



# The Cardinal Flyer

DECEMBER 1, 2009

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## BJ's Corner

Dear Families,

A number of years ago I was cleaning out the family home preparing it for resale. To my surprise I found a gift I had made some 40 years ago, a "cotton ball snowman." My mother would store it each year and bring it out during the holiday season. Although the snowman looked very weathered, it was always put out and my mom would share her story about her "little girl" making it.

My point of this shared experience is that nothing means more than a handcrafted gift or a handmade card.

Create memories with your family during this season. Those memories will be cherished forever.

### Spirit of Giving

Last year Father David Garcia visited St. Charles and delivered a homily that taught our students about the less fortunate in the world.

One of our past fifth grade students went home and asked his parents not to give him any gifts, instead he wanted to donate that money to combat malaria. Awesome!

Father Garcia travels the U.S.A. talking about Catholic Relief Services. This story was one of many shared by Ken Hackett, President of C.R.S. How proud I am of this student and all my students who share so willingly!

Have a peaceful week.

B.J.

**Holiday Trivia- The top speed of a reindeer is 32 miles per hour.**

### Kudos...

Luis Soto's (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) team, The Albuquerque Track Club ATC Bantam Boys placed 2nd at the Junior Olympic Cross Country meet in El Paso Texas! ATC competed against teams from Texas, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and other New Mexico teams. Luis ran a 3K with the ATC Bantam Team. There were over 120 athletes who ran the 3K. Way to go Luis!!

*Calendar Update*

## May I Suggest?

I think the trash can needs to be closer to the playground.  
Angelina Murphy

B.J. – I agree. However, the winds carry the trash cans all over the grounds if they are out in the middle. By being closer to the building, it keeps them from blowing around. Thanks for asking.



## It's Christmas Time!

Support N.J.H.S. by ordering candy canes for that very special person. Orders will be taken from November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 4<sup>th</sup>. (No exceptions). The candy canes will be delivered on December 10<sup>th</sup> with a beautiful tag. **(See the email blast sent today to print out the tags. Your child also received a color copy to take home with them today.)**

## The Christmas Musical is Coming Soon!

### WHAT TO WEAR:

**K- 2nd grade**: needs to wear plain Kelly green shirts (school recycle shirt acceptable/jog-a-thon shirt acceptable if turned inside out), tan pants, and a red bandana (may be purchased at Hobby Lobby or Michael's). Tennis shoes may be worn. NO SLEEVELESS SHIRTS.

**3<sup>RD</sup> – 5<sup>TH</sup> grade**: needs to wear plain Kelly green shirts (school recycle shirt acceptable/jog-a-thon acceptable if turned inside out), tan pants. Tennis shoes may be worn. NO SLEEVELESS SHIRTS.

**Middle School**: needs to wear plain black shirts (with sleeves and round neckline) and black pants. Tennis shoes may be worn. NO SLEEVELESS SHIRTS/NO TIGHT FITTING CLOTHES.

### From The Finance Office

Remember, your \$300.00 subsidy fee is due in December if it was not paid by your parish, or if you chose to pay it yourself.

### Only one more time to buy Scrip before Christmas!

Order your Scrip cards. We order on Tuesday (12/8). This is a great way to help the school, and it is convenient for shopping and giving gifts. Check the website for more information. Order forms are available at the website and in the office. (See yesterday's email blast).

### Archdiocese of Santa Fe 2009 Abuse Awareness Training for Adults

In order to volunteer at St. Charles, you are required to take this workshop. Pre-registration is necessary. You may contact Annette in the Coordinator's Office at 831-8144.

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## School News

As a school we are advertising in the Journal, New Mexico Kids, and all the Citadel radio stations. I am encouraging newcomers to visit our school. If you know anyone who is interested, please encourage a visit.

## Koats for Kids

In partnership with KOAT News we are collecting coats until mid-December. Check your closets for gently used coats and sweaters. Please do not send hats/gloves.

## Yearbooks Available Now

The 2010 yearbook is on sale now for the lowest price of the year. Don't miss the opportunity to get the official story of the entire school year. If you order today you can get this \$40.00 yearbook for the sale price of \$35.00! Reserve your copy online today at [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com). Don't delay. **You only have until January 24, 2010 to get your book at this price. ONLINE ORDERS ONLY!!**

## Sports News

### Girl's Basketball

	Home	Away	
Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Holy Ghost	St. Charles	C-Team 4:00 A-Team 5:00

## A Message from St. Charles School Advisory Council

Dear Parents and Friends,

As you recall from last time, we discovered that there are three A-words that play a central role in education: Accreditation, assessment, and accountability. All three concepts in education are related but separate concepts having to do with measuring children's educative experiences in schools. Today, we will focus on the concept of accountability in education.

In many aspects of our daily life, there is increased attention to the lack of accountability as being the root cause of many of the challenges facing our society. Government bodies, business markets, health care systems and educational systems have been plagued by instances where there is a mismatch between the distribution of power and the assumption of responsibility that comes with such power. Problems arise when those charged with certain duties are not assessed and go unchecked. Essentially, this means that our other two "A" words, assessment and accreditation, are natural precursors for accountability.

In all situations, being accountable means that a capacity exists for being 1) responsible for one's actions, and, 2) being answerable to others dependent on one's actions. Responsibility and answerability are most essential for anyone to be a good and faithful steward. Many people think that school accountability is simply the process of making public the results of standardized tests conducted on children. This is only being answerable. How can anyone be accountable without being responsible?

In school accountability there must be a balance between a) the reporting of student assessments that make public student learning outcomes, achievement outcomes and other indicators of student success, 2) the standards of professional practice for those charged as stewards of the school (i. e., teachers, administrators, support staff, pastor), and 3) the advocacy and support of parents and families for maintaining excellence in their children's education. We all have a role in assuring that our children receive the best educative experience during these formative years.

Last week we all received an accountability report of our children's progress. What do those "grades" mean? As parents, we are accountable to our children's learning and development in school when we are actively engaged in dialogue with our children about their school experience. We are accountable to our children's learning and development when we are in dialogue with our children's teachers about our children's learning, performance, understanding and achievement. We are accountable to the success of our children when we embrace pro-achievement and pro-supportive practices that build capacity in our school.

Teachers are accountable when they embrace their profession with a commitment toward on-going professional development, when they deliver curriculum that is thoughtfully designed and instruct our children in a manner based on best pedagogical practices. Our teachers have an enormous challenge of inspiring life-long learners in each of their pupils. When teachers "plan-do-and review" their daily lessons, they demonstrate how they fulfill their accountability duty on a daily basis.

Our children are accountable for their own learning and development when they are actively engaged in their learning environments, striving toward independence in their own learning, cooperative to their peers in a manner that promotes learning, motivation, and understanding for all. Our children are accountable when embrace and identify with the process of learning that governs our school for the success, safety and achievement of all. When children "do their best" in school-work, in engaging in class activity (e.g., answering tough questions in class) and in successfully completing their homework, they demonstrate their capacity to be accountable on a daily basis.

Our principal, our pastor and our school staff are accountable when they provide the school leadership we all need to maintain our school. They are accountable through their deep commitment to each family to assure safety at all levels for each child in this school. They are accountable to us all through their commitment to build on our excellence, to foster innovation in our curriculum, and to strive towards building the best financial and human capital necessary for building St. Charles Borromeo School for the future.

As a Catholic community, it is easy for us to see that we are all accountable to each other. This school's philosophy is grounded in an excellent manifestation of accountability: The Golden Rule. As Christians, we are all accountable to our Lord, to each other, and for our actions. Christ's love for us is our salvation and it is also a gift for us to give to others. We are fortunate that our children are enrolled in a school that is grounded in a far greater "accountability system" of our Christian faith and service to others. With this rubric in hand all of us, students, teachers, school staff, our pastor, our parish, and our parents and families, can assume both the responsibility and answerability duties that allow us all to be good and faithful stewards of St. Charles Borromeo School.

A long time ago, Saint Augustine encouraged teachers to adapt themselves to their students with a love that is both a love of a father and of a mother in order to form a sympathetic mind that is so essential to the process of learning. If he were to visit our school today, how would St. Augustine evaluate our school? Would he think we are all being accountable? Are we assuming the duties of stewards of this school or are we assuming the role of stakeholder and waiting for others to answer to us?

Thank you to each of you for all that you do in being accountable to our children, our school and our community.

Respectfully,  
David Atencio

