

LION'S LETTER

ST. CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

Happy 100 Days of School!!!! As I sit and write to you today, I am thinking back to the moment that Fr. Dave told me he would like to hire me to be the Principal at St. Christopher Catholic School. I am amazed at how much we have accomplished together in such a short period of time. Our campus has gone through an unbelievable transformation in this short amount of time and our kids are getting better and better every day because of these changes. As I said to the students this morning, when we started in August 100 days looked so far away. Now that we are here, I know the rest of the school year will go as fast.

As you all know, because he has fulfilled his requirements of service and would like to take time to enjoy some time to himself, Fr. Dave has retired. We are so grateful to him for his service to our school and church. He initiated so many improvements that his impact will be felt for years to come. We now welcome Fr. Gene Kinney as the Pastor of St. Christopher Parish. Fr. Gene celebrated mass with our students this past Wednesday and the students truly enjoyed the experience. Please see this weekend's church bulletin for a letter from Fr. Gene that discusses his journey that brought him to St. Christopher's.

We have had some exciting events happen in January. On January 24, our 5th through 8th grade spelling champions participated in the Marrietta/Tiberti Spelling Bee at Bishop Gorman High School. What an incredible showing by our students. We had four students in the final twelve and eighth grader, Allan Morones, took third place in the Bee. Because of his efforts, Allan was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship to Bishop Gorman. Mrs. Thompson, the Superintendent of schools for our diocese, was so proud. She told me this is the highest a St. Chris student has ever finished. We are so proud of Allan and all of our Spelling Bee participants. On January 27, the Bishop Gorman theater guild performed the mini-musical *Spelling Bee* for all of our students. Our kids had a wonderful time and we even had impromptu appearances by me and 7th grader, Dontrell Johnson.

Next week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. This is a wonderful time for all of us to reflect on the benefits and the blessings we enjoy for being a member of a Catholic School. I have been in Catholic Schools my entire educational life. From Regina Pacis School, to Xaverian High School, to St. Joseph's College and for almost my entire teaching career, Catholic Schooling has shaped my life. I am so glad that we can provide this education to our children. Please see the calendar that was sent home with your children for a list of daily activities and special dress days. And please don't forget that we will close Catholic Schools Week on February 4 with our

spaghetti dinner hosted by our eighth grade class. This is a wonderful opportunity to promote our community atmosphere at St. Christopher's and to support our eighth graders in their efforts to go to Disneyland for their class trip.

As we look toward February, we have some important dates. February 3 is a noon dismissal day as teachers will take part of an in-service regarding the accreditation process. As I mentioned earlier, the spaghetti dinner will be on February 4 from 6:00 – 8:00 in the hall. The 7th and 8th graders will have their Valentine's Day dance at St. Francis de Sales on February 10th. We will also end the second trimester on February 17. Students received a progress report on Tuesday January 21. If you have any questions, please see your child's teacher right away, and as always, I'm happy to meet with you with whatever you need and I will help as best I can.

Once again, thank you for being such an incredible family. I truly do count my blessings every day for God leading me to St. Christopher's and I look forward to continuing being a part of the St. Christopher family for years to come. Please continue to tell your children that Mr. Zunno said "I love you all, and I always will."

Christopher Zunno, Principal
Travel With God