



# Ram News

Our Shepherd Lutheran School

December 16, 2011

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. - Colossians 2:6-7*

## Calendar December

### Principal's Thought

"For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). I had to memorize those words every year for our Christmas program in my days as a student in a Lutheran school. It is a privilege to be able to share this message with your children - that Christmas is not about trees or Santa or presents, but that it is the day we celebrate God giving us the gift of His very own Son to be our savior. The kindergarten-4th grade shared that message with us at our Advent service Wednesday night. It is a present too good to keep to ourselves; we should want to share it with as many people as possible.

This will be the last Ram News of the 2011 calendar year. On behalf of the faculty and staff of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church and School, may you have a blessed and merry Christmas and joyous new year!

### Lunch Update—No School Hot Lunches after December

Mrs. Vornholt has updated us that she will not be able to continue the hot lunch program when school resumes after Christmas break. This means that every student will need to bring a lunch from home every day starting January 4th. Milk will continue to be available every day for 50 cents a carton. On behalf of the school, thank you Mrs. Vornholt for helping us with our lunch program the first semester.

### School Closing Information Reminder

In cases of inclement weather in which it may be necessary to close school, announcements will be posted to WRTV (ch. 6), WISH (ch. 8), WTHR (ch. 13), and WXIN (ch. 59). Please make sure you look for "Our Shepherd Lutheran School", as we will not necessarily follow Avon or Wayne Township schools. If it is necessary for school to be cancelled, all activities for the day will be cancelled as well and extended care will also be closed. In the event of a 2-hour delay, school will begin at 10:30 AM and there will be no morning pre-school or pre-kindergarten class; extended care would also be on a delay and would not open until 9:00 AM.

### PTL Christmas Lunch

Please join us for lunch to celebrate the beginning of our Christmas Break on 12/20/11 at 12 noon! We will be having Chick-fil-A sandwiches and nuggets along with other tasty treats for \$3 per person. Parents, siblings and Grandparents are welcome to join their students. Please have your forms turned in by 12/16/11 with payments. If you have any questions please contact Marisa Price at richma57@msn.com

### School Calendar Announcement

Please see page 2 for the update about the 2012-2013 school calendar (reprinted from last week).

### Attention Pre-kindergarten Families - Regarding Kindergarten Next Year

For the 2012-2013 school year and beyond, kindergarten will be 5 full days a week. There will be a transition period from the first day of school until Labor Day where school will be half-days, but will then be full days for the rest of the school year.

### Little Rams

Little Rams Basketball registration is open to all students PerK-4th grade. The season tips off Jan.21st with practice and our first game is Feb. 4th. Information can be picked up on the sports bulletin board. For additional information please contact Tom Hansing at thansing@rjset.com

Friday	16th
Saturday	17th
Service 6:30pm	
Sunday Service times	18th
8:00am and 10:45am	
Monday JV Boys game	19th
home vs Calvary	
Tuesday PTL Lunch	20th
Wednesday Christmas	21st
Break Starts NO School	
Thursday No School	22nd

### **Special points of interest:**

- ◆ Dec. 20th at 12:00 pm PTL Christmas Lunch
- ◆ Dec. 21st –Jan. 3rd– Christmas Break
- ◆ Jan.4th Return from Christmas Break
- ◆ Jan.5th Games @ Zion
- ◆ Jan. 10th Games home vs Calvary
- ◆ Jan. 12th PTL meeting 8:30am

Dear parents:

Thank you to everyone who filled out a survey about the balanced calendar. The opinions and comments were tabulated and presented to the school board as part of the information about the balanced calendar they had to consider.

At the monthly school board meeting in December, the board decided to stay with a traditional calendar for 2012-2013. The greatest factor in this decision is there is no accurate or proven data that shows student improvement from the addition of extended breaks and a shorter summer vacation. The vast majority of public schools that are embracing the balanced calendar see it as a means of hopefully improving test scores, despite the fact that there is no evidence to support the idea. Our Shepherd Lutheran School has consistently had I-STEP scores above the state average, and the board members saw no reason to “fix” a system that isn’t broken. The other school districts in our area that have chosen to keep the traditional calendar have cited the same reasons for their decision.

I have had conversations with many Catholic and Christian school administrators about their calendar decision and the majority of them have chosen to stay with their traditional calendar. The other Lutheran schools in the Indianapolis area have also chosen to stay with a traditional calendar for the same reasons.

I understand that this will be frustrating for some families. Ultimately, though, we believe that staying with a traditional calendar is in the best interests of the children’s education.

In His service,  
Mr. Huntington