



Faith and knowledge together.

Holy Rosary School
St. James Catholic School
St. John's School
St. Michael's Lakeside School
St. Rose School

Progress Report: November-December 2010

Advent is a season of anticipation. It is a time to prepare our hearts and homes for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas; a time of joyful expectation; a time to rejoice; a time for sharing God's gift of love. Let Jesus, the light of the world, guide all you do this holiday season and into the New Year. Plan to attend one of several Christmas programs offered by our Duluth Area Catholic Schools. Merry Christmas!

The Duluth Area Catholic School Board met December 2, 2010 and approved a budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Each school will receive \$3,000 for tuition assistance from funds collected by the System. Additional money was raised for the schools through the annual Education Dinner at Northland Country Club in early November. Each school will receive a portion of the event's \$31,541 profit. Allocations will be substantially higher than last year, due to increased attendance.

The Annual Christmas City of the North Parade got us all in the Christmas mood. Catholic school students from across our diocese dressed in costumes to depict the nativity scene. A special thanks to parents who worked feverishly the night before the parade to decorate the entire float in a matter of hours. With proper planning, many talented volunteers, and the direction of Mr. Mike Stempr, we proudly represented our Catholic schools in the Duluth community and across the local television viewing area.

Crystal Kilichowski has been hired by the Duluth Area Catholic School System as a contract employee to assist with marketing and website development. Crystal is a member of St. Rose parish and has worked in the marketing field for 15 years. She also teaches marketing at Duluth Business University.

During these last days before Christmas vacation, groups of students, principals, and board members will visit each supporting parish pastor and present him with a Christmas greeting and thank you for support of the Duluth Area Catholic Schools. We are working to build relationships with all supporting parishes through meaningful communication and interaction. Their generosity has strengthened our system.

The Development Committee continues to seek support for our website project. Two committee members gave a presentation at the Serra Club's November meeting, and we have received several donations as a result. Plans are being finalized to visit Knights of Columbus chapters and ask for their funding consideration.

The Strategic Planning Committee continues to meet under the leadership of James Cherveney and Cynthia Zook. The group has revised the System's vision statement, created a set of values, looked at financial profiles of all five schools, heard presentations on the state of Catholic education, conducted a SWOT analysis, and identified key issues and opportunities. A draft of strategic goals was shared with the board and received its approval. The committee expects to complete its work and present a draft strategic plan at the February board meeting.

The next School Board meeting is Thursday, February 3, 6:30 p.m., at the Pastoral Center. Visitors are welcome.