



**St. Catherine of Siena
Catholic School**

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Mrs. C. Anthony

Mission Statement

With a pioneering spirit we, the Community of St. Catherine of Siena, are dedicated to fostering a learning environment that encourages academic excellence, faith expression, leadership and the celebration of



our individual gifts.

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School

**Thursday is PJ Day at
Siena !**

Update # 13

Update for Nov. 18, 2009

Empathy Pathway

The past six weeks we have been working on a school wide Teaching Learning Critical Pathway (TLCP). This has involved focused teaching on the use of the "Three Part Open Response" writing model. This model is a framework for answering essay type (open response) questions. The framework guides students in their response with three requirements for a complete answer:

1. Using the words from the question, provide a brief answer.
2. Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.
3. Make a connection between the text and yourself, the world, your faith, another story or a film or video (media).

For our topic, we chose the concept of Empathy.

Empathy is such an integral emotional capacity enabling us as humans to relate to one another by "putting ourselves in another's shoes". Without it, we cannot have compassion, and without compassion, we are unable to "Love one another" as Jesus modeled, and commanded.

Using the beautiful text, "A Chance to Shine" written by Steve Seskin and Allen Shamblin, as a common starting point, all students were immersed in teaching, reading, moving, thinking and even singing about empathy. Beautiful works of writing, art and drama were created and displayed. Most importantly, beautiful works of heart were begun. We sincerely hope that our students will continue to grow in their capacity for empathy, and that you will encourage them to share what they have learned (and continue to learn) at home!

Advent and Christmas at Siena

This is a wonderful but busy time of year as we begin preparing for Christmas in the school. Our Advent Mass is Thurs. Dec. 10 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Michael's Church. Please join us for our Advent Mass.

Our large family tree will be set up in our foyer on Monday Nov. 23. Once again, we invite our families to bring in an ornament for the tree. We began this tradition 2 years ago, so we invite our new families to send in an ornament for our tree to join the lovely ornaments donated by families over the past 2 years. Your child(ren) will be able to assist in placing the or-

nement on the tree. Each year these ornaments will be brought out to decorate our family tree !

As we prepare for Christmas, please take a moment to consider both our global and local community Christmas outreach programs. Information is found on the other side of this update. It is our hope that we will continue to spread the Gospel message of hope as we tend to those who are in need of our help.

Christmas Outreach Program

This year our Christmas outreach program will be a school wide focus. Our Food Drive will begin Dec. 1. Our mitten tree will be set up during the week of Nov. 23. Families are asked to donate a pair of mittens, a hat or a scarf to the tree. These will be donated to children in our system.

We are also collecting 'gently used snowsuits, snow pants and jackets'. If you find your child has outgrown their winter gear from last year and you are wondering what to do with it, please consider donating it to our collection for the children in our School Board.

We are also collecting money to purchase a

stable of animals for World Vision. This was a successful project 2 years ago with our students getting involved in different activities to raise the funds for this purchase. This year we begin our collection with a pajama day on Thursday Nov. 19. Our Student Parliament has organized this day and students are invited to make a donation of a toonie to wear their pj's to school. We would remind everyone to wear pajamas that are suitable for school.

As we continue to teach our children to help those who are less fortunate than us, we thank you for your ongoing support of our Outreach projects at St. Catherine of Siena.

Cold Weather Reminders

Although we have been blessed with beautiful weather of late, we know what is inevitably around the corner for us, and as we prepare for the winter season, just a few reminders for school.

Parents are reminded to make sure that drawstrings and toggles are tied up or tucked into children's coats. Long scarves or toggles on hoods must be tucked into their coats when playing on any playground equipment. Students are also reminded to dress according to

the weather conditions as they will be expected to go outside for all recess periods. Severe temperatures are monitored by the office and when necessary, outdoor recess is shortened or in some cases, we will have indoor recess.

During winter months, children should have indoor shoes and students are reminded that they must wear shoes in school at all times. Bare feet or stocking feet are not acceptable for reasons of safety.