan Brennan, Joshua Goergen, Alan Hernandez, Matt Finn, John Vammen, Jade Mast, Beau Goergen, Daniel Holcomb, Ethan Brennan, Keith Fernandes, Samantha Holt, and Kurt Fernandes.

## CLASSROOM NEWS

Classes 4R and 2R continue their “*Reading Buddy*” Program which has been going on for many years. The second graders love their “Big Buddies” and 4R loves being just that because they remember so well when they were the younger buddies themselves. Mrs. Rynning and Mrs. Randlov make sure their students meet weekly to read to and share with one another. Reading skills and great bonds are fostered at the same time, which last a lifetime.

4R also shared musical talents they learned in Miss Travis’ music class when they played Christmas Carols on their recorders for their “*Elder Pals*” at the SMM Adult Center. This “Love Circle” program allows students in our school to connect with those adults by sharing music, projects, crafts and more on a regular basis throughout the school year.

## SUNSHADE PROJECT 2007 UPDATE

The permit for our Sunshade has been approved by the Growth Management Department of the City of Altamonte Springs. It is now before the Building Department of the City of Altamonte Springs for the permit they require. Once the Building Department has issued the permit, construction will begin. We anticipate the Sunshade being up the last week in January or the first week in February 2008. We are very excited for this new shaded area and are very thankful to all who made this possible.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on Friday, January 11, 2008. There will be no school for students that day. Sign-up sheets will be outside each Kindergarten – Grade 5 classroom beginning Monday, January 7 through Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 1:30 pm. Conferences for Grades 6 – 8 will be on a first come, first serve basis. Middle School teachers will be in their respective classrooms.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week opens Friday, January 25 with our Annual Shrimp Dinner.

On Tuesday, January 29 from 8:30–11:00 am we will have our Open House. We invite and encourage all current families to take this opportunity to visit their child’s classroom during Open House and interact with prospective new parents.

