

# SMOKE SIGNALS



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

December 23, 2005

*"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances." 1 Thess 5:16-18a*

## UPCOMING DATES

Dec 26 -.....Christmas & New Year Holidays  
Jan 6 No School  
Jan 9.....School Resumes  
Jan 10.....National Geographic Bee 2pm  
Jan 16.....MLK Jr. Birthday - No School  
Jan 19.....Spelling Bee 1:30pm  
Jan 19-20....Jr. High Finals  
Jan 26.....End of 2nd Quarter - Noon Dismissal  
Jan 27.....P/T Conferences - No School  
  
Feb 17.....Lincoln's Birthday - No School  
Feb 20.....Presidents Day - No School

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER Mr. Mike Mancini

### Enjoy The "W" of Christmas!

As we break for the Christmas celebration I wanted to share with you a special e-mail I received. This was forwarded to me by Ms. Geraghty, our first grade teacher, and I thought what a great message to share with all. May this message reaffirm in your heart what Christmas is and should be about.

*Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations... extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas. My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production.*

*Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.*

*So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.*

*Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment...songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.*

*Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row - center stage - held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."*

*The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down - totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W". The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W".*

*Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities. For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:*

**"CHRISTWAS LOVE"** And, I believe, He still is!! (God works in AWESOME ways!)

What a very special message this Christmas season. May we all see that Christ was and is love this season and in the new year to come!

As this year comes to an end I would like to thank each and everyone one of you for the precious gift of your children to Redeemer. We have an awesome God who continues to shower all of us with His precious love. May each student and family celebrate the baby Jesus in a special way. 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."

**PJ's PLACE**  
**Pastor Joel**

### Happy New Year!

It's almost that time to say "Goodbye" to another year and "Welcome" to the next. I know that many people think of this time as a good time to create a New Year's resolution. I, too, have fallen into this trap in the past. But no more! As many of you probably know (maybe even by experience) it's not real easy to keep your New Year's resolution. Some have even gone so far as to say it's impossible!

As a pastor I believe that with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). I also believe that as people we often try to make things happen on our own. It is in those situations that our New Year's resolutions usually fail miserably. So if you decide to make a New Year's resolution then make God a part of it as well. I would challenge you to take time to hear the season's greetings. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Having Christmas celebrated so close to the New Year should give each of us a real reason to rejoice. Take the joy of Christmas 2005 and let it carry you through 2006. Smile when you think about all the good things God has done for you. Look forward to sharing that joy with your family and friends in all you do. Let this be the year that you spend a little more time with your family, a few more minutes each day listening to God's Word for your life, extra moments of joy as God's presence in your life puts your mind at ease and allows you to rejoice.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## DONATE YOUR CAR

Proceeds Benefit **RELEAF**  
*Redeemer Lutheran Education Assistance Fund*

Tax Deductible \* We Do DMV

Call (800) 677-1744



### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

2:00 PM

Please join us for our 8th annual Geography Bee! Contestants from grades 4-8 have been selected based on classroom bees. Come cheer on our contestants and test your own knowledge of geography and current events!



### S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G B-E-E

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

1:30 PM

Please join us for our annual Spelling Bee. Contestants will be chosen in grades 1-8 after the Christmas break. We will have three Bees: 1st/2nd grade, 3rd/4th grade, and 5th-8th grade. Please join us in the church!

### END OF 2ND QUARTER

Parent/Teacher conferences will take place on Thursday and Friday, January 26-27. Unless you have previously requested otherwise, your scheduled appointment will be the same as 1st quarter. If you need to change your appointment time, please contact your teacher as quickly as possible. Please make every effort to keep your scheduled appointment as conferences have been coordinated between siblings. Conference times in junior high may be more difficult to change. Thank you for your cooperation.

Semester finals for students in grades 6-8 will take place on Thursday and Friday, January 19-20 in the morning. Please make sure students are at school on time, well rested and have had a good breakfast. Please avoid scheduling appointments during this time. Thank you!

## Varsity Basketball

Congratulations to our Boys Varsity Basketball Team:

Josh Chiamos	Kevin Enderson
Matthew Fazio	Chad Mey
Matt Page	Michael Quile
Freddie Spain	Daniel Tonello
Derek White	Joey Dinkel
Anthony Kirincic	Justin Olsen
Ben Justice	

Coaches: Mr. Mancini & Mr. Doody

Congratulations to our Girls Varsity Basketball Team:

Tarlon Badiee	Jenny Eastman
Meaghan Gerhart	Heather Smith
Jiana Bowie	Jessica Gotelli
Jenny Mize	Hayley Parker
Katherine Ruiz	Niki Serrano
Polline Villalobo	Jessica Vano

Coaches: Mrs. Lenahan & Mrs. Maier

Come support the *Braves* at our home games at the Rec Center on Roosevelt Avenue -- Tuesdays, January 24, January 31, February 21, February 28. Girls' games begin @ 3:30, Boys' games begin at 4:30.

## Gift Wrap Fundraiser

Thank you to all who participated in the PSC Fall Fundraiser. We earned approximately \$7,000 for Redeemer. Great job everyone!

Congratulations to our limo ride winners! These kids sold over \$300 each and earned lunch at McDonalds and a limo ride around town.

Kudos to all of these kids (and their parents!) for a job well done:

Kyle Elpel, Diamond Pearson, Olivia Pellarin, Lexi Riccardi, Rachel Alves, Nick Chiamos, Cole Elpel, Taylor Madsen, Kyle Lucas, Jacob Weller, Isaiah LaBelle, Domonique Pearson, Darien Arends, Alyssa Flores, Jenny Mize, Justin Olsen, Scott Saier, Jenny Eastman, Felicia Flores, Meaghan Gerhart, Heather Smith, and Daniel Tonello.

Special **BIG** thanks to Julie Eastman, our illustrious chairperson for another outstanding year.

## Holiday Worship at Redeemer Lutheran Church

Saturday, December 24  
Christmas Eve  
Family Worship @ 5:00 pm  
Candlelight Service @ 11:00 pm

Sunday, December 25  
Christmas Day  
One Worship Service @ 10:00 am

Sunday, January 1, 2006  
New Years Day  
One Worship Service @ 10:00 am



## PSC News

### Family Reading Night

Do you have a gift for event planning? PSC will be sponsoring a Family Reading Night, and is looking for a parent to coordinate this event. We're also looking for a few volunteers to be on the planning committee. If you would like to take a lead role, or just help out with a really fun event, please contact Susie Madsen ([srmadsen@stanford.edu](mailto:srmadsen@stanford.edu)) or Jenny Lewman ([jennylewman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jennylewman@sbcglobal.net)).

### Hot Lunch

The hot lunch program is back beginning Wednesday, January 18. We have a new provider -- Nob Hill Catering. Everything you need to know about ordering was sent home in your child's Friday Folder on December 16. All children who will be ordering hot lunch must be registered with the caterer NO LATER THAN JANUARY 11. If you have any questions about the hot lunch program, please contact Susie Madsen at 650-679-9336 or Jenny Lewman at 650-216-9077.

### Next PSC Meeting

Tuesday, January 10 at 7pm. As always, free childcare will be provided.