



March 7, 2019

What a beautiful and sacred experience we had yesterday. We attended Mass with so many parents and parishioners in observance of Ash Wednesday. As you may know, we sit in faith families when we have an all school Mass. For Lent, each child in grades K-8 has been assigned a secret prayer partner with someone in his/her faith family. Please know we have something special planned for our preschoolers, too.) The idea is simple, but yet a way in which to bind us closer to one another, through prayer. Each child will keep the name secret, pray for his/her prayer partner daily or every time he/she thinks of his/her partner. They will also make a card, note; share a Bible verse, quote, of support and encouragement for their secret prayer pals weekly. "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy..." (Phil.1:3)

Besides, prayer, we also have a special project for almsgiving throughout Lent. After the sixth grade presented our donations of books and toys to Catholic Charities, they learned about other areas in which Catholic Charities provides assistance to those in need. They have prepared and designed our Lenten coin collection and set a goal of \$1,500. Your donations will benefit homeless shelters in the Diocese by helping them pay for food, pillows, blankets, and other necessities to help provide better care for all people living at Daybreak Shelter in Joliet. Catholic Charities also gives assistance to others in need such as senior citizens, veterans, and children by helping them pay for food, health care, education, and housing. Your donation will help hundreds of people within our diocese receive help. More information about this drive will be shared with you soon.

In the posting you will find a flyer introducing our guest principal, first grader, Viviann LeMay, and her plan for a dress down day on Friday, March 22. She and I decided that we will be having a Bend the Rules day. Viviann will be principal for the day on Friday, March 22, as a result of winning the live auction at our Gala. She will shadow me for the day and assist with various duties and administrative tasks. We met this week and she is so excited to get to use my desk while I use a student desk, or "perhaps the table." More to come about this exciting day!

Thank you to everyone who recently sent in Box Tops. Our Preschool won the contest and will receive their prize at a later date. Thank you to Cassie Grantz and Erica Cabrera for their assistance with this project. We earned \$561.00 in box tops this year! Keep clipping them...we will collect again next school year.

Just as our students learn, our teachers receive professional development as well. Today, Mrs. Anderson, Miss Ludvik, Mrs. Redar, Mr. Valenta, and I will be at the Technology Fest at the Blanchette Center in Crest Hill with other professionals from the diocese. We will be sure to share what we learn with your children as well as with you.

As you may recall our staff had a workshop presented by Aspire about Executive Function on a Wednesday Early Release day. As a follow-up, we were able to schedule the student workshop for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. They will receive an overview of what Executive Function is and what it looks like in daily life on Wednesday, March 13, and then will receive six more lessons on Fridays beginning on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The topics covered in the sessions are self-control, self-monitoring, working memory, flexible thinking, planning, and organization. Thankful are we for the grant that allows us to use Aspire. We are pleased to partner with them and that we are able to offer this workshop for our Junior High students. Plans are in the works for a parent workshop on Executive Function. More information is to come.

Thank you to all those who attended the playoff game for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' team on Sunday! They defeated Sacred Heart in a very exciting game. The 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' basketball team plays against All Saints Academy in the championship game on Sunday, March 10, at 1:00 PM at Benet Academy in Lisle. Please consider attending the game, donning spirit wear or blue, gold, and white, and cheering our undefeated team to victory. Let's pack the stands! I hope to see you there! Go blue!

May God bless you this week and on your Lenten journey,

Joanne