



Dear Parents,

As part of our school's special social outreach for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Annunciation students are being asked to participate in the "Box of Joy" program from Cross Catholic International.

A "Box of Joy" consists of a shoebox filled with small items such as travel size toiletries, school supplies, small toys, and religious articles. These are distributed by Catholic orphanages and mission churches in Third World countries served by Cross Catholic, such as Haiti, Ecuador, Rwanda, and many others.

Our goal is to prepare 10 boxes per homeroom, from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8, for a total of 200 boxes for our entire school. Each class will begin collecting **new** items for the boxes and will also accept donations to cover the cost of shipping the boxes. The shipping cost per box is \$9, \$2 of which will purchase grain and rice for every family that receives a box. *So, per class, 10 boxes and a total of \$90 for shipping and food.*

On the reverse of this letter is the official list of the items that can be included in a Box of Joy. Please note there are some items that cannot be shipped such as liquids, foods, chocolate, and breakable items.

We will kick-off our "Box of Joy" plan on the Monday after Thanksgiving and will run it until Friday, January 12 so that we may complete our collection/packing in time for Catholic Schools Week, January 29-February 2. Students will also watch the Box of Joy video clip from the Cross Catholic website: <http://www.crosscatholic.org/boxofjoy>. This website has plenty of information about the program which the school will utilize to instruct students about living a life of Christian stewardship and to motivate them to complete the project.

This will be a very special way to celebrate our Catholic school identity by demonstrating to students how we share God's love by our outreach to the less fortunate. Thank you for helping us in our mission to foster the Christian ideal of service.

Miss Farrington

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# GIFT IDEAS

## KEY REMINDERS

1. Use the provided gift box or any shoebox (approximately 12" x 5")
2. Fill out and attach the Boy/Girl label to box lid if needed
3. Include \$9 check (no cash please) in provided envelope. Place on top of gifts.
4. Secure the lid with a rubber band (no tape please).

## PERSONAL NOTES & PHOTOS:

We encourage you to write a personal note or handmade Christmas card and share a photo of yourself or family (advisable for parent or teacher to review notes written by children).

### TOYS

Handheld toys  
 Small plush animals  
 Small balls (tennis, etc.)  
 Ball (deflate) with pump  
 Cars / Trucks  
 Doll  
 Mini puzzle  
 Finger puppets  
 Silly putty  
 Bean bag / Hacky sack  
 Unopened fast food toys  
 Binoculars  
 Legos  
 Harmonica, kazoo or other small instrument  
 jump rope  
 Paddle ball  
 Yo-yo  
 Slinky  
 Mini board games  
 Balloons  
 Craft kit (beads, elastic, etc.)  
 Pom-poms

### SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Pencils, colored pencils  
 Solar calculator  
 Sharpener  
 Small board books  
 Erasers  
 Pencil case  
 Crayons  
 Pens, markers  
 Ruler  
 Glue stick (no liquid)  
 Safety scissors  
 Coloring book  
 Notepads  
 Stickers  
 Self-inking stamp  
 Flash cards  
 Dry paints (no liquid paint)

### HARD CANDY & GUM

Please seal in a Ziploc-style bag (No chocolates)

### APPAREL

Socks  
 Shorts  
 Underwear  
 T-shirts  
 Flip flops  
 Bandanas  
 Hats  
 Shoelaces  
 Plastic poncho

### HYGIENE / HOME

Comb / Brush  
 Forks & Spoons  
 Cup / Bottle with lid  
 Bar Soap  
 Toothpaste (in the box)  
 Toothbrush and floss  
 Bandages  
 Hand wipes (no gels)  
 Tissues  
 Lip balm  
 Manicure kit  
 Nail clippers / Emery board

### ACCESSORIES

Watch  
 Purse or wallet  
 Sunglasses  
 Necklace  
 Hair ribbons  
 Hair / Head bands  
 Barrettes  
 Bracelets  
 Earrings  
 Scarf  
 Cross or Rosary

### USEFUL ITEMS

Sewing kit  
 Utensils  
 Compass  
 LED keychain  
 Duct tape  
 No-battery flashlight  
 Drawstring bag

## DO NOT PACK

Food or Beverages • Medicines or Vitamins • Liquids (shampoo, nail polish, etc.) • Gels (antibacterial, etc.)  
 Chocolate • Military / Police Toys • Toy Weapons • Glass / Breakables • Knives / Tools



800-914-2420 ext. 142 • [www.CrossCatholic.org/BoxOfJoy](http://www.CrossCatholic.org/BoxOfJoy) • [BoxOfJoy@CrossCatholic.org](mailto:BoxOfJoy@CrossCatholic.org)