

A note from Your John Ireland Parent Advisory Committee Chair:

Welcome to 2021,

I think it is safe to say that we are all glad to see 2020 behind us and look forward to what 2021 will bring. While 2020 was many different things and brought lots of unique challenges, I like to think that we still have many things to be grateful for, like our school and the excellent staff that run it. While we did have to do some distance learning in 2020 we were still able to go in person a vast majority of the time. This is thanks to our small class size but also in no small part because of the leadership we have at the school and all our wonderful teachers.

Our meeting this month started off with a conversation about whether there was a need to have a Covid dashboard. With our limited number of cases and quarantines, and how quickly Ms. Wenner keeps us all up to date, it was decided that the current system works well and there is no need to add a dashboard.

We also had a couple events that took place in the month December, and while they were different than what we would normally expect, each was done extremely well and were successful. We started the month with Breakfast with Santa, and what is typically an indoor event in the middle of winter, turned into an outdoor event in a winter wonderland. The team that planned it did a great job organizing an outdoor event in the middle of Winter giving our kids a fun day with Santa.

We also had our Christmas program in December, and while not the traditional program that we are used to, Ms. Heather, Ms. Wenner and the JI staff did an outstanding job giving us a very memorable program. The kids were still able to put on a show and traditions like the 6th grade Light of Christ were still able to happen. It was very well thought out and planned.

Over Christmas break the doors for security improvements were installed and we are about 95% complete with this project. There are still a couple of hardware items that need installation. The doors look fantastic and will complete a project that has been in the works for the last couple of years. Thank you to Brain Salfar and the team he put together for getting this much needed improvement done.

Discussed also was some upcoming events for the rest of the school year. Two of the big ones are Catholic schools week and of course Luck of the Irish. Catholic schools week is at the end of this month and like everything, will be a little different this year. We will have mass in the morning, and instead of our traditional sit down breakfast it will be more of a grab and go. Thank you to Jen and Colby Schmidt for heading up this event. Stay tuned to the weekly newsletter for updates and opportunities to volunteer. Luck of the Irish will be upon us in no time on March 20th. It will look a lot like last year with a drive up dinner and online auction but this year we will be able to have the 5k and will be able to have it in person. It will be timed by Anderson Race Management and will follow all MDH and CDC guidelines to keep us all safe. See you there. Stay tuned to the weekly newsletter for more updates.

Thank you

Chris Mish, JIPAC Chair