



Sacred Heart Catholic School

Principal's Pen

9.18.16



Value of the Month: Generosity

Saint of the Month: St. Josephine Bakhita

“Doing Small things with great love.” *St. Theresa of Kolkata*

Welcome Back to Sacred Heart School!

It was an exciting day for everyone, parents, students and teachers alike, to see all our youngsters as they jumped from their buses, ran up the steps and shook hands with Fr. Tom. He welcomed them all back for a new and exciting school year!

As students transitioned through their 1st day back, they met their new teachers, shared cookies and lemonade with their friends and even got to have gym class with Mrs. Patrisso. By days end they were exhausted but happy to be back in the swing of things. I want to thank our HSA Board for arranging the Cookies & Lemonade, especially Mrs. Denise Milianta for shopping for the cookies, Mrs. Anne Schiller for bringing in the cups and Mr. and Mrs. Benzinger for getting the Lemonade ready and distributing trays of delicious cookies to the classrooms. The teachers used this happy moment to talk to their students and meet and greet the newcomers to our school.



Back to School Night is planned for next Monday, September 26th at 7:00 PM in the Gym. This is our 1st HSA Meeting of 4 planned for this year. It is also the evening where I get to introduce the teaching staff, new and experienced, as well as speak to you about some of the changes to the Archdiocesan Report Card and the push towards Blended Learning. It is also the evening when you get to meet your child's teachers and learn more about the curriculum and the many grade expectations they hold.

My teachers in the Kindergarten through 4th grade will be available earlier in the evening (at 6:15 in their classrooms) as well as after the HSA meeting to do their formal presentations. We do this in order to accommodate parents that have students in the upper and lower grades alike. You will have enough time to visit both elementary and middle school teachers. Remember you are simply to visit your children's homeroom teachers.

We started the year with a few employment positions available. I have filled all but two. Thanks to Mrs. Jenn O'Boyle, I was able to hire our new Science teacher, Mrs. Christine Hart. I look forward to introducing her on Back to School Night. I am still looking for 1 Lunch Monitor and one After Care Monitor. This may be the same person or it may be 2 separate people. So if you are available from 11:15 to 1:15 or 3:00 to 6:00 and love working with children please give me a call. Or, if you know someone who fits this bill give him/her the SHS Office number 845-783-0365. I will reach out to them asap.

Volunteerism has been low this past year especially in the kitchen. In order for SHS to continue to provide hot lunch on a daily basis we need parents to be here to help serve the lunch. Mrs. Tracy Sullivan posts a Sign-up Genius on our website with the schedule of lunches and the approximate number of parents needed to serve that lunch. As a reminder, each family must contribute 20 hours of service to SHS over the course of the school year. There are numerous opportunities to help by getting involved in our many fund raising events. On Back to School Night there will be tables set up in the hall lined with event sign-up sheets. So take time during the course of the evening to see what interests you and decide how you would like to devote your time to helping the HSA raise its \$40,000 commitment. For example, there are 2 Uniform Exchange cabinets on the stage which need tidying at least once a month. This could be something easy to do on your own schedule to fulfill your service hours☺

Another important reminder...This one is about drop off and pick up in front of the building. For those new to our school and for those returning, arrival and dismissal procedures seem to start off fine then slowly deteriorate. Children's safety becomes a major concern.

As a reminder for your own child's safety:

- If you are dropping your child off for Morning Care and you are arriving before 7:40 AM you can pull right up to the front of the building. I will be waiting.
- After 7:40 you must park in the upper lot by the convent and walk your child to the steps or just drop them off in the lot and watch them walk to the building depending on their age.
- No one can park in front of the school building after 7:40 AM even to just drop your child off. Buses are arriving continually and need immediate access to the front of the school. They can not be kept waiting.
- You can not leave your car running and run into the building at any time, for any reason.

For afternoon dismissal:

- Please wait in the lower parking lot below the convent.
- Wait for all the buses to leave the premises before you drive up to the school to pick up your child.
- Please do not exit your car. Mrs. Costa and I will call your child's name and send him/her out to you.

For those of you who choose to walk up to the school:

- Please park in the lower parking lot below the rectory.
- Please do not enter the building.
- Remain on the patio outside the school, and we will send your child out to you as soon as possible.

Safety is our main concern. Do not be offended that we ask you to remain outside the building. It is in everyone's best interest that you follow protocol. It is simply not safe to allow parents to walk in and take their children from the gym or the bus line. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.



DATES TO REMEMBER: September 22nd - Orange County Emergency Evacuation Drill
September 28th - No School- Spirituality Conference Day

I look forward to another exciting school year with many learning adventures.