

Mary, Queen of Peace

December 10, 2017

MQP Families:

Happy Advent! Yesterday, we recognized the feast day of Saint Jaun Diego. During his canonization, in 2002, at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pope John Paul II called the new saint “a simple, humble, Indian”, who accepted Christianity without giving up his identity. Saint John Paul II called us to follow Jaun Diego’s example by giving our entire selves to Jesus Christ. We should not wait until we reach some unattainable level of perfection. Rather we need to turn to Christ as we are today.

Please join the school community at Mass on Wednesday morning at 9:15. The 5th graders will serve as ministers at the celebration of the Eucharist on the feast day of Saint Lucy. During December, the students will sit with their Advent angels. They will also lead the community in a prayer service after Mass.

We are very proud of our 2nd graders who received their First Reconciliation on Tuesday, December 5th. Please continue to pray for them as they continue to prepare for their First Holy Communion. The 3rd - 5th graders will go to confession on Tuesday, December 12th during the day. Please review the Examination of Conscience and Act of Contrition with your children.

Tomorrow, the 6th graders will spend the day on a REAP retreat. Forgiveness is the theme of their retreat, which will end with Mass. The 7th grade retreat will be on Friday, January 12th. Lunch will be provided for both groups of students.

Our coat collection will end on Friday, December 15th. Please drop off your gently used jackets or coats to the office. Join Hands, a well-known organization and friend of Mary, Queen of Peace, will ensure the donated items are given to the needy.

Please join the school community for our annual Advent Music Program on Thursday, December 21. The uplifting tradition will begin at 1:00 pm in the church. Our Christmas break will begin soon after the program and school will resume on Wednesday, January 3rd. Those dates also mark the end and beginning of the 2nd and 3rd quarter.

The Marketing Committee, faculty, parents, students and Linc did a marvelous job during the Open House for prospective preschool and kindergarten parents. Mrs. Beth Ward gave a heartfelt testimonial on why she and her husband choose Catholic education for their children. She feels that the Mary, Queen of Peace

community is a key ingredient of our success. Mrs. Ward believes that community ranks higher than grades and test scores. High standards of excellence, which we have, can be found in any school. Viewing students as individual creations of God is our truest strength.

Currently, plans are forming for our Middle School Open House, which is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 1st at 7:00 pm. This event is not limited to Mary, Queen of Peace families. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us as we present the curriculum and traditions of our middle school. Visitors will have an opportunity to meet parents, teachers and Linc.

It's an honor to announce that our middle school students did an excellent job in a recent math competition. Our 6th – 8th students met with other Archdiocesan schools for the second time this year. Mrs. Adam Winebright took three teams to Saint Gabriel the Archangel and each one earned a blue ribbon.

Due to your patience and the teacher's diligence, Tuesday's morning drop off went very well. Everything seemed to flow nicely from all angles. The crane operators were able to place five new units on the school's roof. As some point the crane will return to lift up the final unit. Electricians will be in the building during the next few days to do their part. Your understanding and flexibility are appreciated.

As you check off your Christmas list, please consider purchasing SHOP Script cards. They make great gifts and stocking stuffers. SHOP Script cards can also be used to purchase groceries, clothing, dinner, or even tires to ensure safe travels. We are grateful for those who have already purchased SHOP Script cards. Proceeds from your purchases will go towards our advancements in technology. Annie Finke and Jo Wingbermuehle will be happy to assist you with your needs.

Currently, the teachers are "test-driving" a Promethean Panel. As stated in a previous letter, these interactive boards promise to enhance classroom instruction. Teachers will be able to use their existing Smartboard lessons as they continue to reach all learners. Like Smartboards, Promethean Panels interact with I-Pads, laptops, and Smartphones. The Promethean Panels stand out from Smartboards by offering a 6-point touch: which allows for more than one user, or one user using both hands to gesture. The device can be used like a panel or a table. Promethean Panels also do not have a separate projector allowing them to be more mobile.

The technology committee is currently reviewing the best approach in regard to our 4th – 8th graders being one on one with a device starting in the fall of 2018. At this time we are strongly leaning toward some type of Chrome book within the range of 300.00. Our aim is to decide on a device by the end of January. Then a series of questions revolving around funding will need to be addressed. At this time, we are considering either an increase in our technology fees, arranging a leasing option, or putting the chosen device on the supply list and asking parents to purchase it for their child.

Beginning in January, the following after-school programs will be offered at Mary, Queen of Peace. COCA Theatre will offer a class for grades 1 – 3 on Mondays. Legos for grades 1 – 4 will continue, on Mondays. Master Kim will offer Ty Kwon Do for grades 1 – 8 on Tuesdays. On Wednesdays, Palmer Music will offer Keyboard for grades 1 -3. Palmer Music will also offer introduction to music for grades 1 – 3, on Thursdays. Lesson Unlimited will offer guitar lessons for grades 1 – 4, on Friday. This week, you will receive more information about these classes.

As we light the second candle of the Advent wreath, lets stay focused on the meaning of Advent. As you prepare for the coming of Christ take time to pray, fast and go to confession.

May this season of Advent bring light, hope, and peace to you and yours.

Mr. Michael Nieman
Mary, Queen of Peace – Principal

“Lord God, through Saint Juan Diego You made known the love of Our Lady of Guadalupe toward Your people. By his intercession, grant that we who follow the counsel of Mary, our Mother, may strive continually to do Your will. Amen.”