

# MOUNT MICHAEL BENEDICTINE

December Newsletter

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Advent is supposed to be a time of quiet and peace. The idea comes from the Christmas Mass when we pray: "When all things were in quiet silence and the night in the midst of its course your Almighty Word leapt down from heaven".

Our life at Mount Michael is like your lives at home. Advent here is a time of increased activity in studies, final exams, sports and other activities and maybe even some anxiety to get everything done. But we can see all these activities as a part of our preparation for Christmas. The important thing is not to dictate to the Lord how He is to come to us this Christmas but to accept the way He wants to come and in fact will come.

Christmas blessings of peace and joy to all of you from the faculty and staff at Mount Michael.

Abbot Raphael Walsh

## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

With the Thanksgiving holiday in our rear view mirror and the Christmas season on the horizon, it is a good time to reflect on the blessings that we have. I know that I am a little biased, however, I am thankful for the great student body here at the Mount. Every time I read the paper or talk with principals around the area it is obvious that we do have a very good student body and I thank the Lord every day to have the opportunity to work with them.

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> we will have our semester finals. Keep this in mind as you plan any family trips. **Students may not take semester tests early unless it is cleared by the administration.** Getting out early for a family trip will not qualify for a reason to take semester tests early.

Thank you for all you do for the Mount.

Tom Ridder

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**Dec. 2: Christmas Social for Jrs/Srs – 7:30–9:00 p.m.**  
**Dec. 14: Student/Faculty Christmas Dinner- 6:00 p.m.**  
**Dec. 16-18: Final Exams**  
**Dec. 18: Early Dismissal @ 11:30 a.m.**  
**Dec. 21-Jan. 3: CHRISTMAS BREAK**

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Winter Seasons are starting up and it is a good time to talk about proper game etiquette. Mt. Michael has a reputation for having respectful young men and we are striving to maintain that reputation. With this in mind, I would like to remind everyone that it is not acceptable to demean or yell at officials. I understand that in the emotion of the game you may react to a call, however you should not continually yell at the officials through out the game.

Please join Mt. Michael's faculty, staff, and coaches in being positive role models by being gracious in victory or defeat.

Thank you for your support and dedication,

Jason Mackeprang  
Mount Michael A.D.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

Congratulations to the following students who were elected to the student council by a vote of their classmates. The election took place earlier in the fall.

### Seniors

Gunhee Park – President of Student Council  
Baek Ho Jang – Class President  
Josh Devereaux – Class Vice President  
Alex Lim- International Representative  
Joe Rohrig – Day Student Representative

### Juniors

Vince Van Haute – Class Vice President  
Grant Parr – Student Council Vice President

## Sophomores

George Townsend – Class President  
Yoon Jea Im (Andrew) – Student Council Vice President

## Freshmen

Yun Sik Oh – Class President  
John Joyner – Class Vice President

## ADMISSIONS

Things in the Admissions Office are starting to wind down to our January 9<sup>th</sup> Scholarship/Entrance Exam. Even though they are winding down it is still not too late to submit a name of any 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders that are well rounded, academically oriented students that you think would make a good addition to Mount Michael's student body. You can submit your names via email or by phone to Eric Crawford at 402-253-0946 or [ecrawford@mountmichael.org](mailto:ecrawford@mountmichael.org). We are really pushing for our January 9<sup>th</sup> Scholarship/Entrance Exam so please spread the word.

## Youth Basketball

This winter Mount Michael will once again have its junior high YMCA league basketball teams. If you know any students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade that would be interested in participating in this program please contact Eric Crawford. Participation are available at: <http://www.mountmichaelhs.com/youngknights/youthbasketballparticipationfom08.pdf>. If you know someone who is interested in playing or have a son who would like to play please submit his registration as soon as possible. The cost for the entire season is \$50.

This year has the potential to be another great recruiting season for Mount Michael. There is no better advertising than word of mouth and we hope that you are always talking with people and promoting Mount Michael.

## Upcoming Admissions Events

### **HOOPS KNIGHT IN THE PALACE**

Tuesday, December 15- 5:30 p.m.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ENTRANCE/SCHOLARSHIP EXAM**

Saturday, January 9, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### **6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> GRADE PRACTICE EXAM**

Saturday, January 16, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

\*\*Please encourage students to attend any of these events and to come out any time during the school year and shadow.

## MOUNT MICHAEL BOOKSTORE SALE

Br. James and the Mount Michael bookstore would like to help you with your Christmas shopping. On Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, you will find many items on sale in the Armory and yes all items will be *discounted!* What more will your Mount Michael son need? The store will be open from 6:00 - 7:30 pm for your convenience during the home basketball game and Wednesday evening parent visit. We look forward to seeing you there!

## FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

### *Night of Knights, Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>*

#### **Your Journey begins here....**

**Parents:** Drop off your donated item(s) valued at \$200 or your \$200 (buyout) donation to the Development Office by **Friday December 18<sup>th</sup>**, and be entered to win 2 FREE tickets to the Night of Knights dinner and auction. AND the class with the most parent donation participation will win a Pizza Party Lunch for their entire grade!! Watch your emails and check the website for more details.

**[www.mountmichaelhs.com/development/Nofk.htm](http://www.mountmichaelhs.com/development/Nofk.htm)**

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to your sons and Mount Michael Benedictine.

**Kick Of Party:** Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 @7:00pm. Millard Ballroom Plaza 5339 South 139<sup>th</sup> Plaza. For Mount Michael Parents. Bring an appetizer to share, beer and wine provided. Come mingle with fellow parents, learn this year's Night of Knights theme, and pick up your raffle tickets to sell.

### *Silver Knights December Gathering*

Our Mount Michael grandparent group, Silver Knights, will be going to Boys Town to view the Irish Christmas Traditions on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. They would like all Silver Knights that are interested in joining them to meet at the Boy Town Visitor Center (137<sup>th</sup> & Dodge Rd.) at 10:00 am. The tour is free to the public. The only cost would be if you would like to join them for lunch at the Boys Town Café at 11:30 am. Please call Harvey and Barbara Hadden to RSVP for lunch at 402.289.4832. If you are not a member of the Silver Knights and would like to join them, please feel free to contact them to learn more about becoming a member.

### **Breakfast with Santa**

All families with young children are invited to have Breakfast with Santa at Mount Michael Benedictine. On Sunday, December 20, Mass in the Chapel will begin at 9:30 am. After Mass, make your way to the Armory to await the arrival of Santa at 11:00 am. Bagels, donuts, coffee and juice will be available for breakfast. Your children are invited to have their pictures taken with Santa and decorate a Christmas cookie. Hope to see you all there. This event is being sponsored by the Mount Michael Alumni Association. For more information contact Lynn Brannen @ 402-253-0969 or alumni@mountmichael.org.

### **FROM THE STUDENT/PARENT ADVISOR**

Advent and the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester are full of many opportunities for our students and families to prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Christ. Each of our Monday morning prayer with the Monastic Community is focused on the Life of St. Benedict and also attentive to the season of Advent. The daily prayers of the rest of the week tend toward the spiritual preparation of Christ's birth.

December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and we observe this Feast of Our Blessed Mother with an all-school Mass.

The following week, all the students will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All students will attend a Penance Service during one of their Theology classes.

### **ADOPT A FAMILY PROGRAM**

The final project at the Mount is the *Adopt-A-Family Program*. We work with a parish identifying some of the very poor in Omaha. We match each of you with one of the children or parent from these families and ask you to purchase one gift. This has been a wonderful out reach to the poor. A comment from the Parish Coordinator praised the wonderful giving spirit of our Mount Michael Community. We know 10 families in Omaha will feel the Spirit of Christmas because of us. Thank you for your participation.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a restful time with your family.

**SR. CAROLYN**