

THE CRUSADER TIMES

THE ATONEMENT ACADEMY

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"Fides et Ratio"

December 16, 2009

Christmas Performances

Children in the lower school grades PK and Kinder perform on Thursday at 2 pm and those in grades 1 & 2 present their Christmas music programs at 2 pm. Both lower school concerts are in St. Anthony Hall.



Above: A photo from last year's Grades 1 & 2 Concert.

See page 2 for information on babysitting service for all our Christmas Concerts. A reprint of Mr. Johnston's e-mail regarding the concerts may be found on page 5.

Nota Bene — Note Well:

- **UNIFORM RENEWAL**— Please spend some time mending uniforms, sewing on buttons, lengthening hemlines, and being sure everything fits your son or daughter. The break will be a good opportunity to polish those black shoes, too! Parker Uniform is having a sale on all in-stock merchandise through Dec. 31, 2009.
- **AR Goals** will be renewed in January. The Christmas break may be a great time to visit a library or bookstore for interesting titles. Please e-mail your child's teacher if you need some suggestions.
- **The Priority Application** Period for 2010-2011 begins on Jan. 11, and continues through Jan. 24. The period for Open Applications begins on Jan. 25. The registration fee remains at \$600 per student. Returning students must apply before midnight on May 2, when the registration fee will be \$700 per student. All registrations after May 2 will be \$700 per student. A credit card number must accompany the application or the student will not be enrolled. 2010-2011 tuition and fees schedule is posted on the website under "Documents"
- **Confirmation and First Communion** will be on Saturday, Feb. 13 at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Guidelines for reception are posted on the website: documents/forms. The Most Rev. Charles Grahmann, Bishop Emeritus of Dallas, will be with us.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Dec. 16-23:** Early Dismissal Days.
- **Dec. 16-17-18:** Exams for grades 6-12
- **Dec. 17:** PK and Kinder Christmas Pageant, St. Anthony Hall, 2 pm
- **Dec. 18:** 1st & 2nd Grade Christmas Pageant, St. Anthony Hall, 2 pm
- **Dec. 18:** Christmas Dance, Upper School Only, 7 pm
- **Dec. 24:** First day of Christmas Break.
- **Jan. 4:** School resumes
- **Jan. 14:** College Information Night, 7 pm

See School Website
for Complete Calendar
and Details

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

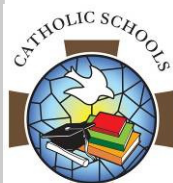
Use our general e-mail :
info@atonementonline.com
We check it daily and someone will
correspond as soon as possible!



A National Blue
Ribbon School of
Excellence



One of America's
Top 50 Catholic High
Schools



Archdiocese of San Antonio

OUR MISSION

At The Atonement Academy we strive for excellence in the physical, the intellectual, and the spiritual virtues through a challenging course of classical and Catholic education.



Christmas Concert (Grades 3-12)



Photos from the Dec. 14 Concert, courtesy of The Profenna Family



Concert Babysitting Service Available

Next week, the Academy will host three musical events, the Christmas Concert on Monday evening and two Christmas pageants on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 17 and 18. The PTC has arranged for babysitting during all three of these events.

Babysitting will be held in the Pre-K rooms for all three events. The babysitting rooms will open 20 minutes before each event. Babysitters will be Girl Scouts working for donations, so please be prepared to give an appropriate contribution for their services.

We want to be prepared for your children, so if you plan to use the babysitting services, please RSVP to Mary Ellen Madalinski at maryellen-scout@yahoo.com.

Thank you and enjoy the concerts!

Library Angel Tree

Parents, grandparents, and friends of the Atonement Academy often wonder what to give the school during this Christmas season. This year, a great solution is to give the gift of reading to our students by purchasing a book for the school library.

It's easy:

1. Pick an ornament off one of the angel trees.
2. Attach a check for the amount of the book to the tag and place it in the box.

or

Go to Amazon.com and order the book from the *Wish List* of The Atonement Academy Library.



Join Us

As We Celebrate the Birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Holy Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve: 5:00 pm &

11:30 pm

Christmas Day:

10:00 am

NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The parish New Year's Eve Party is Thursday, Dec. 31st, beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each and \$20 for the whole *immediate* family; \$7 each at the door. We'll have a Margarita machine, dinner and a Champaign toast at midnight. Join us for an evening of dancing, and ring in the New Year with your friends and family! Tickets are on sale at the Academy office

Crusader Chronicle

For the Students, by the Students

WHAT'S THIS?

By Shannon Murray (Class of 2015)

Welcome to the student page of The Atonement Academy's school bulletin! Articles or photos as well as artwork by our students will be here on page three with each issue of *The Crusader Times*.

*Have a splendid Christmas
Break, Crusaders!*



*Left: Students and parents had a great time at **Las Posadas** ("No Room at the Inn") last week.*

CRUSADER SCHOOL SPIRIT

BUMPER STICKERS: \$3
(see Mrs. Benzaquen)

Crusader "Fides et Ratio" T-Shirts \$15
(see Coach Zapata or Coach Ross)

Crusader Hoodies
In sizes for children (\$22)
and adults (\$25)
SUPPLIES LIMITED!
See Mrs. Benzaquen

**Awards Assembly for
Second Quarter**

January 13, 2010

After 9:15 Mass

FILL THE BIN

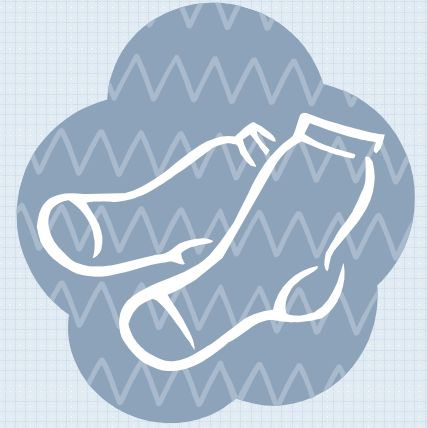
Hand in Hand Apostolate's
Christmas Season Project.

We're collecting new gloves, caps,
and socks to distribute to the
homeless this winter.

**PLEASE RESPOND BY
FRIDAY, DEC. 18**

Won't you please help?

*(Local stores such as WalMart
and "dollar stores" sell socks
and stocking caps for \$1.00!)*



**Look for specially marked
bins and boxes
in the narthex of the Church
and in the school in
St. Anthony Hall.**

CRITICAL CONCERT INFORMATION

(—a reprint of Mr. Johnston's e-mail to parents)

Concert season is here, and I am writing to provide some information to assist families in their planning.

First, I want to stress how important it is to the academy that every child participate in his or her concert. Excellence in choral music is one of the distinctive marks of the academy program, and every student in the school takes a full credit course in choral music every year. The choirs have been working hard for many weeks on their music for these performances, and every chorister is entitled to the satisfaction that he or she will receive from an artistically successful performance. The dates and times of the concerts were published long before the school year began, and I hope that they are circled in red on everyone's refrigerator door. If not, please double check now.

The concert for Grades 3-12 will be on the evening of Monday, December 14, from 7:00 pm until approximately 8:50 pm. Choristers need to be at the school, in uniform, by 6:30 pm, and need to plan to stay until the performance is over.

The concert for Grades PK and K will be on the afternoon of Thursday, December 17, from 2:00 pm until approximately 3:15 pm. Choristers need to be at the school, in uniform, by 1:30 pm, and need to plan to stay until the performance is over. At the parents' option, these students may be picked up at noon dismissal and returned in time for the concert, or they may be placed in after school care after dismissal and before the concert.

The concert for Grades 1 and 2 will be on the afternoon of Friday, December 18, from 2:00 pm until approximately 3:15 pm. Choristers need to be at the school, in uniform, by 1:30 pm, and need to plan to stay until the performance is over. At the parents' option, these students may be picked up at noon dismissal and returned in time for the concert, or they may be left in after school care after dismissal and before the concert.

Concert etiquette is important, and we want to maintain quiet during the performance. To assist with this, The PTC has arranged for babysitting during all three of the concert events. Babysitting will be held in the Pre-K rooms for all three events. The babysitting rooms will open 20 minutes before each event. Babysitters will be from the Girl Scout Troop, so please be prepared to give an appropriate donation for their services. If you plan to use the babysitting services, please RSVP to Mary Ellen Madalinski at maryellenscout@yahoo.com.

When the concert ends, parents are reunited with their children. To reduce confusion, here is how we will do it:

The grades 3-12 concert will end with all grades on stage. Middle and upper scholars will be dismissed from the stage and expected to go to their parents. Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will be taken back to the classroom as classes. Please do not try to intercept these classes. Parents are asked to go to the classroom to claim their children. If this seems to be an unnecessary burden, please understand that it is done this way because we do not want to lose track of a single child.

After the PK-K and first-second concerts, the faculty will hold the students at the stage, and parents may come to the stage and claim their children, in an orderly way, with the teachers' knowledge. It may take a few extra minutes to make sure that the teachers are aware of which children are being reunited with their parents, but the extra few minutes are very good value if they enhance safety. Thanks for your patience with the process.

The music program is one of the best things we do at The Atonement Academy, and it is an important reason many of our families have chosen the school. I have been attending academy concerts since November 2003, initially as a prospective school parent, later as a school parent, later as a school administrator, and they have given me great joy. If this is your first semester in our school, then you are in for a very special experience. If yours is a returning family, then you know from past years how important these events are.

We have a very talented and very dedicated music faculty. Thank you for your support of their work and that of your children.

Mrs. Surovic's PSIA NEWS:

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH TOURNAMENT IN JANUARY

Those 6th through 8th grade students interested in competing in a speech tournament in January need to contact Mrs. Surovic as soon as possible. The deadline for entering is January 10, 2010, with the meet being held at St. Matthew's Catholic School on Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 8:30 until 1:15, depending upon the events in which the student participates. The events include Poetry Interpretation (must be memorized), Prose (read from manuscript), Reading from Speeches and Duet Interpretation (think duet acting, must be memorized). A student may enter 2 of the 3 categories.

Time limits are 5 minutes for each event. Please look for your selection over the holidays so we can begin practicing when we return. This experience should give the speech students a great preparation for our PSIA meet in March. If there are any questions, please contact Mrs. Surovic at gsurovic@aol.com.

PSIA testing will occur when the students return from the holiday break, including Mathematics, Science, Listening Skills and Vocabulary. After the tests are graded, notices will appear in the Crusader Times of those eligible for the team. Please keep reading!!!

Have a great holiday and keep studying those spelling words, etc!