Subject: CANF Family Newsletter | November 18 - December 1, 2026
Growing Hearts & Minds

✉️ A Message from the Principal

Dear CANF Families,
Each week, I try to gather inspiration to send these weekly messages. Whether it is something I see or hear, inspiration usually comes. A few weeks ago, I read a bible verse in our Diocesan *Leading with Faith* Memo and it stuck with me. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, I am reminded of the words from that bible verse Ephesians 4:32: *"Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ."*

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to pause and reflect on the many blessings in our lives. It is also a reminder that gratitude is shown not only through what we say, but through how we treat others each day.

At CANF, we continue to encourage our students to show kindness, be compassionate, forgive one another, and look for ways to help those around them. These simple acts can make a big difference in our classrooms, our homes, and our community.

I am especially thankful for our wonderful students, dedicated staff, supportive families, and the many people who make our CANF family so special. Thank you for being part of our school community and for helping us grow not only in knowledge, but also in faith and kindness.

Wishing all of our families a happy, healthy, and blessed Thanksgiving! ❤️Principal Richards🖤

📅 Important Dates

Thurs. 11/19 - School store; JV Cheer 2:30-3:45 & V Cheer 3:45-5; JV boys and girls practice 5:30-7

Fri. 11/20 - Food Pantry donation items are due; Buffalo Bills Dress Down - Pay $3 or use Season Pass; 8:30 Mass Gr. K-8

Mon. 11/23 - Buffalo Bills Dress Down - Pay $3 or use Season Pass; Minis Cheer; Christmas Wreath and Poinsettia pick up 12-3

Tues. 11/24 - Thanksgiving Celebration; 9:15am Prayer Service, Balloons Over Broadway, 1st Trimester Report Card Assembly; 11am dismissal Pre-K 3 - Gr. 8; NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE; Parent Teacher Conferences 1:15-7 (attend at the time you signed up for through Sign Up Genius); MS Open Forum 3:30-5:30 in the gym; LAST DAY to sign up for Cookies & Cocoa with Santa

Weds. 11/25 - Fri. 11/27 - NO SCHOOL - Happy Thanksgiving!

Mon. 11/30 - 1pm Advent Penance Service

Tues. 12/1 - none

📚 School News

• **Monday, Nov. 23 Lunch Change**: Lunch will be Mini Cinnamon Sticks not pancake in a bag.
• **Food Pantry Items** are due on Friday. See the reminder in today's folder.
• **December's lunch and monthly calendars** are enclosed in today's folder.
• **Honor Roll invites** will be included in today's folders.
• Join us for our **Thanksgiving Celebration** on Tuesday, November 24th in the gym! We will begin at 9:15 a.m. with a Prayer Service, followed by our *Balloons Over Broadway* celebration and our 1st Trimester Honor Assembly. We look forward to celebrating together! Remember the Pre-K to Gr. 2 themes:

- Pre-K 3 - Very Hungry Caterpillar
- Pre-K 4 - Bluey or blue
- K - CANF School Spirit or red/black
- Gr. 1 - Animals
- Gr. 2 - Buffalo Sports (Bills, Bandits, Bisons, Sabres, etc)

• **Parent Teacher conferences** will be on Nov. 24 beginning at 1:15pm. For grades Pre-K 4 - Gr. 5 signup with the signup genius link that went out last week from your child's teacher. Remember that only the teacher has access to the schedules.
•Our school has **adopted a Family** for Christmas! You should have received more information from your child's classroom teacher(s).
• If you chose the "pay by Dec. 1st" option for your **security fee** and have not paid it, you will see a reminder in your folder today.

👏⭐Congratulations to . . .

★ Those who participated in the Swim Championship Meet on Saturday!
★ Our MSM Alumni who made 1st Quarter Honor Roll
- First Honors: Grace Cohen, Parleen Dosanjh, Ellie Muth, Jazmeet Dosanjh, Harshita Sharma, Isabelle Forgione, Cara McDonell
- Second Honors: Annabelle U'Ren

★ Our Canisius Alumni who made the Honor Roll the first marking period
- Colin Halpin & Ian Waikel-Corral

❤️ Thank You to . . .

❖ A HUGE thank you to **Miss Amanda and Principal Richards** for spearheading the Meat Raffle event, and **Miss Bianca** for working behind the scenes by preparing and wrapping all of the baskets, creating the signage, etc.

- Thank you to everyone who helped make our **Meat Raffle** on Friday night such a success. We couldn't have done it without our student, alumni, and parent volunteers or all the families and friends who came to win meat and prizes! Everyone had such an enjoyable night!
- A special thank you to **Mary** for organizing/ordering the meat order, tickets, and spin sheets; **Paul** for coordinating all the meat and leading the kids in running the meat to winners; and **Ted** for being our amazing MC! We hope everyone had a great time, went home with some meat, and enjoyed a fun evening together! If you have any suggestions or feedback to help us make next year's event even better, please email Principal Richards. A survey should be coming out soon!
- Everyone who purchased a **Christmas wreath or poinsettia**! We sold over 100 wreaths and over 100 poinsettias!

👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 FSA Upcoming Events - 🎅☕

★ Join us for **Cookies & Cocoa with Santa** on Saturday, December 5th! Forms and payment are due Tuesday, November 24th. Invite your friends and family even if they don't attend CANF! Everyone is welcome to enjoy the holiday fun and make some special Christmas memories with us! Another form is included today!

🌟 Leadership Team

★ **Bags of Love** - Our CANF tree is up outside the office, and we can't wait to fill it with requested items for those in need. See the bottom of this newsletter for more details.

💰 Fundraising Updates - Christmas is 37 days away!

➢ **They are baaackkk! Both enclosed today by popular demand . . .**

- **Candygrams** - Please see the enclosed flyer in regards to our Annual Candygram Sale which begins today. Each candy cane sells for $1 and will be delivered on Thursday, December 17th. The last day to order is Friday, December 11th.
- **Stocking Stuffers: 5 Days of Dress Down (K-8) or Slippers & Stuffies (Pre-K 3 + 4)** - Please see the enclosed flyer. Each 5 day pass sells for $5. They will go home in the Dec. 16 Wednesday folder. The last day to order is Friday, December 11th.

➢ **Christmas Wreaths & Poinsettias** - Pick-Up: Monday, November 23, from 12-3 p.m.

➢ 🎁 **NEW! Charleston Wrap Fundraiser** - Use the physical catalogue that was sent home last week and place all orders online. They are due Dec. 3rd!

- Register now - www.registercw.com -> Use the ID 32680
- Share your link to shop and support!

- ➢ We will be having our **Santa's Secret Shop** open for all students after our Cookies with Santa on Dec. 5th. The school children will be able to shop Merry Moose items beginning on Mon. Dec. 7th and Tues. Dec. 8th. More information to come.
- ➢ LOOKING AHEAD! Our HUGE **Auction** will be March 5 & 6 this year. Keep us in mind when you are doing your Black Friday Shopping. Get your donations in early and earn extra Auction tickets! We encourage ALL families to donate a basket of at least $25. Last year we had 100% participation and hope to match it again this year! ****For each basket (up to 3) donated by Friday, Jan. 22nd, you will receive a free sheet of green tickets.****
    - We have the auction donation letter ready. If you would like some or have suggestions where to request donations, please contact Principal Richards.

⚽ Clubs & Sports

- ★ **Soccer Shots** - Look for information for our Pre-K session in the upcoming weeks.
- ★ Continue to follow your schedules for all sports and clubs!
- ★ **Basketball**
    - Practices are underway, Varsity Girls/Boys practice today and JV Girls practice tomorrow (5:30-7:00). Varsity Boys will practice next Monday (11/23) from 5:30-7:00. Other practices will resume after Thanksgiving.
    - JV Boys have combined with St. Stephens, follow their schedule for practices. Good luck at your first game Saturday!
- ★ Trimester Clubs - Make up for Mrs. Woods will be Monday, Nov. 23.

🎄SAVE THE DATES: December . . .

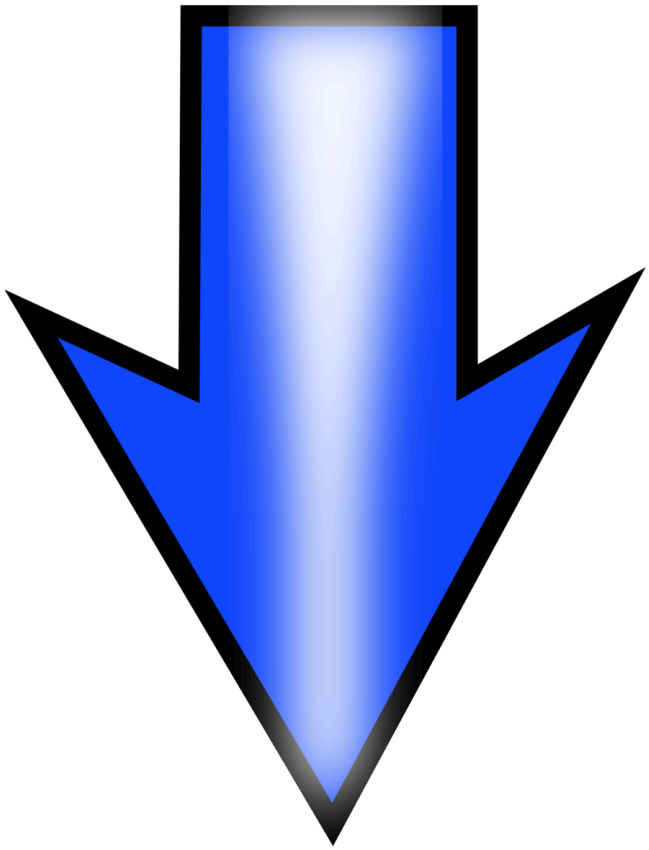
- ☐ 14- **Blessing of the Bambinelli, Jesus' Birthday Celebration, and Los Posadas** - We encourage families to buy manger/nativity scenes, if you don't already have them present in your homes. This is a special tradition that we bless the baby Jesus and then wrap him up to be opened on Christmas day. Do not worry! If you don't have one, every student will also be making a baby Jesus in school to get blessed. For Jesus' birthday, your child should dress how he/she would if you attended Jesus' birthday party.
- ☐ 15- **Special Christmas Day** - We know many are out shopping so we wanted to let you know the themes for this year.
    - ☐ Pre-K 3 & Pre-K 4 - Gingerbread (Wear Gingerbread themed clothing or brown)
    - ☐ Gr. K & Gr. 1 - North Pole (Wear anything Christmas)
    - ☐ Gr. 2-4 - Polar Express (Wear Pajamas)

- ☐ Gr. 5 - 8 - A Christmas Carol (Wear anything Christmas)
- ☐ 16 - Our **Christmas Program** this year will have 2 parts on 1 day only. The first part will begin at 9am in the gym. Pre-K 3 & 4 will do 2 songs, followed by our CANF Christmas Short: Footprints to the Manger, which will feature select 8th graders and songs by Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade. At 1pm, the second half will begin. Our CANF chorus will perform a few songs followed by our CANF Band. Please plan accordingly.
- ☐ 17 - 8:30 - MSM Santa Band-> Christmas Stations - Dress in Christmas clothes or colors;
- ☐ 19 - Cozy Christmas Day - Dress in pajamas; 10:30 Dismissal and No After School Care

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Wishing all of our families a very thankful Thanksgiving!

keep going for Bags of Love



❤️ A Little About Bags of Love ❤️

Bags of Love is a community-driven project here in Western New York with one simple mission: to make sure children entering foster care know they are seen, valued, and loved.

Many children entering foster care have to leave their homes unexpectedly and arrive at a new place with very few belongings of their own. We want to change that, even if it's in a small way.

We are collecting donations to fill backpacks with essential items, comfort items, and little surprises for children of all ages. For teenagers, we're also hoping to include $5 gift cards so they can have something of their own to enjoy.

Our goal is to distribute these backpacks through local foster care agencies and remind every child that they matter, they are not forgotten, and someone cares.

We will be packing the bags on Saturday, December 26th at 5pm before distributing them to local agencies.

We would love the support of our friends, family, and community!

Whether it's donating items, gift cards, monetary contributions, or simply sharing our mission, every little bit makes a difference.

Sometimes we can't change the circumstances a child is facing, but we can help make sure they don't face them feeling forgotten. ❤️

Thank you for being part of something that we hope will bring a little love to children who need it most.

Bags of Love ❤️ Because every child deserves to feel special.

Amazon Wish List

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1QPGPI3SD00S2?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_KC2fWhttqudtY