

The Principal's Corner

Notes and Updates from Principal Maureen Trenary



A Community of Faith, Knowledge and Service



This Catholic Schools Week, we celebrated the gifts of faith, knowledge and service each individual brings to this community. We were privy to an extraordinary group of student and parent testimonials during all of the CSW Weekend Masses.

We are grateful to Joe Gathje and parents, Jeanne and Jim, Lindsay Demuth and parent Leslie Demuth, Taylor Williams and parent Jen Williams, Joe Wedl and parents Megan and John, and Josh Sullivan and parent Mark. Our bus drivers appreciated the annual bus driver appreciation breakfast with cards from the students and a gift from the school. Rollerskating and Buddy Bingo have become a CSW tradition. The CSW raffle with Mr. Mortl, Ms. Strantz and Mr. Cleary's rendition of "Party Like It's 1999" was enjoyed by all. The teachers enjoyed a delicious lunch and gift cards from PSO. Celebrating the Thursday liturgy Candlemas, The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple with Archbishop Hebda, Father Kevin and Fr. Neil was the highlight of the week. The liturgy was filled with song, candles and the homily by our Archbishop reminded all of our students to be their best. The Archbishop also entertained questions by our 8th graders and was given a tour of the school by fifth grade students, Fr Kevin and Fr. Neil.



The 8th grade class after the 8th Grade vs. Teacher basketball game



Design for Learning

Fund the Need at the Men's Club Gala surpassed our goal by \$25,000. This is wonderful as we continue our Design For Learning Initiative. Our consultant will meet one more time with our teachers at the end of February. Our teachers will also be visiting other schools for design ideas during the next several weeks. A project design leader has been hired and will begin working with our

teachers in early March. She will spend two days at our school and visit with teachers from each grade level. She will return in April with design options. We are targeting the end of May as an order deadline for purchasing the new furniture for all of our homerooms with an August 1st through 11th installation period. JPII will be following the same schedule. JPII teachers and OLG teachers are very excited about the opportunity to enhance the learning in their classrooms through creating environments that best serve our students. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our parents, friends, vendor and the leadership of the Men's Club, in particular Matt Brumbaugh, Doug Fulton, as well as Paul and Alison James and Fr. Kevin in supporting this initiative.



Standards-Based Grading

Our teachers and the SAC education committee have created a survey for parents and students. The survey will be sent to K-6 parents shortly and will help our teachers as we continue to reflect on the strengths of SBG and the areas where parents and students still have concerns. The education committee will meet and discuss the results of the survey and address areas where needed.

The sixth grade teachers also spent time with the sixth graders as a whole group revisiting the logistics of SBG, talking about why homework is as important now as ever, the importance of learning behaviors and the ownership and motivation factors. They provided time for questions and had some great dialogue about SBG and learning in general.

OLG Advancement

With Catholic Schools Week, we rolled out a new logo and identity for the school and parish. In order to include all of our constituents in this exciting update as well as further connect with grandparents and reconnect with Alumni, we sent out a mailing to announce the change. Decals were sent with a letter to all current school families. Postcard decals were sent to 415 grandparent households and 2000 alumni/alumni households with a note. The grandparent information is from grandparents who have attended past grandparent day celebrations. The alumni information includes individuals from the classes of 1950-2016, but is still not totally complete. Surveys are circulating around various alumni classes trying to gather their current information to continue to grow these connections. This was the first alumnus mailing in over 10 years. We also now have an active LinkedIn page to further engage alumni and parents and also continue to foster that OLG network. This past week also included the launch of our first ever-online registration for 2017-18. Once we got over the hurdle of getting all parents to have a PowerSchool login, it has been going very smoothly. About 90% of returning students have already registered online. This also helps us more easily gather demographic data for reporting and analytics. I am grateful to Mr. Groebner's work in creating the postcard decals, promoting our school and connecting with our alumni.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Excitement is building for our 13 teachers/staff who are going to the Holy Land. Fr. Neil has gifted our teachers with the book, "Jesus: A Pilgrimage" and will be meeting with our teachers before they leave March 5th - 14th. We have coverage for all of our teachers while they are away with current OLG substitutes and other certified teachers. Our 13 teachers are very grateful and recognize that the Holy Land is a once in a lifetime trip. And we in return are grateful for their lifetime of commitment to OLG and Catholic education.

Relgnite Retreat



From February 15th-17th I will be attending a 3-day retreat sponsored by CSCOE (Catholic School Center of Excellence) for the principals of our Archdiocese. Father Kevin will be joining me on the second day of the retreat. Fr. Nuzzi from the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education will lead the retreat. Archbishop Hebda and Bishop Cozzens will be celebrating Mass and sharing their vision for Catholic education in the Archdiocese. The retreat will offer prayer, reflection, and social opportunities. I am grateful to CSCOE and our Archdiocese and delightfully looking forward to spending time with my colleagues.

MNSAA Conference

After hosting the annual Minnesota Non Public School Accreditation Association (MNSAA) Conference last November, the Executive Director has requested that OLG host again in November 2017. We have agreed as this is a great opportunity for staff development for our teachers as well as a great way to support MNSAA. The conference will be on November 3rd and this will be a no school day for students.



Family Mass and Breakfast

What a wonderful celebration of our community and families this last week as over 300 students and their parents or guests joined together to celebrate the Eucharist and enjoy a treat together! Thank you to Lottie Steinke and Julia Reid for their leadership on these events and all those who helped!