

The Sentinel ~ August 30, 2017

Principal's Message

It was a great joy to welcome the students to the new year on Monday. The school building is once again alive with the sounds of children's voices and all of the excitement that surrounds the start of the year!

Our theme for this year is ***"Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness, righteousness and truth."*** Taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, this scriptural reference provides us with a daily reminder and invitation to live our lives in accordance with the Gospel message.

During our opening of the school year assembly on Tuesday morning, I asked the students, "Who is the light?" Before I had the opportunity to call on one of the children, a kindergarten child cried out enthusiastically, "Jesus". Isn't it ironic that with the entire school community gathered, it was one of the youngest who simply wasn't able to contain his exuberance. Yet that is how we are called to respond to the love and presence of God in our lives – with a profound sense of gratitude and awe that compels us to share the story with others. And this is what makes a Catholic school environment so entirely unique, for it is a place where the children encounter Christ each day and are inspired to share the light of His truth.

Thank you for choosing All Saints for your family. We are delighted that you are part of our community and look forward to a year of abundant blessings for our students and community!

One of our wonderful traditions at All Saints is the PTO sponsored Back to School Barbecue. I want to take a moment to acknowledge and thank Mr. and Mrs. Fleisig for their leadership of the event and Mr. Zahorchak for providing the music. Additionally, I wish to thank the many volunteers who helped with the set-up, serving and clean-up following the event. It was a great celebration and I am grateful for the strong support of our PTO in hosting this annual gathering.

Virtues in Practice – Year 2

Year of Hope (Theme: Study)

Virtue for the Month of September: Hope

Definition: Trusting in God's loving plan

Saints of the Month: St. Joseph (PK-2), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (3-5), Blessed Louis & Zelig Martin (6-8)

School Messenger Emergency Notification System

The Diocese of Arlington uses the *School Messenger* notification service to send important information to families through phone calls, emails, and text messages. In the event of an emergency, All Saints Catholic School will activate the *School Messenger* system. As the system will only be used for this purpose, parents can anticipate that any communications received via this program are critical and deserve particular attention.

In order to ensure the functionality and effectiveness of the system, All Saints will conduct a test on Thursday, September 7th. A test message will be issued via recorded phone message, text and email to the emergency contacts of all students and staff at approximately 10:30 a.m.

To sign up for text alerts via *SchoolMessenger*, simply text the word "subscribe" to 68453. To opt out of all text messages from *SchoolMessenger*, go to <http://www.schoolmessenger.com/txtmsg/> or reply STOP to the opt-in message you receive.

The Diocese and the school do not pay for text message charges that may be incurred by the user. Check with your wireless carrier for possible charges.

Parent ~ Student Handbooks

The 2017-2018 Parent-Student Handbook can be accessed electronically via our website: www.allsaintsvaschool.org. Please take some time to review the policies and procedures of our school and discuss them with your children. Each family is asked to sign and return the acknowledgment form by Wednesday, September 6th. Those families without access to the website are invited to contact the office to request a hard copy of the handbook.

Policies regarding the acceptable use of technology are included within the handbook. For this reason, a signed handbook acknowledgement form verifies that students in grades K-5 and their parents have reviewed and understand these policies. A separate acceptable use of technology form, however, is required for students in grades 6-8, copies of which will be distributed by the teachers. As students are not permitted to use any school computers until these acknowledgment forms are received, parents are asked to submit signed copies as soon as possible.

Links to Handbooks:

Elementary Parent Handbook https://allsaintsvaschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Elementary_Parent_Handbook_2017-2018.pdf

Pre-Kindergarten Parent Handbook https://allsaintsvaschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Pre-Kindergarten_Parent_Handbook_2017-2018.pdf

New Parent Coffee

All new parents are invited to enjoy “coffee with the principal” on Tuesday, September 12th beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Activities Center. Following a presentation, there will be time for questions and discussion about our school community and its many programs. Babysitting services will be offered in an adjacent meeting room. Plan to attend and meet other new families who have recently joined our community!

Parents in their second year at All Saints are cordially invited to attend this event as well!

Student In-Service ~ Sexual Harassment, Our Policy & Response (Grades 6-8)

In accordance with diocesan policy, students in grades six through eight will participate in a brief classroom presentation within the next two weeks on the topic of the prevention of sexual harassment. Mr. Conroy will visit each of the homeroom classes for approximately fifteen minutes, providing an overview of the diocesan policy and explaining to students how they should best respond if they encounter any behaviors of this nature. Should you have any questions about this policy or presentation, please do not hesitate to contact the principal.

Criminal Background Checks for Volunteers & VIRTUS Requirements

As part of the diocesan initiative to maintain a safe environment for all of our children, all volunteers with children are required to complete a background check prior to working in the school and to complete VIRTUS training within 45 days of commencing service. To register for an upcoming training, please visit www.virtus.org.

In accordance with diocesan policy, full compliance for an adult parent volunteer is not required for *open* events. (An open event is one that is open to the public, infrequent

and publicized, such as Field Day, concerts and special events/assemblies.) However, full compliance is required for adult parent volunteers who wish to participate in closed events. (A closed event is one that is not entirely open to the general public such as classroom activities, parties, field trips, etc.)

For this reason, all parents who wish to attend field trips or volunteer in support of classroom activities are required to complete the background check process and attend VIRTUS training.

As we begin a new year, in accordance with diocesan policy, only those parents who have completed the criminal background check are eligible to volunteer in the school. Those who have not yet completed the background check process may request a packet of forms from the front office.

CAFETERIA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed every day to assist in the cafeteria with serving and supervising. This is a vital role in supporting the daily operations of the school and staff. If you are already VIRTUS approved, please go directly on Help Counter and choose the spots that fit to your schedule <https://www.helpcounterweb.com/ci/signup/140e9a4d205>. If you have any questions please contact Carol Rice ckrice@verizon.net 703-380-5990.

House of Mercy

Partner with House of Mercy for a fun way to receive two hours of community service hours while packing food for the local poor! Join us (HOM) for the 7th Annual Campaign to End Hunger on Saturday October 7, 2017 near the House of Mercy in Manassas. Two hour shifts begin at 8am, and the last starts at 2pm. Food you pack will be distributed to Food for Others in Fairfax and to possibly the mission in Banica or one in El Salvador. The easiest way to register for this affordable fundraising event is: www.HouseOfMercyVA.org/about/events OR email help@houseofmercyva.org.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, August 31st

- Pre-Kindergarten “Meet & Greet” Sessions

Friday, September 1st

- Opening of the School Year Liturgy – Mass of the Holy Spirit (8:30 a.m.)
- Deadline: Media Waiver Forms

Monday, September 4th

- Holiday – Labor Day

Tuesday, September 6th

- Band Demonstration Day
- Back-to-School Night for Grades 1-5 & PTO Meeting (PAC/7:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, September 6th

- First Day of Pre-Kindergarten – Noon Dismissal
- Deadline: Parent-Student Handbook Acknowledgment Forms
- 60th Anniversary Committee Meeting (3:30 p.m.)

Thursday, September 7th

- *SchoolMessenger* System Test (10:30 a.m.)
- Lock-Down Drill

Friday, September 8th

- School Mass – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8:30 a.m.)

Links

- [All Saints Catholic School 2017-2018 Elementary Parent/Student Handbook](#)
- [All Saints Catholic School 2017-2018 Pre-Kindergarten Parent Handbook](#)