



Principally Speaking

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St. Mary Prep

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What A Wonderful Surprise

I had totally forgotten about Principal's Appreciation Day and lo and behold, no one else forgot. After the Student Body Liturgy on Friday, the 7th of November, the Faculty, Staff, Student Body and HSA made presentations to commemorate this day. I was overwhelmed with the beautiful flowers, the lovely gifts, the monetary remembrance of me, and the beautiful cards from the children, faculty, staff and HSA. The children's cards are priceless. They commented on so many things that are new to them this year. I must tell you that I prayed for each and everyone of you, parents, children, teachers and staff, at my Sunday Mass. Your intentions were remembered along with your gracious kindness to me. I pray that God in His goodness will continue to bless all of you with the gifts and graces that you need. I spent Saturday afternoon reading each of the cards and they brought tears to my eyes and to my heart. We have wonderful children at St. Mary Prep and that is primarily due to the wonderful parents they have. I am honored and humbled to be part of this truly Christian family.

Report Cards Are Coming Home

This Wednesday, you will receive your child's or your children's report card or cards. Please know that I have reviewed each and every one of them and you can see my initials at the bottom of the column of grades. I ask that you look them over carefully and have your questions and comments ready for the teachers at your Parent/Teacher conferences. Please be sure to get in touch with your child's teacher. It is important that we maintain a line of communication and work together as a team. There will be After-Care from 12 Noon for those parents who would like to take advantage of this service.

About Our Faculty

Mrs. Tatum is recuperating and she hopes to return on Monday, January 5th, 2009. Meanwhile, Miss Mullaney will continue working with the children and keeping in touch with Mrs. Tatum. Mrs. Prunty begins her maternity leave today, Monday, November 10th and therefore we have Mrs. Cheryl Zebick as a substitute in Grade 3. Mrs. Prunty hopes to be back on the 5th of January. If you have any questions, please share them with me. I will be happy to help you in any way that I can. We pray for Mrs. Tatum and Mrs. Prunty that all will go well for both of them and that they will return to us soon.

.IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Monday, November 17th, **we will have a 12 Noon dismissal.** Since we will have conferences on the Friday that we normally would have a Faculty Meeting, we need to adjust our calendar. This upcoming Faculty Meeting is very important as the first hour will be taken up by Mr. John Fanelli, our technology representative from the Diocesan School Office. He will have an in-service training for our faculty on 'Power School', the diocesan program that we will be using to track our attendance, our subject grades and our report cards. The remainder of the meeting will be a professional development time for us to consider how we can tailor our teaching styles to the students' learning styles. I thank you for your understanding. I know that this may be an inconvenience for many of you but I promise you that the time will be well spent and will benefit our children.

What's New Today?

Over the weekend, we received 4 more Smart Boards for the school. We hope that over the holidays, we will be able to install them in the designated classrooms. We hope to continue getting this marvelous donation so that we will have a Smart Board in every classroom by the end of the year. Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Nelson we have been gifted with this opportunity.

For our Student Government, we will become part of the National Beta Club. This organization will provide our students the opportunity to share in the leadership of the school. You will be hearing more about this opportunity in the very near future.

Tomorrow, November 11th, Veteran's Day, we will have an assembly honoring our service men and women, past and present. As part of this gathering, Mr. Charles Garrison will present the school with an American Flag that was flown in a plane over the Palace in Iraq. Mr. Garrison's brother-in-law is in the military stationed in Iraq. It is through his influence that we will get this flag and a certificate explaining its purpose. We are very privileged to receive this American Flag and it will fly on our flag pole in the front of our school. The assembly will take place at 2:00 PM and we invite any of our parents, if at all possible to be at this assembly.

As you may have noted in the local paper, Mrs. Carol Simpson, mother of Kendall in our 4th grade, died over the weekend. We will be attending the funeral and I encourage you to try to get to the viewing if you can. We pray: Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.

