

March 5, 2020

Dear Families,

Lent began last week with Ash Wednesday, February 26, and is a season where we are called to increased prayer, fasting, and almsgiving throughout Lent. Pope Francis said, "We pray, fast, and perform the works of mercy in this time of grace, so that the Lord might find our hearts ready and fill them with the victory of His love." Our school is participating in a few almsgiving opportunities, our works of love, during Lent. As you know, rice bowls and Lenten family calendars were sent home a few weeks ago for your family's use. Our student council has also chosen a special service and almsgiving project during Lent. They are raising money for the Make-A-Wish foundation through two activities. They are hosting a Movie Night on Saturday, March 14, at 6:30 PM in St. Cecilia Hall. Frozen 2 will be shown and popcorn and candy will be available for purchase. A bake sale will also be held on Tuesday, March 17, during lunch. Proceeds from these activities will benefit Make-A-Wish. Third through eighth grades will again be going to Feed My Starving Children in Aurora. More information is to come, but we will be going on Holy Thursday, April 9. How fitting it is on a day where Jesus ascribes to the humility of service as he washes the feet of His disciples, we will be serving children who need our works of love. As a reminder, Stations of the Cross, takes place on Fridays at 2:00 PM in the Chapel during Lent. As always, you are welcome to join us. Eighth grade will be assisting tomorrow and our cantors will be leading our sung responses.

Thank you so much to all the parents who have submitted registration for next year. Our classes are shaping us nicely! I am pleased to share that our preschool is growing. Next year, we will have a three year old and a four year old room. Our four year class is full, with a waiting list, and our three year class is nearly full. The teaching and part-time aide positions for the three year old class have been posted. The word is certainly spreading about our amazing preschool and school. As you will see in the posting, we are also hosting a Shadow Day for students entering Kindergarten through eighth grade on Monday, March 18, for a full or half day. Please share the opportunity with your neighbors and friends. As of this writing, we have a few students who will be visiting.

Preschool had a special opportunity this week. Two therapy dogs visited preschool on Monday for Dr. Seuss' birthday. One of our parents, Lisa Knutson and her mother, Nancy Roberts, brought two Labrador Retrievers to come in and read with the preschool. This experience gave students the opportunity to interact with trained registered therapy reading assistance dogs while at school. After reading books, the children met the dogs, focusing on dog safety. Thank you, Lisa and Nancy for coming to preschool!

In the posting you will find a flyer introducing our guest principal, kindergartener, Rose DeMola, and her plan for a dress down day on Friday, March 27. She and I decided that we will be having a Wear Spring Colors Day. Rose will be principal for the day on Friday, March 27, 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 yesterday and she is so excited for the day. More information will come about this special day!

Just as our students learn, our teachers receive professional development as well. Today, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Murray, and I will be at the Technology Fest at the Blanchette Center in Crest Hill with other professionals from the diocese. The spotlight speakers' presentations will address Digital Reading: Is it Purposeful; and Catholic Education in a Digital World. Breakout sessions will also be included today.

Thank you to all those who attended the playoff game for the 7/8th grade girls' team on Saturday! The Panthers (our team is a combined with St. Irene's) defeated Sacred Heart in another very exciting game. They scored 49 points, their season high. The 7th/8th grade girls' basketball team plays against Saint Mary-Plainfield in the championship game on this Sunday, March 8, at 1:15 PM at Benet Academy in Lisle. Please consider attending the game, in spirit wear or blue and white, and cheering the team to victory. Let's pack the stands! I really hope to see you there! Go blue! Go Panthers !

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