

Dear Providence School Family:

As the wonderful Christmas Season approaches, we take the time to reflect upon our priceless and freely-given gift of Christ and how blessed we are at this point in time. In our reflection, we want to provide an opportunity for our students to minister beyond the walls of the school and to help families who are in need. We all quote the beautiful scripture, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20.35), but to teach our children this virtue, we feel compelled to afford them with such an occasion.

Like last year, we are partnering with Bright Holidays (www.brightholidays.org), an organization whose purpose is to partner with principals of local schools and to provide for the immediate needs of families of the "working poor." These are families who are working or who have lost work but have not qualified for any subsidized assistance. They are "caught in the system" and need help. So we are asking each one of our students to bring in unwrapped, new gifts for children belonging to these families. These children range from infants to teenagers, and through no fault of their own, Christmas will be just like any other day - unless we intervene. We can be the "hands of Christ" extended in the lives of these children and impact them for eternity. Please help us provide these families the excitement and delight that we experience each and every Christmas as we give and receive gifts. Think about the joy that you feel as you present gifts to your own family and friends, and help us pass this feeling of joy along to our students.

We are asking students to provide the following items this Christmas season for the aforementioned children. **We will be collecting toys and/or a love offering in chapel on November 12 for high /middle school and November 13 for lower school.** All items will be displayed in the front lobby and will be picked up on **Wednesday, December 2** in order to be delivered to the families in time for Christmas. If you prefer, you may offer a cash gift instead, and we will purchase items needed. Please turn in any cash donation to the front office in an envelope addressed to Carol Baker/Bright Holidays.

New and unwrapped items to provide:
Sports equipment (balls-football, soccer, basketball, bats, gloves, fishing poles etc.)
Coloring books/crayons/arts and crafts
Board games, puzzles
Sleeping bags, dolls, Barbie dolls, trucks and cars
Bikes, wagons, skateboards, skates

Thank you in advance for ministering beyond the walls of Providence and making a lasting impact in the life of a child. Can't you just see the excitement on their faces as they open their gifts, and can't you feel the comfort of the parents as they know their child is taken care of this Christmas Season? May God abundantly bless you this season and always.

Sincerely,

Carol Baker
MS/HS Administrative Assistant