

# The Sentinel

May 22, 2019

## **Principal's Message**

This week I wish to congratulate our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students who received their First Communion on Saturday. It was a great privilege to witness the children receiving Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. Thank you, Mrs. Cummings and Mrs. Pryor, for the wonderful formation that you provided our students in preparation for this Sacrament. Let us continue to remember our second grade students in our prayers, most especially those who will be receiving their First Communion on Saturday.

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Thank you to those who responded to the recent survey regarding the question of whether All Saints Catholic School should continue to follow Prince William County Public Schools or initiate a policy change whereby the school would follow the decisions of Manassas City Public Schools regarding schedule changes due to inclement weather.

The participation rate within the community was very high with more than two hundred parents, faculty and staff completing the survey. Many respondents shared specific insights as to how inclement weather and the related schedule changes impact their family.

In summary, 60% of respondents indicated a preference for All Saints to follow the decisions of Manassas City Public Schools with 40% favoring Prince William County. While this response would seem to indicate that we might be better served by making a policy change by which we would follow Manassas City Public Schools, the narrative responses underscored the challenges that we might potentially face in doing so, i.e. concerns regarding safe travel for those residing outside the city as well as the possibility of an elevated rate of absenteeism among students, faculty and staff who live a distance from the school. For this reason, a policy change in this regard appears untenable and not in the best interest of the community at large. Although it is important that we strive to maintain continuity of instruction as best we can, the safety and well-being of our community members is of paramount importance.

With this in mind and in recognition of the fact that some of the criteria used by surrounding public school jurisdictions, i.e. the clearing of bus stops, sidewalks, etc., are not always relevant to our community, All Saints Catholic School will implement the following policy change effective with the 2019-2020 academic year.

*During the onset of a storm and/or predicted inclement weather, All Saints Catholic School will continue to follow the decisions of Prince William County Public Schools regarding schedule changes.*

*In the days following the weather event, All Saints Catholic School will make an independent decision. Similarly, the school will also make an independent decision when only severely cold temperatures impact the schedule for Prince William County Public Schools.*

*All decisions regarding schedule changes, both on those occasions when we follow the county as well as when we make an independent decision, will be announced to the community via SchoolMessenger.*

Again, I want to thank you for your thoughtful input on this important question. It has been very helpful hearing from the community and has enabled me to make an informed decision that takes into account the needs and concerns of our families. As always, should you have any questions or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to let me know.

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This week I also wish to share with you two additional staff changes for the upcoming year. Mrs. Feltman (Kindergarten Teacher) has decided to resign from her position at the close of this year to pursue other professional opportunities. Mrs. Feltman has been a wonderful teacher and role model for our young students, providing them an inspiring and nurturing learning environment each day. She will be greatly missed by our community for her kindness and the difference that she has made in the lives of the children.

Mr. Dwane (4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher) has also decided to resign at the end of the year in order to pursue other opportunities. A long-time member of our faculty, Mr. Dwane has been an outstanding example of the faith. Highly regarded by all for his gentle manner,

ready sense of humor and ability to create a caring classroom community, he will be greatly missed.

We give thanks to God for the blessing that Mrs. Feltman and Mr. Dwane have been to our school community and wish them every continued success and blessing in their future endeavors!

### **Tuition Assistance Awards & FACTS Enrollment Process for 2019-2020**

The diocese is continuing to review applications for tuition assistance and to determine allocations from the St. Beatrice and Scholarship Foundation funds. For this reason, we anticipate that decisions regarding financial awards will not be confirmed and communicated to families for a couple more weeks.

In the meantime, all returning families who have not applied for tuition assistance should have already received a customized email from FACTS confirming their tuition balance and payment plan for 2019-2020. All new families will receive a FACTS “invite” that will provide detailed directions for establishing an account.

### **PTO Accepting Nominations**

With the end of the school year approaching, it is time for elections for next year’s positions within the PTO! The PTO is a dynamic organization that supports the educational, spiritual and community life of All Saints. As the success of our organization depends on our parents, it is fundamental that we fill these positions with interested and dedicated people who are committed to serving our school community. We are currently accepting nominations for President Elect and Secretary. Please take a moment to consider nominating yourself or a friend for a PTO leadership position. If you have the time and interest in serving, please send nominations to Mrs. Theresa Zahorchak @ [tzahorchak@hotmail.com](mailto:tzahorchak@hotmail.com).

## **END OF YEAR INFORMATION**

### **Extended Day Program**

Extended Day services will continue through Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

There will be no Extended Day Program on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. All students will

dismiss at 11:00 a.m. following the Closing Mass & Awards Ceremony. Please make arrangements for your children to be picked up if you anticipate being unavailable at that time.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards and awards will be issued on the final day of school, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Since the office will have a record of your child's final grades at the close of the year, you may retain these cards.

### **Reminder from the School Nurse – Picking Up Medications**

Please remember that all medications in the School Nurse Office must be picked up on June 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>, the last day of school. Any remaining medication will be disposed of in accordance with Diocesan policy.

Forms and medication for the 2019-2020 School Year can be found on the Nurse's Page on our website and copies will be provided when parents pick up student medication. Forms must be renewed every year. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Snowden, our school nurse.

### **Summer Office Hours**

The school office will remain open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. during the months of June and August. Should you need to contact school personnel during the summer months, please do not hesitate to leave a voicemail message or contact us via email. We will make every effort to assist you in a timely manner.

### **Important Dates for the Upcoming Year**

- Orientation Day (Students and parents are invited to visit the school, meet new teachers, and pick up supply orders.) – Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Back-to School Barbecue hosted by the PTO - Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> (5:30-7:30 p.m.)
- First Day of School ~ Noon Dismissal (Grades K-8) - Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>
- First Day of Pre-Kindergarten – Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>

### ***Important Reminders***

### **Graduation Day (June 7<sup>th</sup>) – Noon Dismissal**

Since 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the church on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, school will dismiss at noon that day.

**\*\*\*REMINDER – Field Day forms were due last Friday, however if you still haven't ordered your lunch and would like to, please complete and return the linked Field Day Flyer/Form\*\*\***

### **Upcoming Events**

*Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>*

- Title I Parent Workshop (Meeting Room 1/7:00 p.m.)

*Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>*

- SCA Election of Officers (PAC/1:30 p.m.)
- 1A Reading Celebration (2:00 p.m.)

*Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>*

- **Field Day (9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)/Extended Day beginning at 1:00 p.m.**

*Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>*

- First Communion (10:00 a.m.)

*Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>*

- Holiday – Memorial Day

*Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>*

- *Race for Education* Dress Down Day Option
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip – Mount Vernon

*Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>*

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip – National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade International Day
- Spirit Event: Skate N' Fun Zone (6:30 p.m.)

*Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>*

- School Mass – Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8:30 a.m.)
- Final Day of Pre-Kindergarten
- Last Day for *Accelerated Reader* Tests

- Library Books Due

*Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>*

- Algebra & Geometry Exemption Exams

*Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>*

- *Race for Education* Celebration
  - Awards Assembly (8:30 a.m.)
  - Pizza with the Principal (Lunch Periods)
  - Movie & Popcorn Parties

*Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>*

- PTO Executive Committee Meeting (PLC/7:00 p.m.)

*Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>*

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Mexican Fiesta (PAC/10:00 a.m.)
- Middle School Demerit Free Ice Cream Party (2:15 p.m.)

*Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>*

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade vs. Faculty/Staff Volleyball Game (2:00 p.m.)
- Faculty Meeting (3:30 p.m.)

*Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>*

- Graduation Day
  - Pass-it On Ceremony (9:30 a.m.)
  - Graduation Breakfast (10:00 a.m.)
  - Walk of Honor (11:00 a.m.)
- Noon Dismissal
- Graduation Mass & Ceremony (4:00 p.m.)

### **Newsletter Links**

- [Field Day Flyer 2019 \(Updated\)](#)
- [2019 Flynn-OHara Uniforms-Ways to Order](#)
- [Spotlight On the Arts Summer Day Camps 2019 Brochure](#)
- [HelpCounter Sign-Up](#)
- Pilgrim Virgin Statue Program [Sign Up](#)