

The Cardinal Connection

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2011

SAVE THE DATES!!

December 5th – 15th -
Tickets on Sale for

Christmas Musical

December 2nd- Early
Dismissal PD

December 2nd –
Choir Singing at Old
Town Stroll

December 15th –
Christmas Musical
7:00p.m. Kiva Auditorium

December 16th – No
School /Christmas
Break

January 2nd -
Teacher's Work Day
(No School)

January 3rd – Stu-
dents from Break

**NO SCHOOL ON
WEDNESDAY,**

NOVEMBER 23RD
Congratulations Car-
dinals!

**Don't Forget
Your Christmas
Program Tick-
ets!!!**

**Reserved: \$10
General Admis-
sion: \$5**

Principal's Points

TALKING TURKEY



THAT'S A LOT OF TURKEY...

The school community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 10, 2011 was a huge success. Suzanne Baca, our cafeteria manager and the people from Canteen, prepared food for over 550 people: 185 lbs of turkey, 5 lbs of whipped potatoes, 8 lbs of gravy, 3 cases of green beans, 12 lbs. of stuffing, 6 cases of dinner rolls, 600 pieces of pumpkin cake with whipped topping and 4 cans of cranberry sauce. Thank you to all who attended and bless those who prepared the meal.

Our 8th grade leaders showed great character as they helped serve, clean and ensure everyone had what they needed. The students were asked several days before the event if they wanted to volunteer – they did not have to do it.. They were told that it would not be service hours nor would they receive anything for their efforts other than the good feelings that they would feel inside. When asked to volunteer on these conditions – all of the 8th grade students volunteered. What a wonderful gift of thanksgiving they demonstrated with that choice!

Dear St. Charles Families:

As we approach the time of year when we turn our attention to thanking God for all of the blessings in our lives, I would like to focus on all of the wonderful things happening at St. Charles

Thanks to God for this great gift of Catholic education for our children. Thanks to our pastor, parishioners, parents, faculty and staff that so generously support this important mission of the Catholic Church.

Thanks to parents for sharing your children with us at St. Charles. They are some of the most respectful, hardworking, and generous young ladies and gentlemen that I have encountered. Proof of their hard work is proudly displayed in the hallways and evident in test scores, and the number of students on the 1st Trimester Honor Roll. When interacting with students in the hallways, lunchroom, before and after school, I am amazed at their good manners and respect in complying with requests and/or (cont'd page 6)

Nurse's Niche

Hi everyone. I am so pleased to be at St. Charles Borromeo School. My name is Fran Maddock. I have been a nurse for fifteen years and really enjoy it. I have met and talked to all of your children in the past couple of weeks. I have met and talked to some of the parents. I look forward to meeting you all. Please feel free to drop by, call and/or email me at email: fmaddock@stcharlesabq.org anytime.

Colder weather is upon us, please remind your children to keep their coats on when they are outside.

Please remember to call the nurse's line (505) 767-1063 when your child is going to be absent.

I will be working with Melanie from the American Heart Association to coordinate the Jump Rope for Heart Event.

I have been working with the students to keep the spread of germs a priority by discussions and demonstrations of hand washing whenever necessary. There are hand washing posters in all student bathrooms.

I hope you all have a Happy and Healthy Christmas Season.

God Bless You!



STUDENT'S SPEAK!

As promised, yet *another* installation of our students' illustrious literary works in both prose and poetry! They have been busy writing bees in both the "Tall Tales" segment—artwork included—and their poetry (and there WILL be more contributions we assure you). We believe we may just have the next generation of best sellers right here at our school! So without further ado...

MY DOG

MIA MONTOYA 5A

Once upon a time there was a girl named Mia. One day when she got home from school her dad was waiting for her on the porch. When she got to the porch her dad handed her a dog. She was so excited she began to cry. The dog was a baby shih-zu puppy named Mavrick. Mia set him down in her room while she went to get a snack. When she came back he looked 5 inches bigger. Before she started homework she measured her dog. The next time she came back he was 50 feet tall. The next day for breakfast he ate the neighborhood. The next day instead of riding the bus to school she rode her dog to school! The next day her dog wanted to play fetch so he ripped a tree right out of the ground. The dog had started to become a pest. So the next day she started building a cage with the leftover wood from the houses. After it was built the dog was happy and no longer a pest!



THE TELEPHONE HATER

ANDY HUGHES 5A

One day there was a man who was microscopic. He absolutely hated making phone calls because he needed a spaceship to get on the phone. He needed a helicopter and a jeep to push the buttons.

One day while he was making a phone call he fell into the speaker and stayed there. He started to look for the way out. It smelled so much like TV his eyes hurt! So then he saw a particle of dust the size of a tiger it even smelled like a tiger he also saw huge lakes of grease from people



that used the phone after eating potato chips. There was so much grease he had to swim. And when he got to the other side he felt shaky. And then he flew out. A person just turned it on to vibrate. He was in the hospital for three days. So remember, never turn on a phone without searching it.

AND NOW FOR SOME POETRY....

As you know from our last edition, we have some fantastic poets among us as well. Here are some more to whet your appetite for some articulate answers about "Where I Am From." We'll let the students speak for themselves...

WHERE I AM FROM

BY BRANDY LEEDS

MRS. ROACH 6A

I am from my hand sewn blanket
from my soccer ball and my running shoes.
I am from animals
and adobe brick.
I am from my cottonwood tree
whose arms support my tree house where a
special boy spends time.
I am from an army bag
from Hancock and Suiker.
I am from builders and merchants
and from farmers and runners.
I am from Hail Mary.
I am from Raligh Whaland Carr and Arie Baars,
from crepes to eggs and sausage
from breaking the track records in Holland
and from helping build Grand Coulee Dam, the
largest dam in the world for over 60 years,
to a car track that hot wheels race on
I am from those moments and items and ances
tors
and that is where I am from.



WHERE I AM FROM

BY NOAH LUCERO

MRS. ROACH 6A

I am from my baby blanket
from apple and cherry trees.
I am from a crystal palace
and from sparkly clean.
I am from yuccas
whose long neck rises above its body.
I am from John Deere tractors and power
tools,
from Lucero and Perea.
I am from brown eyes and brown hair and
from not so tall,
from kindness and generosity.
I am from love thy neighbor as yourself.
I am from Grandma Josie and Grandma
Emma,
from warm tamales and biscochitos,
from branding calves and from plowing
fields.
I am from eating tortillas and green chile
stew.
I am from those moments when my sister
and I went rolling down the staircase.
I am from kindness and generosity.



AND SPEAKING OF

GENEROSITY.....

KOATS FOR KIDS!!!

We will be collecting new and gently used coats in support of the annual KOATS for Kids campaign. Please bring in any coats you wish to donate. There will be a big box in the front hallway. Thanks for your generosity! Many a cold soul will need them!

cARTinals Create



AS PROMISED....

Another installation of our artists' works from both past, present and future. This week, we are featuring an exclusive one on one interview with Anna Marie Dinallo who, after her time at St. Charles and during her studies at St. Pius went on to bring us this amazing portrait of Frida Kahlo—an amazing and inspiring female artist from Mexico.

Q: What first got you interested in art and when did the “art bug” bite you?



A: Art is a lifestyle. If we can appreciate the diversity of people, perspectives, and world-views, than we are true artists. I was drawn to art as a child due to the creative ability it provided.

Q: People in the art world use the word “medium a lot. What does that mean?

A: A medium is anything that you can use to express yourself. Typically, people think of medium as oil, paint, film, or mixed material, yet artistic medium expands beyond conventional material. A medium is any tool that you can implement in a creative manner. You do not have to be an accomplished drawer to be an artist. Anyone can be an artist if you can find an inner ability to be creative.

Q: What's your favorite medium to work with and why?

A: Currently, I have been interested in creative activism and photography. These mediums allow me to improve living conditions for many of the topics I paint about. I collaborate with various communities both locally and internationally to address systemic injustices.

This month I produced a mixed-medium piece that addresses slavery issues in Africa. The money will be donated toward increasing counseling services for these individuals.

counseling services for these individuals.

Q: What is the inspiration for your artwork?

A: Through my artwork I address social justice issues. The injustices I observe in the world often become the driving force in my work. As Catholics, we are called to make the world a better place. I have found art to be an effective way to create awareness for change.

Q: You are obviously are an accomplished painter. What things do you like to paint and why?

A: Not sure.

Q: Your featured painting in the St Pius alumni show was of Frida Kahlo. Who was she and what inspired you to paint her?

A: Frida Kahlo de Rivera is a profound painter who suffered lifelong health problems. She was a painter who dedicated her life to painting about justice and political issues of her time. Frida is part of a larger collection of images I am producing that represent unrecognized hero's of their eras.

Q: Are there any words of advice or encouragement you would like to say to St. Charles' students who may be interested in art?

A: You do not have to be an accomplished drawer to be an artist. Anyone can be an artist if you can find the ability to be creative. The opportunities for artistic expression are blooming all around us, we just have to take the time to stop and appreciate those moments.

The Very Short Connection Commentary.....All we here can say is...WOW! And GO ANNA! May you continue to be an inspiration for us all!!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...A PICTURE BY FRIDA HERSELF—MAY OUR CREATIVE AND SPIRITUAL TREES GROW FROM WITHIN OUR SOULS AS WELL IN OUR SEARCH FOR WHAT OUR FAITH STANDS FOR.



CHRISTMAS BELLS ARE COMING...



SOME MORE GIVING BACK ALL HANDS ON DECK!

Jesse Giving Tree Project

Happy Anniversary! This will be the 9th year for our Jesse Giving Tree Project at St. Charles Borromeo Church. Every year, a large tree is set up in the vestibule of the church with gift tags. Each tag contains the name of an organization and a needed item. We invite you to take as many tags as you wish from the tree during the four weeks of Advent.

Please purchase the item on the tag, return the article and the tag unwrapped to the tree by the end of Advent. Your generous donation will be distributed to one of the five organizations; The Barrett House, Casa Angelica, Project Thresholds, Women's Housing Coalition, and Brothers of the Good Shepherd.

Many people will truly benefit from this project; and your kindness and care is greatly appreciated. If you need further information please call the Parish Office at (505) 242-3462.

AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN THE VERY SPECIAL MOMENT WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING A WHOLE YEAR FOR...

(To be continued on the next page...we DO love our little moments of suspense, you know)...

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANTS OF 2011!!

One of the best events of the year, our Christmas Musical will be on December 15, 2011 at 7 p.m. Please join us in celebrating the season with a wonderful production by our St. Charles' Students. Over 1200 people have attended our show in the past. Please take the opportunity to buy an ad for this year's program which will be professionally done.

The elementary will present the New Mexican version of the Fiesta: The Legend of the Poinsettia.

The Legend of the Poinsettia



It once was the custom in Mexico
For the villagers to leave
A gift for the Baby Jesus
In their church on Christmas Eve.
In one small village, a little boy
Who had no give to bring.
Prayed to God for a way to show
His love for the infant King.
God, in His mercy, looked down on
the boy
And answered his earnest prayer
By causing a flower to bloom where
he knelt--
A flower so brilliant and fair.
The miraculous flower was formed
like a star
With leaves that were red and so
bright.
And the boy's precious gift
Has come to be known
As the "Flower of the Holy Night."

Every child has a part because everyone is part of the choir. The students who have additional parts are:

Narrators – Victoria Solaris, Luis Soto, Justin Howie, Armando Carrillo, Steven Covington.

Children with speaking lines – Maya Montoya, Selena Brandt, Elias Sanchez, Alex Ortiz.

Travelers – Kayla Abeyta, Hannah Salazar, Tahlese Major, Sierra Saenz,

Innkeepers (group one) – Josh Chavez,

Jessica Albanna

Innkeepers (group two) – Zach Griego, Clarissa Dixon

Alicia's Family – Lucy Maldonado, Shayann Engelbert, David Medina.

Alicia – Edie Bickel

Celia (Alicia's Cousin) – Samantha Jeffries

Padre (Alicia's Dad) – Nathan Nguyen

Madre (Alicia's Mother) – Grace Romero

Everybody Else – Choir!!!

The middle school is preparing a wonderful musical Candy Cane Lane: A Recipe for Life. Candy Cane Lane is abuzz with festive holiday preparations with candy canes and lights, wreaths and holly. Why, even the ever-greens are sprucing up. But there is trouble brewing! Which candy cane color is better, red or green? Better call out the Color Guard to save the season! This is a fun-filled, feel good production!

Candy Cane Lane is a musical that teaches us the truth that God alone can satisfy our hungry hearts. Candy Cane Jane leads our characters, Marsha, Mark and Mindy through the Soul Food Forest to Miss Ginger's gingerbread house to learn the recipe for life. They even go for a ride on Casey's train to learn how to grow. Other highlights include the story of the Christmas candy cane and its message of Jesus during the season, and a heart-warming testimony of "Let's Light a Candle" with "Away in a Manger". This cheerful musical contains an important message for all.

Again all children have a part because the choir is very integral to the play.

The students who have additional parts are:

Candy Cane Jane – Lauren Atencio

Mindy - Alicia Ulibarri

Marsha – Sofia Parrino amazed at their



© 2011

Mark – Adam Armijo

Ginger – Isabella Obermeier

Casey – Phillip Chavez

Mother – Caroline Dunn

Candy Cane Kids – Patrick Gallegos, Brock Sandoval, Charlie Bickel, Maddie Chavez, Michael Ortiz

Scripture Readers – Carly Montoya and Randall Gurule

Everybody Else – Choir!!!

TALKING TECHNICAL MATTERS....

Okay, okay, we know that the technical side of theatre is not quite as glamorous as being in the spotlight, HOWEVER without our costumes and props we couldn't even raise the curtain! (Moral of the story is respect your techies!) The other moral is Tat every actor or actress needs to know exactly what they need to wear and what their props are. So, for Candy Cane Lane we have compiled a list of costumes and props required for every performer, including whether or not the school (or Mrs. Menicucci) will be providing them or not. So here it is ladies and gents:

Candy Cane Jane (Lauren Atencio)

White tux with tails (Mrs. Menicucci), white collared shirt, red candy cane vest (Mrs. Menicucci), red shoes, red sparkling top hat (school), candy cane (school)

Candy Cane Kids (Patrick Gallegos, Brock Sandoval, Michael Ortiz, Maddie Chavez)

Red and white striped shirt (school), red sweat pants, red shoes, striped Santa hat (school),

red suspenders (school), big white buttons (school), candy canes, chef hats (school), conductor hats (school)

Ginger (Isabella Obermeier)

Full Christmas skirt, white blouse, Christmas apron (school), Chef Hat (school), red shoes

Casey (Charley Bickel)

Overalls or jeans, blue shirt, athletic shoes, train hat, gold medallion (school), red suspenders (school)

dark blazer

Fat Roberta/Robert

One piece pajamas, bonnet, bib, large baby bottle

Mom (Caroline Dunn)

Long fluffy robe, slippers
Sunday best, dress shoes

Mindy (Alicia Ulibarri)

Christmas pajamas, slippers

Marsha (Sophia Parrino)

Christmas pajamas, slippers, pink curlers

(we're 'not done with the list yet—again that whole "we love suspense thing"....

Mark (Adam Armijo)

Christmas pajama s, slippers

6-8 Choirs

Girls- Christmas pajamas, long pants- no shorts or gowns, loose fitting with Christmas colors or pictures, no sleeveless or tight fitting, long sleeves preferred, under garments must be worn, athletic shoes

Boys- Christmas pajamas, long pants- no boxers, loose fitting with Christmas colors or pictures, long sleeved preferred, undergarments must be worn, athletic shoes

Okay, now we are done talking tech but we really hope you enjoy the show everybody!

Remember, tickets are only 10.00 for reserved seats and \$5.00 Generqal Admission.. They are on sale DECEMBER 5th THROUGH THE 15th! Don't miss this opportunity to see these budding superstars at none other than the KIVA AUDITORIUM on DECEMBER 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Editor's Notes

Man—there's just so much buzz at St. Charles that the newsletter seems to grow on its own! Many thanks again for the students who contributed their written work and to those whose work will be featured in editions to come! A special thanks to Anna Marie Dinallo for taking the time from her busy college, artistic and social justice activism schedules to talk with us! Once again, all featured artwork and writing featured in this edition was strictly **chosen at random** and **ALL work received will get their day in the Connection**. We look forward to any suggestions you may have as parents, teachers, and students alike. If you would like something to be included or shared with the St. Charles community, please do not hesitate to email Principal La Valley at vvalley@stcharlesabq.org or call her at (505) 767-1065. Please be kind enough to send a CC: in your email to my assistant with the newsletter, Abriana – a St. Charles alumnus herself at abrianalavalley@gmail.com. Thank you in advance and we hope you continue to enjoy the new format!

P.S. This particular editor (Mrs. La Valley is the chief editor) would really like to congratulate EVERY SINGLE performer brave enough to get up there on that stage and sing. I only sing in the shower and at birthdays (and not well, I might add). My words to you as someone who did theatre (as did Mrs. La Valley) - just GO FOR IT! A director once told me that being nervous is a sign of your talent trying to get out. SO WORK IT LADIES AND GENTS!

the Best Christmas Pageant Ever

**BREAK A LEG EVERYBODY !
(not really - it's
just what they
say in the business)**

instructions. Observing students taking care of one another when another student drops their lunch tray in the cafeteria or books in the hallway by helping to pick up or clean up the mess, is heartwarming. Seeing those smiling faces each morning as they enter the building makes my day.

Thanks for your support as parents. The positive feedback, offers of help in the office or with the fundraisers. The support felt as changes are being made by the quiet acceptance of parents in the community has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. The support of parents has been phenomenal. Without their help we couldn't accomplish all that we do.

Thanks for our faculty and staff as they continue to sacrifice so much for the mission of Catholic education. They have proven time and again this year that they are a team and that they care deeply about your children. No matter what has been asked of them, they have given from their hearts and I have seen nothing but hearts full of love thus far.

Thanks to all of our students, parents, faculty and staff for helping us to achieve \$19,000 of our \$40,000 goal with our fall fundraisers. Thanks also to the faculty, and volunteers who have coached, supervised, and sponsored all of our students in school and after school activities. The number of students and staff here after school working on achieving high goals in service to the school and community (choir, yearbook, academics (academic team, tutoring) and athletics (volleyball, football, and basketball) is amazing.

Thanks to our maintenance staff for their continued efforts at improving the building. Thanks to our "queen pins", Ms. Angelica Castillo, Ms. Nancy Searles, Ms. Gina Evans, Nurse Fran Maddock, and Dr. Laraun Harrison for keeping us all in line.

Thanks to our Suzanne Baca and the cafeteria volunteers for the delicious lunches they serve us each day with patience and love. We could not achieve all that we do without sustenance for our bodies.

Thanks be to God for all of the blessings He has bestowed upon us. Please continue to pray for us as we continue to work towards the goal of making St. Charles the best school in every possible way for our children!

May you and your families have a blessed Thanksgiving!

(I apologize for the lateness of this message. When it was ready, our network and webpage were not.)