

Thursday Thoughts  
January 7, 2010  
Carlton Rider  
Principal

I hope everybody had a Christmas filled with spiritual renewal and a time to enjoy family and friends. Some may wonder why the Christmas decorations are kept up past the feast of the Epiphany. The tradition is that the Christmas season is seen as extending through the Baptism of the Lord, which is celebrated the week after the Epiphany. Although the Epiphany is celebrated around the world on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the actual celebration of the feast is left up to the bishops of a particular country as to when it will be celebrated. In the United States the past few years, Epiphany has been celebrated on the Sunday after New Years, probably so more people will be able to take part in the liturgy of the feast. With all that said, the season of Christmas is actually more than the traditional twelve days! It doesn't seem possible that the holidays are behind us and the realities of a cold and snowy January are upon us. For some of our students, these days of what we call re-entry back to school life can be a challenge, but it appears that most are doing a good job of refocusing on their studies and homework assignments.

With the new calendar year we will be installing a voice mail system that will give you easier contact options with our faculty and staff members. In the past we have had to rely on putting notes in teachers' mailboxes concerning contacting parents when the parent called during the day. Teachers didn't always check their mailboxes at the end of the day, which put a delay in the teacher contacting the parent. Hopefully this will be up and running within the next week or so.

We will also be activating our emergency call system in the next few days. This will enable us to contact all of our families in the case of closings, delays, or emergency situations. With the way the weather has been the past few days, this system may get a work out this year. A test of the system will be made in the next couple of days. You will be getting the call on your primary phone as listed on our school roster. If you want to add additional numbers to your call list please refer to the information from School Announcement that was given to you by way of our Thursday folder before the Christmas break.

In this week's Thursday folder you will find a summary of the cafeteria survey that was given late last year to our parents and students. I thank our cafeteria staff for compiling the results and sharing them with all of us.

Our school advisory board will be meeting this coming Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> in the faculty room in our main building. All advisory board meetings are open to our parents.

This second quarter and first semester come to an end on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Report cards will be distributed on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Don't forget that Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Classes are dismissed that day in memory of Dr. King.

For up-coming events and other information, please check our website at [www.saintmarylancaster.org](http://www.saintmarylancaster.org).