

The Sentinel

December 18, 2019

Principal's Message

Last week I shared with you the exciting news of the expansion of our Pre-Kindergarten program beginning in the fall of 2020. As highlighted in my letter, the addition of a third class is a priority for our parish and school as we recognize that it both expands our efforts at evangelization while also increasing the number of families who may choose our school for the K-8 experience.

Another of our enrollment initiatives this year is that of clarifying and communicating our “value proposition”. It is important that, as a community, we are able to pinpoint our strengths and to work with intentionality to get better and better with each passing year. This is a topic that the faculty, staff and Enrollment Management Team have been discussing since the beginning of the year.

An important aspect of this analysis is ensuring that our internal perceptions are aligned with the those of the community at large. For this reason, I invite and encourage you to send me any thoughts that you might have on this topic. With the Christmas holiday just a week away, I recognize that this is a busy time for everyone. Please know that you are most welcome to send me a few lines in the new year or at any time that works for you.

In the meantime, I'd like to share with you a little feedback provided by a prospective parent after visiting our school for an open house. In her words, “The character building, a faith-based foundation, academic rigor, and an unmatched sense of community; these are just a few of the pillars that made our decision so very simple.”

As we approach the celebration of Christmas, know of our continued gratitude for the fact that you and your children are part of our school community. On behalf of the faculty & staff of All Saints Catholic School, I wish all of you a blessed Christmas Season. May the holiday be filled with great joy as you gather with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

P.S. And for those wondering about the annual “gifts to Jesus” that I share after viewing

some of the student work samples in the hallway, here are a couple that I think you will enjoy.

After hearing the story of the Nativity and learning that there was no “room at the inn” for Mary and Joseph, some of the kindergarten children wrote notes as to how they would find a place for Jesus. Their heartfelt messages included the following: “I have room for Jesus in my kitchen” and “I have room for Jesus in my basement.” Amid the many work samples on display is a simple phrase from a student, “I have room for Jesus in my heart.” And therein is the very message of Christmas.

Merry Christmas!

With God All Things Are Possible!

A Prayer for Advent – Week III

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory, and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

All Saints Christmas Pageant – Tomorrow Evening (7:00 p.m.)

The students of Grades K, 1, 4, 5 & 6 will participate in the annual Christmas Pageant, The Living Crèche. Please note the following information:

Date: Thursday, December 19, 2019

Time: 7:00 p.m. (Students report to the narthex of the church by 6:30 p.m. 6th grade students are asked to report by 6:25 p.m.)

Place: All Saints Catholic Church

Students in Grades K, 1, 4, and 5 are asked to wear their school uniforms. Some students in Grade 6 will be in costume.

Annual Fund 2019-2020

During our 2019-2020 **Empowering the Next Generation** campaign, we invite you to prayerfully reflect on the difference that All Saints makes in your child’s life and to show

your support through Gifts of Prayer, Gifts of Involvement & Gifts of Financial Participation.

All proceeds from this year's campaign will focus on expanding **innovations in learning** in the following areas.

- Studio space in the library to produce a student-run morning newscast and special video projects. Goal = \$5,000
- Next-Gen ACTIV Panels to replace ACTIV Boards Goal = \$10,000

Your gift – *no matter the size* – **will benefit your child** now and into the future as we invest in these state-of-the-art resources for our students.

In advance, thank you for your continued generous support of All Saints!

Open House for 2020-2021 School Year

All Saints Catholic School will host an *Open House* for prospective parents on Thursday, January 9 beginning at 9:00 a.m. All parishioners and members of the community interested in learning more about our parish school are cordially invited to attend. Following a presentation and introduction at 9:00 a.m., tours of the facility will be provided. For more information, please contact Mrs. Joyce D'Eugenio, administrative assistant, at (703) 393-1490.

FACTS Tuition Assistance Application 2020-2021

The online application for tuition assistance through FACTS Grant & Aid is now available online. For more information about the diocesan tuition assistance program and the application process, please see the links below.

- [2020-2021 Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program Overview](#)
- [2020-2021 Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program Overview Espanol](#)
- [Online Tuition Assistance Application](#)

High School Deadline – January 10, 2020

Elementary School Deadline – March 18, 2020

Should you have any questions about the application process or tuition assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Joyce D'Eugenio, Administrative Assistant, at 703-393-1490 or jdeugenio@allsaintsva.org.

Volunteers Needed for the Helping Hands Project on January 16th

We are in need of volunteers on January 16th from 5-8pm to help our teachers. Parents don't need to be VIRTUS compliant in order to help and young children are welcome. Opportunities can be found by using the HelpCounter

link: <https://www.helpcounterweb.com/ci/signup/140ea4771ed>. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Zahorchak, TZahorchak@outlook.com.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, December 19

- Pre-Kindergarten Christmas Pageant and Reception (10:00 a.m.)
- Final Day of Pre-Kindergarten Prior to Christmas Holiday
- Christmas Pageant (Dress Rehearsal at 1:45 p.m. & Evening Performance at 7:00 p.m.)

Friday, December 20

- School Mass (8:30 a.m.)
- Schola Christmas Concert (PAC/10:00 a.m.)
- Classroom Christmas Parties (1:30 p.m.)

Monday, December 23

- Christmas Holiday Begins

Monday, January 6

- Classes Resume

Tuesday, January 7

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

Thursday, January 9

- Open House (PAC/9:00 a.m.)
- Rise & Read Celebration (PAC/1:30 p.m.)
- Faculty Meeting (3:30 p.m.)

Friday, January 10

- School Mass (8:30 a.m.)
- FACTS Grant & Aid Application Deadline for High Schools

Monday, January 13

- Scantron Testing Begins (Through January 31)
- Geography Bee (PAC/1:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, January 15

- Deadline: Re-Registration Fees for 2020-2021

Thursday, January 16

- PTO Helping Hands (PAC/5:00-8:00 p.m.)
- Enrollment Management Team Meeting (PLC/7:00 p.m.)

Friday, January 17

- School Mass – St. Anthony, Abbot (8:30 a.m.)

Monday, January 20

- Holiday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 21

- Band Concert (PAC/2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.)

Thursday, January 23

- Science Fair – Awards Ceremony (PAC/6:30 p.m.)

Friday, January 24

- School Mass – St. Francis De Sales (8:30 a.m.)

Saturday, January 25

- First Reconciliation for 2nd Grade

Newsletter Links

- [Online Tuition Assistance Application](#) (Elementary School Deadline: March 18, 2020)
- [Pilgrim Virgin Statue Sign-Up](#)
- [Help Counter](#)
- [Online Application for Diocesan Background Check Application](#)
- [VIRTUS](#) – use this link to sign up for VIRTUS training sessions