

# Mary, Queen of Peace

December 3, 2017

## MQP Families:

Happy Advent! Today, we recognized the feast day of Saint Francis Xavier. At an early age he was inspired by the following Biblical passage; "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:12a). In 1534, under the guidance of a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, Francis joined the community of the Society of Jesus. Acting out of pure joy he gave his complete self to the poorest of people. He broke bread with them and lived among them. If they went without food he went without food. We can mirror his example by ministering to others with joy in our hearts.

Please join the school community at Mass on Wednesday morning at 9:15. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will serve as ministers at the sacred banquet on the feast day of Saint Nicholas. During Advent the students will sit with their Advent angels as we come together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will have their first reconciliation on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the church. The 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders will go to confession on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> during the day. Please review the Examination of Conscience and Act of Contrition with your children.

An Open House for prospective preschool and kindergarten parents will occur on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The event will begin at 7:00 pm in the Cooperative Learning Center (library). Prospective parents will meet teachers, parents, and Linc. They will also have an opportunity to see the classrooms, including the Atrium. Complementary babysitting will be offered by reservation only. Individuals should call the school office if they are interesting in the babysitting service. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to the Open House.

Our new heating units will arrive Tuesday morning on a flatbed truck. A crane will be used to move the units off the truck and onto the parking lot. The delivery of the units will interrupt our morning flow of traffic. Drivers please drop off the children by using the driveway entrance nearest to the front of the school: as you do for afternoon pick up. Teachers along with our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be in front of the school to help the children get out of their cars. If possible, passengers should get out on the driver's side. The children will go either into the gym or cafeteria. The drivers will circle around the school and exit the parking lot as they do in the afternoon. Walkers and bikers especially those coming from the West, East and North should avoid going to the back parking lot. Bikes can be parked in the front of the school. They will be moved to the back of the school in time for dismissal. Pedestrians coming from Lockwood Court may enter the school near the gym.

Bikers coming from the Lockwood Court may still use the bike racks in the back. Teachers will be stationed at key points to direct traffic and ensure the safety of everyone. Your cooperation and patience is appreciated.

School will not be in session on the Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Remember this special day is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mary, Queen of Peace will offer Mass in the morning at 6:45 and 8:00.

Because of Timmy Siebenman's awareness and the support of StudCo several gently used jackets and coats have made their way to Mary, Queen of Peace. The opportunity to drop off jackets and coats to the school office will end on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. At that time Join Hands, a well know organization and friend of Mary, Queen of Peace, will ensure that the items benefit those in need.

Please consider purchasing SHOP Script cards as you prepare for the Holidays or just tackle the needs of everyday. SHOP Script cards make great gifts and stocking stuffers. They can also be used to purchase groceries, clothes, 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.

It was amazing how Mrs. Laura Boeker and her team of volunteers transformed the gym and lobby into a festive atmosphere so the MQP community could come together for breakfast with Santa. The beautiful decorations, creative activities and delicious food provided for a cheerful morning. It was good to spend time with families and amazing to see all the volunteers; including our older children. They were extremely positive as they served food and supervised the activities.

Currently, the teachers are "test-driving" a Promethean Panel. As stated in last week's 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 regards to our 4th – 8th graders being one on one with a device during the 2018-2019 school year. 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.

Lets remember to be mindful of the importance of Advent as we often become distracted with Christmas. It's not too late to obtain or make an Advent wreath and calendar, which focuses on prayers. Also, remember during this season of preparation we are called to give alms and seek forgiveness for our sins. Some people celebrate Advent through special Sunday meals; which includes family and friends coming together. Those opportunities provide moments to light the candles on your Advent wreath as guest are invited to listen to devotional readings and pray together.

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

Mr. Michael Nieman

Mary, Queen of Peace – Principal

“Lord, You won many people for Your Church through the preaching of Saint Francis. Inspire the faithful today with the same zeal for spreading the Faith so that everywhere the Church might rejoice in her many children. Amen.”