

February 14, 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy Valentine's Day!

Last Thursday and Friday, I had the opportunity to participate in the Winter Seminar for diocesan principals. We focused on the importance of virtues in leadership as well as within our schools. Virtues are the essence of our character and when we keep the habits of virtues at the heart of all we do, we live with purpose. Cicero said that "Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues but the parent of all others." My heart is indeed so full of gratitude for the abundance of support and the extreme generosity that our staff, families, and parishioners displayed at the Gala. What an incredible experience the Gala was! Totals are being calculated, but please know it was a very successful event. Thank you, thank you! Best of all, our kids will benefit from it! Thank you to all who helped with the Gala...there are far too many names to mention, but I want to give shout-outs to the Gala Committee: Allie Borner, Erica Cabrera, CaSandra Grantz, Sara Humes, Aaron Le May, Gretchen Le May, Teri Momot, Jeannie Nogle, Paula Norton, Amy Perry, Mary Starmach, Sheila Zagotta, Tony Zagotta, Brian Schwarting, Aaron Simpson, Lauren Weitz, and John Weitz.

We continue to focus on virtues and why they can be such reliable guideposts for behavior. Have you noticed the virtue banner that is at the top of the SchoolSpeak home page? Additionally, virtuous habits that support learning are indicated and marked on report cards. As a reminder, report cards will be posted on Friday, February 22.

Before Christmas, our students had the opportunity to participate in the annual Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Coloring/Poster Contest. The winners of our contest were Sofia Farin, Kim Nguyen, and Liz Weitz. They were recognized in church at the All School Mass on Tuesday with certificates and gift certificates for Dairy Queen. All students who entered the contest will receive or have received a participation certificate. Thank you to all who participated in the contest!

Our safe environment presentations have been completed. Today, Officer McIntyre from the Winfield Police Department met with our sixth through eighth grade classes to discuss online and cell phone safety, cyberbullying laws, and what to do when an individual feels that he/she is a victim. I was so proud of our students throughout the presentation. They were respectful, attentive, and were able to share what they learned.

Did you know that through the Invest in Kids Act donors made it possible for thirteen of our current students to attend our school this year? Funding is needed immediately to meet the new demand for our school. Claim a 2019 tax credit today and make a gift to help fund the scholarships. Visit https://mytax.illinois.gov/_/#1 and sign up today to activate your account. For step-by-step instructions to make a donation, please click here.

Thank you to our room moms for making this is a special day for our children. The Valentine's Day parties were fantastic! "We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19. Happy Valentine's Day!

As a reminder, there is no school on Monday, February 18.

Enjoy your long weekend,

Joanne