

# SMOKE SIGNALS

Redeemer Lutheran School \* 468 Grand St. \* Redwood City 94062  
(650) 366-3466 \* www.redeemer-school.org



## December 5, 2003

*The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy!" Psalm 126:3*

### UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Dec 6	RWC Christmas Parade 4:00 p.m.
Dec 8	Picture Retakes 11:00-noon
Dec 12	Grades 3&4 Musical 7:00 pm
Dec 14	Washington DC Pancake Breakfast
Dec 19	ONE O'CLOCK DISMISSAL
Dec 22-31	No School - Christmas Holiday
Jan 1-2	No School
Jan 5	School resumes
Jan 6	National Geographic Bee 1:30 pm
Jan 19	No School - Martin Luther King Day
Jan 22	End of second quarter - noon dismissal
Jan 23	P/T Conferences - no school

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

**Mr. Mike Mancini**

#### Enjoy His Arrival...Don't Miss It!

As Christmas approaches we begin to see the activities of the holidays. Shoppers out in droves, lights, music, and the stress of getting everything ready. I wonder if we sometimes get so busy that we forget what Christmas is really about. I was reading a short story about Jesus' arrival on that very special day 2000 plus years ago and I couldn't help but think of our lives and the hectic schedules we all have. So I will share with you a excerpt of the story from Max Lucado called "The Arrival."

One's imagination is kindled thinking about the conversation of the innkeeper and his family at the breakfast table. Did anyone mention the arrival of the young couple the night before? Did anyone ask about the welfare of the young pregnant girl? Perhaps. Perhaps someone raised the subject. But, at best, it was raised, not discussed. There was nothing that novel about them. They were, possibly, one of several families turned away that night.

No, it's doubtful that anyone mentioned the couple's arrival or wondered about the condition of the girl. **THEY WERE TOO BUSY!** The day was upon them. The day's bread had to be made. The morning's chores had to be done. There was too much to do to imagine that the impossible had occurred.

God had entered the world as a baby.

At this point in history, the human being who best understands who God is and what he is doing is a teenage girl in a smelly stable. She can't take her eyes off him. Somehow Mary knows she is holding God. So this is he. She remembers the words of the angel, "His kingdom will never end."

He looks like anything but a king. His face is prunish and red. His cry, though strong and healthy, is still the helpless and piercing cry of a baby. And he is absolutely dependent upon Mary for his well-being.

Majesty in the midst of the mundane. Holiness in the filth of sheep manure and sweat. Divinity entering the world on the floor of a stable, through the womb of a teenager and in the presence of a carpenter.

She touches the face of the infant-God. "How long was your journey!" This baby had overlooked the universe. These rags keeping him warm were the robes of eternity. His golden throne room had been abandoned in favor of a dirty sheep pen. And worshiping angels had been replaced with kind but bewildered shepherds. Meanwhile, the city hums. The merchants are unaware that God has visited their planet. The innkeeper would never believe that he had just sent God into the cold. And the people would scoff at any one who told them the Messiah lay in the arms of a teenager on the outskirts of their village. They were all **TOO** busy to consider the possibility

Those who missed His Majesty's arrival that night missed it not because of evil acts or malice; no, they missed it because they simply weren't looking.

Little has changed in the last two thousand years, has it?

As the holiday season begins, let's make sure we all focus on the arrival of our awesome God. This is a time for family, friends, laughter and love. But most importantly it is a time to remember the greatest gift each of us was given; Jesus!

My wish for all of you is for a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year. May the God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow bless each of you in the New Year to come and may each of us remember "Jesus is the Reason for the Season!"

### **P.J.'s MINUTE** **Pator Joel Vano**

Is it possible? Are we already in the hectic month of December? And why is it so hectic anyway? Oh, that's right, this is the month when we have to get ready for Christmas! I've already heard a lot of people talking about all the tasks they have to accomplish before Christmas Day. People need to be invited over for the various parties that will be going on. All the shopping needs to be done; after all there are a lot of gifts that have to be purchased. Will the cousins be getting gifts this year? What about those Christmas cards? Who will get a card from us this year? Do you remember what our daughter said she wanted for Christmas this year? Which malls will Santa Claus be at this year?

It's enough to make your head spin. All of the "stuff" that we get so wrapped up in this time of year (do we have enough wrapping paper for all those gifts?) that we often take our focus off the real reason that we have the Christmas holiday. I'm referring to Jesus, of course. Christmas Day is his birthday! Maybe we should be buying and giving gifts to him instead of ourselves. But that doesn't work, because we can't really give him any gifts, can we? Maybe we can! How about if this Christmas season we give him the gift of ourselves?

This Christmas season spend a little more time with God in prayer. Let his powerful presence enter your life with peace (2 Thessalonians 3:16). This Christmas season attend a few more worship services and praise

God for the greatest gift of all time, his Son, Jesus (2 Corinthians 9:15)! As you give your life to God I think you will be amazed at how you will be blessed.

May God bless you this Christmas season!



### **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**

- ◇ Wednesday December 10 & 17 @ 7:00 p.m.
- ◇ Christmas Eve, December 24 @ 5:00 & 11:00 p.m. (please note time on red calendar is incorrectly listed)
- ◇ Christmas Day, December 25 @ 10:00 a.m.
- ◇ Every Sunday @ 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.



### **CHEVY'S DAY**

#### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

Tired of leftover turkey? How about some Fresh Mex? Mark your calendars and get out your sombreros. Wednesday, December 10, is Redeemer day at Chevy's.

The Redwood City Chevy's will donate 20% of their proceeds from Redeemer families back to Redeemer. So make reservations for the entire classroom! This works for take-out too.

Fliers can be found in your child's folder, or you can pick one up from the school office or extended care. Be sure to bring a flier with you and turn it in with your food order.

Location:

Chevy's Fresh Mex Restaurant  
2907 El Camino Real, Redwood City  
650-367-6892



### **MANDATORY HOURS**

Please turn in your mandatory hours completed to date to the school office no later than December 19. Turning in your hours on a regular basis ensures accurate accounting. Be sure to put your *NAME* on the form. *KEEP* the *yellow second copy* for your records. Thank you for your support of Redeemer Lutheran School.

## JV GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Coaches Lenahan & Maier

The JV Girls' Basketball team just wrapped up a very exciting and successful season. What a joy it was to coach these young ladies and watch them improve their skills every game. We started off the season with a win over an always tough Zion-San Francisco team, notched wins against St. Philip, Grace, and LSOS, and finished the season with a convincing win over rival Prince of Peace. The girls also participated in a tournament, winning 2 out of 3 games and losing 1 game by only 2 points. The team was led by 6th graders Jenny Eastman and Tarlon Badiie and received very strong play from 5th grader Jenny Mize. Rounding out the team were 5th graders Jessica Gotelli, Katherine Ruiz, Amelia Kramer, and Jen Piazza. Thank you to all the players for their dedication and hard work. Thank you also to all the parents for driving and attending the games. It was great having you at all the games and cheering on the team!

Tarlon Badiie	Jenny Eastman
Jessica Gotelli	Amelia Kramer
Jenny Mize	Jen Piazza
Katherine Ruiz	

## BOYS JV BASKETBALL

### Coach Mancini

The Boys' JV team had a great year! The team played 9 games and lost only one. Every player on the team scored at least once and all had a lot of playing experience. I was very proud of their hard work and positive attitude. Looks like Redeemer will be set for years to come! Thanks to all the parents for their support and driving to/from games. Thanks to Mr. Doody for all his help coaching. Way to go Braves!!

Josh Chiamos	Kevin Enderson
Matthew Fazio	Chad Mey
Matt Page	Michael Sweat
Derek White	Damien Aguirre
Joey Dinkel	Anthony Kirincic
Justin Olsen	Scott Saier
Matthew Weller	Jesse Wiley

### JUST A NOTE...




*Just a quick note of appreciation to all for your efforts at reducing tardies since the start of the second quarter. Less tardies make the mornings much more productive for all! Thank you*

## FALL FUNDRAISER KUDOS

Thank you to all who participated in the PSC Fall Fundraiser of gift wrap and goodies. Thanks especially to the following students who joined the \$300 club and earned a much-deserved limousine ride and lunch out on November 18:

Olivia Pellarin	Rachel Alves
Mikaela Lewman	Anika McGuire
Shanna Cooley	Jordynn Lewman
Devyn Story	Joey Dinkel
Jenny Eastman	Jenny Mize
Dylan Story	Michael Sweat
Ben Porter	Nichole Arends

Thank you to Julie Eastman for doing such a great job as our fundraising coordinator!!



3RD & 4TH GRADE MUSICAL  
[www.ChristmasOnline.com](http://www.ChristmasOnline.com)  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12  
7:00 PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL  
Please join us  
for a warmhearted lesson  
on the true meaning of Christmas.

## KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:30-8:30 P.M.

Do you know someone with a kindergartner for 2004-2005? If so, please invite them (or better yet bring them!) to meet our kindergarten teachers and learn more about RLS.

Remember, if you refer a student to RLS and they enroll, you may be eligible for a \$400 tuition credit.



Proceeds will benefit the Washington DC trip in April 2004. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Thank you for your support.