

Alumni

December 2014 Newsletter

Strength in Numbers

www.stnicksschool.com



Academics
Faith
Fine Arts
Community

National Catholic School Week



National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2015 is January 25th - 31st. St. Nicholas will observe the annual celebration week beginning with a Mass on January 25th, at 10:30 a.m., followed by an open house from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We hope to see you!

Thank you for joining the #GivingTuesday movement on December 2, 2014

You helped us raise \$400 for St. Nicholas of Tolentine School

Alumni continue to stay in touch



Crafting and baking with St. Nick girls! Merry Christmas! — With Joanne Cygan Ferneau, Cathy Seiler Wolff and Jean Braun.



St. Nicholas of Tolentine School Orchestra took over the Good Day Chicago Fox 32 News Station on December 9, 2014

St. Nicholas of Tolentine School Music Extravaganza

At St. Nicholas of Tolentine School, the spirit of Christmas is alive with an annual week-long music extravaganza. The program is an excellent opportunity to show parents and people in the community what students are learning through the Fine Arts program. The stage is set with lights, sound systems, and scenery. Students rehearse and prepare their voices, musical instruments, and costumes before each show.

The week begins with the Band students and the Middle School Choir. Director Cindy Gradek introduces the beginning band students. The students play several songs that highlight the notes they learned so far this year. The Christmas show gives students confidence to perform in front of everybody and it gives them a sense of being in a group. It's teamwork without being in a sport. Students learn to work together. Next, the senior band members play several songs. The senior band members have been playing their instruments for over a year or more. The Middle School Choir, directed by the Principal, Ms. Mariagnes Menden, ends the night with several Christmas Songs. The choir performed the week before at the Michigan Plaza, so they were ready for the school performance. The choir sang "Santa Claus is Coming to Town", "Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow", "A Holly Jolly Christmas" and "Do You Want to Build a Snow Man".

The second day of the music extravaganza, string and keyboard students exhibit their skills in violin, guitar, piano, and ukulele. Students can start taking lessons as early as Kindergarten with the ukulele. Students can continue their lessons throughout their years at St. Nicholas. During the performance each group of string instruments plays several songs. The day of performances ends with the String Orchestra. This group of students have developed and polished their skills to play pieces such as waltzes and Mozart. They also performed at the Michigan Plaza, as well as appeared on TV last week.

On the third day, students in Preschool and Kindergarten dress in their Sunday best. For some of the students this was their very first performance for their families. Excitement fills the air as many parents come out to see the show. Preschool sang "Mi Burrito Sabanero". The Kindergarten sang "We are Santa's Elves" and the "Gingerbread man". 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade students dress as Santa's little helpers, a snowman, toy soldiers, crayons, rag dolls, and a Christmas tree. Several students tell the story between songs, as they dance and sing "Toys", "Glee Under the Tree", "Christmas Dreams" and "Teddy Bear Tango".



For the fourth performance day, 4th & 5th grade students take the visitors on a holiday road trip. Dancing, singing, and reading all their lines, students pour out their hearts in front of their family and friends. Excited to be able to perform in front of a crowd, 4th & 5th grade students have so much energy. They sing "Holiday Road Trip", "Christmas in California", and "Jingle Bell Boogie".

The final day of the week, 8th grade angels appear at each classroom door, guiding the students and teachers to the parish church, where everyone is seated for the La Posada. Mary and Joseph walk through the church, visiting each grade, until they reach one special place. Along the way the school children tell the story of trying to find a place to rest. An infant child is selected from the school families to play the baby Jesus each year. 8th grade students dress up as Mary and Joseph, the 3 kings, ushers, and angels as they recreate the Nativity scene. The performance ends with all students singing a variety of Christmas songs.

St. Nicholas of Tolentine School Fine Art program is an essential part of our curriculum. Our students have the opportunity to develop poise, self-confidence, and a sense of teamwork through participation in many musical groups.

Alumni come back to St. Nicholas



Monica Vargas -class of 2011 Volunteers in Preschool.

January Events at St. Nicholas of Tolentine School

January 5, School resumes

January 19, No School – Martin Luther King Day

January 22, Boosterthon Fun Run

January 25, Family Mass 10:30 a.m. Catholic School Week
Open House 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

January 28, Alumni Group Meeting

God Bless and have a Merry Christmas



St. Nicholas of Tolentine School

“A Place Where Students Flourish and Talents Flow”

St. Nicholas of Tolentine School
3741 W. 62nd Street, Chicago 60629



With more than 2000 Alumni worldwide, the St. Nick Alumni Association strives to stay in touch with all of our graduates. Our social media websites are just one way for alumni to maintain connections to St. Nicholas and former classmates.

Facebook pages:

St. Nick's Tigers

Or

St. Nicholas of Tolentine School

St. Nicholas has teamed up with Give Central to make it easy for you to donate to St. Nick online. Visit our website.

www.stnicksschool.com



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