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November 9, 2009

Dear Villa Academy Families,

Congratulations to our CYO soccer teams – the players, coaches, and fans – for a successful and fun-filled season. Thanks, too, are in order for Shirley Bocian, Villa Academy athletic director, for her part in supporting and cheering on our athletes. Villa had teams in the playoffs and our Grade Six boys' team played in the Championship game this past weekend. Go! Vikings!

Community Service in our local community is an important way for our students to show compassion for others, practice Catholic values and teaching, and make a personal difference in their world. Villa Academy's community service programs are designed to be developmentally appropriate for each segment of our school. At times the entire student body comes together around a school-wide service project to benefit a local social service agency in the local community. The recent Pet Food Drive during the month of October was one such example.

Early Notice! As the Christmas season approaches the Student Council sponsors an annual holiday drive to support the Regina House, which is located in the South Park neighborhood of Seattle. Regina House is operated by the Sisters of Providence, who run a "clothing store" for families.

Each year Villa Academy partners with the Sisters of Providence and Regina House in an "Adopt a Family" program to provide Christmas gifts for families who have limited resources and cannot provide gifts for their children and loved ones. Our students are particularly touched by the opportunity to extend themselves to "real" people living right here in Seattle.

The Sisters of Providence will match each Villa class with a family in need. The class will "adopt" the family, to support with holiday gifts. Shortly after Thanksgiving our teachers will receive names and ages of family members, and gift ideas, so that we can put together gift baskets to brighten their holidays.

Over a three-week period in December, the students and their families are invited to collect items to place in the family's gift basket, which the Student Council officers will deliver to Regina House in time for Christmas. Sometimes it is helpful to have a little advance notice on a special event like this, particularly at such a busy time of year.

Veteran's Day: As you know, Wednesday, November 11, is a national holiday honoring the men and women who have served and are currently serving in our nation's armed forces. Although we will not be holding classes that day, on Monday and Tuesday of this week the faculty and students will be talking about the contributions that our veterans have made, as well as those who are actively serving the United States through military duty continue to make. I encourage you to take time to talk with your children about the duty, sacrifice, and courage our military forces manifest in the nation's service.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Polly Skinner".

Polly Skinner
Head of School