

'Twas the Night Before Christmas at Q of A

'Twas the night before Christmas
And all through the school,
The children were busy
Practicing the Golden Rule.

The **kindergartners** were snuggled
Down for their nap,
While Mrs. Dowden and Mrs. Murphy
Had on their Santa cap.

The **first graders** were decorating
And had glitter in their hair
Poor Miss Boyle
Was too tired to move from her chair.

The **second graders** were practicing
Lots of Math facts,
While Mrs. Feliz was fixing
A very special snack.

The **third graders** were singing
Christmas song after song
Miss Twaddle told them the bell would soon ring
But the day still seemed long.

The **fourth graders** were learning
Of Mary and the Babe
Mrs. Ault told them
How the world He would save.

The **fifth graders** were discussing
Books they had read
While visions of sugarplums
Danced in Miss Killion's head.

The **sixth graders** were working
On papers for Science Fair
Mr. Pelczar was wishing them
Much Christmas cheer.

The **seventh graders** were doing
Their work with much care
Miss Wolf and Mr. Miner were reminding them
Christmas would soon be here.

The **eighth graders** were doing
Whatever eighth graders do
Mrs. Molnar and Mr. Doxzen were wondering
How so much noise came from so few.

The "specials" were teaching
(Language Arts, Art, PE, Math,
Spanish, Music, Library)
Throughout the day
Trying to keep the excitement at bay.

When at the front door
There arose such a clatter
Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Blackwell, and Mrs. Gavin ran
To see what was the matter.

In the carpool there was a
Sight so amazing:
A sleigh and St. Nicholas
With eight reindeers grazing.

St. Nicholas was greeting
One and all,
Handing out candy canes
To the big and the small.

Suddenly the bell rang
The sound was so shrill
Everyone stopped —
All became still.

St. Nicholas jumped into his sleigh
Quick as can be.
Mrs. Yates yelled out,
"Hey, don't forget me!"

St. Nicholas waved merrily
Till he was out of sight
We heard him say clearly,
"Merry Christmas, Queen of Apostles,
And to all, a good night."

Joanne Yates
Principal





What's Happening Around School



The whole school presented the Christmas Concert to parents, relatives, and friends on Friday evening, December 11. Thanks to Mr. Cotton and the children, who shared their talent with all. It was a very special evening.

As the musical talent continued, the Children's Choir joined with the adult choir on Tuesday, December 15, for a performance of Advent and Christmas music, and the school band performed their fantastic concert on Wednesday afternoon for the students and evening for the parents. What a great way to get ready for the joyous Christmas season!

The students in Extended Day have turned the room into a winter wonderland, with snowflakes, candy canes, and other decorations all around. It is a joy to walk in and see the children cutting, pasting, glittering, and having a great time.

In art class, the students have begun working on life-size Egyptian

mummies. We will display them in the school foyer when they are done!

The 8th graders are working on service hours as part of their requirement in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. They have been helping put up and take down chairs for the various events that are held in the gym this time of year.

Even with all the excitement, there is lots of learning going on! The 6th graders are learning hands-on equations in math, a concrete way, using pawns, scales, and cubes, to manipulate equations in order to figure out the value of the variable. It is really fun!

The true reason for celebrating the season is not forgotten as the classes learn about Advent and the Birth of the Baby Jesus. The eighth graders made O Antiphon books and Jesse Tree ornaments, both of which are displayed in the school entrance.

Student Spotlight

The spotlight this week is on all the students and the music program. The students sang their hearts out last Friday night, while parents, grandparents, and friends enjoyed the opportunity to listen to the beautiful music as sung by all the grades and the choir and hear the words from Scripture as read by the 8th graders.

Also, although this is the student spotlight section, we recognize Mr.

Cotton for his 20 years of dedication to teaching our children.

Spotlight on the students who were the high sellers for the Sally Foster gift wrap! They were treated to a limo ride and pizza. They enjoyed the afternoon immensely, and we are grateful to the chaperones and to the PTO for organizing the event.





Meet Our Extended Day Staff



Among the most important members of the Q of A staff are Mrs. Fields, who works in our Extended Day program, and “Mrs. B,” who is a recess and Extended Day monitor. We asked them some questions to help you get to know them better.

Mrs. Marlene Fields is a D.C. native and has lived all her life in the area. She began this September at Q of A and already has many fans. When she’s not at Extended Day, she’s reading, doing Sudoku, and teaching Bible study to a group of senior citizens. Her favorite movies are the Pirates of the Caribbean series, and her favorite books are James Patterson’s Alex Cross series. She has no pets (a husband was mentioned) but grew up with lots of dogs and cats. She also has three sisters, all of whom live close by. Her most enjoyed vacation was to Rudesheim, Germany, where she saw beautiful castles



along the Rhine River.

About Q of A, she likes the fact that “It’s a religious school, and I can incorporate religious aspects into Extended Day activities. It’s like Vacation Bible School all the time!”

Mrs. Shirley Bartholme has been involved at Q of A since her granddaughter, now in 7th grade, was in 1st grade! She was born in Winchester, Va., and also has lived in the area her whole life. She likes being busy and doesn’t have much time for hobbies. She also has no pets (and also mentioned a husband). She was an only child! Her favorite movies are about the Saints, and her favorite book is *Life of the Saints*.

When asked what she likes best about Q of A, she responded, “The kids! I like all the grades. I would miss them if I weren’t here!”

FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY
IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR,
WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD.

Luke 2:11



Auction: Masquerade!

Have you had a chance to distribute letters requesting donations to our Auction? The letter and donation form are available on the school website. Make copies, and bring them to all the businesses you patronize.

We also ask every family to contribute at least one item. Consider donating a week

in a family vacation home or time share, jewelry, books, hotel stays, or artwork.

Our Auction committee is busy gathering items to auction. To donate a gift or help in any way, please contact Nina Russell at nina_russell@verizon.net or Flavia Sampaio at fsampaio@aol.com.

Answers to p. 4

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| 1. d | 6. b |
| 2. c | 7. a |
| 3. b | 8. d |
| 4. a | 9. a |
| 5. c | 10. b |



Mission Statement

At Queen of Apostles Catholic School, we recognize the uniqueness of each student, focus on the education of the whole child, and enable our students to realize their full potential.

The spiritual, moral, academic, physical, and aesthetic development of each student is fostered by providing a faith-filled academic environment where creativity and excitement for learning are tempered with self-discipline and order.



VERITAS ET GAUDIUM



Name That Christmas Tune!

1. "Holy Infant so tender and mild"
 - a. Jingle Bells
 - b. The First Noël
 - c. We Three Kings
 - d. Silent Night
2. "Bearing gifts we traverse afar"
 - a. Away in a Manger
 - b. O Come All Ye Faithful
 - c. We Three Kings
 - d. What Child Is This?
3. "And Heaven and nature sing"
 - a. Away In a Manger
 - b. Joy to the World
 - c. While Shepherds Watched
 - d. White Christmas
4. "'Tis the season to be jolly"
 - a. Deck the Halls
 - b. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
 - c. Jingle Bells
 - d. I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
5. "God and sinners reconciled"
 - a. O Come O Come Emmanuel
 - b. O Come All Ye Faithful
 - c. Hark the Herald Angels Sing
 - d. The First Noël
6. "That mourns in lonely exile here"
 - a. O Come All Ye Faithful
 - b. O Come O Come Emmanuel
 - c. Hark the Herald Angels Sing
 - d. The First Noël
7. "Joyful and triumphant"
 - a. O Come All Ye Faithful
 - b. Joy to the World
 - c. Deck the Halls
 - d. Little Town of Bethlehem
8. "Looked down where he lay"
 - a. The First Noël
 - b. Little Town of Bethlehem
 - c. Joy to the World
 - d. Away in a Manger
9. "O tidings of comfort and joy"
 - a. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
 - b. The First Noël
 - c. Away In a Manger
 - d. Joy to the World
10. "On a cold winter's night that was so deep"
 - a. Away in a Manger
 - b. The First Noël
 - c. Deck the Halls
 - d. Jingle Bells