



# What's Up at Calvary?

Volume 8, Issue 7

December 12, 2008

## Calvary Episcopal School and College Preparatory

From all of us at Calvary...Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

### Christmas at Calvary: Sounds of the Season!

Christmas at Calvary is an especially festive time of year. Students are reminded of the Advent season through our daily sermons by **Father Frankie** and **Brian**. Students participate in a number of school activities that spotlight this special time of year, as well.

One of the yearly highlights of the season is the **Lessons and Carols Chapel** that is held each year on the last day of school before the Christmas break. This year the chapel will be held on **Friday, December 19 at 8am** in the church. Everyone is invited to join us in a service spotlighting the talents of faculty, students and clergy. You will be blessed with the Christmas spirit!

With a great deal of preparation by **Ms. Duckworth** and **parent volunteers**, students in grade kinder through third presented the musical, "All I Want for Christmas" last Friday to a standing room only crowd. The students looked, sounded and acted beautifully. With an all-star cast of almost one hundred students, the audience was treated to a touching version of

the Christmas story that espouses the virtues of giving, rather than receiving.

Speaking of **Ms. Duckworth**, her other choirs have been busy this holiday season, as well.

On Dec. 4, her "Serenity Singers" performed four beautiful Christmas numbers for the crowd at the Annual Winter Wonderland luncheon, in support of Richmond State School, at Safari Texas. The singers were well received by audience members, even receiving an invitation from one of those in the audience to perform at a Christmas luncheon in Downtown Houston!



CES Serenity Singers at Winter Wonderland Luncheon last week (See another Choir photo on P. 4)

On Saturday, Dec. 6, the "Showstoppers Choir" presented a Christmas program as a part of the "Miracle on Morton Street" celebrations in downtown Richmond. Richmond residents were treated to holiday numbers by our many talented boy and girl singers.

The Middle School Christmas Concert rounded out the musical festivities with a concert on Dec. 11. These singers beautifully performed Christmas selections to an appreciative audience.

### Follow the Bouncing Basketball

Basketball season is well underway at Calvary. Because of the program popularity with two middle school boys teams, a middle school girls team and a high school boys team, gym space critical. The sixth grade boys blue team is practicing at the Jane

Long gym in the mornings, while high school boys use the Calvary gym in the early (6am) hours. Middle school gold team girls and boys share practice time in the afternoons.

While CECP is looking for its first victory, they im-

prove each week, and had a close game against Oaks Adventist earlier this week.

The middle and high school teams are well on their way to having a great season.

The season continues into early February.

#### What's Inside:

A Birthday Story	2
Calvary Band	2
CECP Helping Homeless	2
Christmas Cultures and Customs	3
Geography Bee Winner	3
Book Fair	3
Calendar	4

**Our Mission:**  
Calvary Episcopal School is dedicated to developing the whole child by building a foundation of excellence within a Christian environment.

## Happy Birthday is a Time for Giving to Others

### Snow Day at Calvary!



Calvary students, **Alec Valet** (top) and **Dylan Huebner**, enjoy a brief bit of frozen fun this week as snow made a rare visit to our campus.

**Reed Lenderman** looks forward to celebrating his birthday each year, just like every other student at Calvary...with one important exception. Each year **Reed** forgoes getting gifts from his friends and classmates and instead asks them to donate to a charity.

Together, **Reed** and his family pick out the charities online and then in the party invitations direct his friends toward those sites or let them choose their own favorite charities in lieu of bringing gifts to his party. **Reed** has followed this practice every year for the past three birthdays.

This year **Reed** picked out Love Without Boundaries ([lovewithoutboundaries.com](http://lovewithoutboundaries.com)) as his birthday charity.

It is a wonderful charity that sponsored his big sister, **Ming**, while she lived in the orphanage in China. They paid for **Ming's** school fees every year for over 6 years, they also gave her a winter coat and extra food. This non-profit organization also provides operations and medical care to orphans in China.

This year, through their website, **Reed** picked a seven month old baby girl, **Rui**, to

receive all his donations. **Rui** has a heart defect and desperately needs the operation to live.

**Reed** is an example for us all, particularly at this time of year, as he truly lives the "it is better to give than receive."



**Reed Lenderman, enjoys receiving by giving to others!**

## Calvary Band Growing in Sound...and Numbers

From six students three years ago, to twenty-nine now! Just the numbers alone tell you how popular and successful the band program at Calvary has been. **Mr. James Talton** has been the band director from the first year, and has been pleased with the growth of the band, and the increased quality of their music. At the Christmas Concert on Dec. 4, he told parents that it would be obvious to everyone that Calvary students are dedicated to spend-



**Calvary Band Poses at Christmas Concert**

Students in grade five can join the Beginner Band. These students have class before school begins. In middle school, band classes are held during the school day.

This year's Christmas Concert featured a number of songs performed by the Beginner Band, the Advanced Band, and both bands combined.

**Mr. Talton** presented band member, **Danielle Petrosewicz** with the Lamar District Honor Band medal that she won last month.

ing the time practicing their instruments.

## CECP Helping Homeless

CECP Student Council members participated in the Fellow Man Alliance Homeless run on December 7, 2008 in Tranquility Park. The run raised money for the Houston Homeless and consisted of a 5K and 10K. **Elizabeth Svabic** and **Alysse Ligon** were participants of the 5K along Memorial Drive while **Ms. Lazarou** ran the 10K. **Ms. Lazarou** stated that

"Our organization raised money and it was a very successful event. The Fellow Man Alliance was pleased with our school as a contributor to their cause."



**Alysse Ligon, Ms. Lazarou and Elizabeth Svabic congratulate each other as they finish their race.**

In just three years, the Calvary Band program has grown almost five-fold!



## Art and Academics: Third Graders Learn Different Cultures

If you happened to have visited third grade last Wednesday morning you saw that students were incredibly engaged as they experienced life as early American settlers representing five different cultures. Thanks to the collaborative and creative efforts of their teachers, **Mrs. Bye, Mrs. McClellan and Mrs. Dennison** (Art), the students experienced integrated learning at its best! To set the stage, Mrs. Dennison even built a Conestoga Wagon presently stationed at the back of Mrs. Bye's

classroom. In addition, she made five special dolls, similar to those that would have been made during pioneer times and one each of the cultures the students have studied.

Students learned that Chinese calligraphy is a form of Oriental art and had opportunities to try their hand with calligraphy as they selected from over 4,000 Chinese characters to create their own message. They also had an opportunity to learn about the pottery traditions of the Native Ameri-

cans who lived on both the North and South American continents.

Working with clay, students readily accepted their task to make their own pottery piece, a "head pot," commonly used by the Caddo Indians. In their studies, students learned of many contributions from the African culture, and one of their favorites to experience involved the process of Kente weaving to create dazzling, multicolored patterns of bright colors, geometric shapes and bold designs. (Cultures continued on p. 4)



**Ms. Dennison, Victoria Tennon and Deborah Laz** working on one of their projects

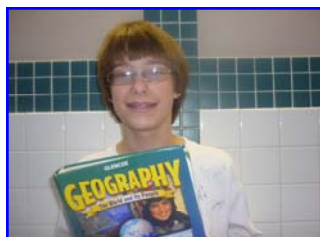
## Chris Breuer Qualifies For State Contest

**Chris Breuer**, a sixth grader at Calvary Episcopal School, won the school level competition of the 2009 National Geographic Bee with **Paul Perez** winning second place honors.

The other finalists were **Win Gould, Reginald Holloway, Nate Krogel, Brad Standifird, Mark Stell, Katie Thompson, Taylor Burke, Lauren Nowlin, and Drew Wesley.**

**Chris** will be administered the State Level Qualifying Test on January 23, 2009, in hopes of qualifying for the State National Geographic Bee to be held on April 3, 2009. One winner from each state and territory will advance to the national competition which will be held May 19-20 at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> year that The National Geo-

graphic Society has sponsored this competition. It is the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organization.



**Chris Breuer** and his "trusty" Geography book.

Students in grades four through eight may take the qualifying exams for the National Geographic Bee

## The Book Fair and Bed Time Story Night

Thanks to our two fabulous librarians, **Ms. Krig, Ms. Digoy** (media specialist), and an army of volunteers, this week's Book Fair was an event to remember!

To the right is a photo of the Irwin family, **Cassidy, Leland and Will**, enjoying bed time stories and skits before having their cookies and milk.



## Sixth Graders Study European Christmas Customs

As an extension of their study of Europe in World Geography, sixth graders researched European Christmas customs. Each student presented their information and shared a product; such as cookies, pudding, cakes, and other special desserts. Students sang carols, exchanged Christmas cards, and filled stockings and shoes.

Customs relating to the Iivity Story, St. Nicholas, and the Christmas tree were also shared.



## Cultures, continued from page 3

From the European culture, students found that gingerbread men were not only cookies, but years ago, served as ornamental decorations on Christmas trees. Each student had the opportunity to make a gingerbread man ornament that will likely decorate their own Christmas trees this year just as in days of old!

Because the Spanish introduced tin to the Americas, it took no time at all for people to learn of its value and ability to be made into containers or decorations. Students used special tools to design and create their own piece of tin which they could wear as a medallion or hang as an ornament.

A highlight to the day was making the "All American 5 Culture Cookies!" These tasty bites were made from a combination of ingredients representing all five

cultures the students have studied...which included cocoa, vanilla, nuts, coconut, along with sweetened condensed milk and confectioner's sugar...definitely a highlight to the day!

Though the day was filled with fun and excitement, the focus remained on recognizing and valuing the contributions of the many different cultures that helped settle and develop our country.

As with all of our special learning events, it takes not only the creativity and organization of our teachers but the extra hands of our parent volunteers to make the day possible. So to teachers and parents alike, THANK YOU! *You* have provided our students with an active day of learning that they will hold as a treasured school memory for many years to come!

## Did You Know...



...that several of our families will be receiving a referral check for up to \$500 this month for referring a new qualified Calvary student? Remind friends about our Prospective Student Open House on Jan. 22 and next year you can be receiving your check, too!

## Coming Up at Calvary



**Monday, Dec. 15**-MS BB at Calvary, 4:30pm; 6th Blue BB vs. St. Regis at CES

**Tuesday, Dec. 16**-CECP BB @ Channelview, 6:00pm; CPTO Auction Committee Kick-Off Meetings - 8:30am & 6pm, Solarium; Santa Behind the Badge-Gift Wrapping Day, 2nd and 4th grades; PK Muffins For Moms

**Wednesday, Dec. 17**-Schoolwide Spelling Bee, after chapel; 2:30pm, Best Christmas Pageant Ever (Middle

School Drama Classes)

**Thursday, Dec. 18**-MS BB vs TCS at CES, 4pm; CECP BB vs TCS @ home, 6:30pm; December Free Dress with Free Dress Pass; 7pm, Best Christmas Pageant Ever (Middle School Drama Classes)

**Friday, Dec. 19**-8am, Lessons and Carols Chapel in the church; Early Dismissal (11:30am); Middle School Movie Day

**Dec. 22-Jan. 5**-Christmas and New Year Holidays

**Jan. 5**-Staff Development for faculty and staff

**Jan. 6**-Classes resume; MS BB @ Imani, 4pm

**Wednesday, Jan. 7**-6pm-Calvary School Board Meeting

**Thursday, Jan. 8**-District 13 Student Council Winter Retreat (CECP) Moody Gardens, Galveston (through Jan. 10); MS BB vs CRBS at CES, 4pm



Eighth grade WFW students thank everyone who purchased one of their poinsettias!



Alex Gideon, Gabrielle Okoh, Jordan Fields, Emily Kelly, Madison Clark, Ms. Duckworth, Kate Mann and Zach Dupuis (front), all eighth grade students who performed at Christmas on Morton Street.