



## Sacred Heart Catholic School

Principal's Pen

9.22.17



*Value of the Month: Faith*

*Saint of the Month: St. Teresa of Calcutta*

“Doing Small things with great love.” *St. Teresa of Calcutta*

**Welcome Back to Sacred Heart School!**

**HAPPY FIRST DAY OF FALL**

Yes, today is the first full day of Fall, and we are off to a good start for the new school year 2017-2018. We had our first Soccer Game tonight thanks to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. John Galton. And YES we won our first games!

This week all the faculties of the Archdiocese of NY got together to celebrate “Spirituality Day.” Our New Directions Choir led by Mrs. Kathleen Regenauer had the awesome task of providing the music for the *Mass of the Holy Spirit* at the Westchester Civic Center in White Plains. They did a remarkable job. We are the envy of every school around. I was so proud of the job they did. The Archdiocese is sending me a copy of the CD that was made of the Mass and our girls singing. What a way to start the new school year!

**Back to School Night** is planned for this Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Gym. This is our 1<sup>st</sup> HSA Meeting of the year. After a brief “Welcome Back” in the Gym and introduction of the faculty, parents will have an opportunity to meet their child’s teacher/s and learn more about the curriculum and the many grade expectations they hold.

The teachers in Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade will be available earlier in the evening (at 6:30 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. This gives you enough time to visit both elementary and middle school teachers. Remember, this evening you just plan to visit with your child’s homeroom teacher.

I will speak about the need for more volunteers on Monday night. Volunteerism was low last year especially in the kitchen. In order for SHS to continue to provide a hot lunch program 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 each lunch. There are also numerous opportunities to volunteer all year 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 please 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 meet 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☺

For the next three weeks our students will be involved in a new kind of Interim testing series called NWEA MAP. These are fun, interactive Math, ELA and Reading tests that are taken by the students online which provide immediate feedback to the teacher to help him/her provide the

differentiated instruction your child needs to succeed. This initial test will set a base line and the reoccurring tests will show the progress your child has made over the course of the year.

We have used some of the HSA money above the \$40,000 you helped raise to purchase another Joey cart and 30 new Chrome books. That brings our total to 90 Chrome books this year. This eases the crunch time for on line testing going forward.

I do not have an HSA Board this year. I look forward to hearing from any parent who is interested in being on the Board. You need to be apart of the SHS community for at least 2 years. I do have 2 volunteers, Mr. Chris Vella and Mrs. Jennifer O'Boyle, but I need several other positions filled to have a complete board. I will speak about this on Monday night too!

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