



Grace and peace, dear parents,

I am hoping that this New Year of 2019 has begun with blessings and graces coming your way. When I listened to our gospel reading on Sunday and reflected on the wonder experienced by the magi as they gazed upon the light in the sky illuminated by the star. Their response to the light led them on a path to the Christ Child that has shaped our beliefs and traditions throughout our Christian journey. In the Spirit of the New Year, in the spirit of the Magi following light, being guided by that star, let us continue our journey together as a school family. We have been shaken by our investigations during this school year, and yet, the star leads us to goodness, to truth. Let's follow it together and continue the good work we value so much at St. Matthias School. St. Matthias School is not about a single leader, but rather about the welfare and healthy development of our youngest members of the parish community. Let us keep our focus on our children.

I would ask that parents of our students in Pre-K3 through to grade seven plan to attend an Information Night at St. Matthias School on Tuesday, January 15 at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be in the cafeteria and I will serve as your presenter. I would like to address our present and past mode of operation in light of budgets prepared for school in the past. More importantly, I would like to present our needs assessment for building a rich and prosperous future for our students at St. Matthias School. Let us make the light for the future of our students, our guiding light. I am looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

As always, we have good news to share. Student Council Vice President, Gia P has been awarded a scholarship to Mt. St. Mary Academy. We are so proud of you, Gia, but not surprised. Congratulations! Another source of pride goes to Vivien S in grade three. Vivien has been nominated to participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum: Pathways to STEM, an Envision Program that will run for a week in the summer. Vivien was selected because she already demonstrates exceptional maturity, scholastic merit, and leadership potential even at her age. Congratulations, dear Vivien.

Our Annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week is right around the corner. We launch our celebration at Mass on Sunday, January 27 at noon. Students, their families and staff members are invited to attend this mass. Students are asked to attend in their school uniform. Students will be participating as lectors, musicians and ambassadors. I will be speaking at the end of this mass as well as at all of the other masses during this particular weekend. Our message is important and I am prepared to proclaim it with pride. Immediately following the noon mass there will be a reception hosted by the HSA in the school cafeteria. Visit the cafeteria for goodies, fellowship and an opportunity to view the work of the students on display in the cafeteria.

We hope to use the launch of Catholic Schools Week to introduce our program to new families. The Pre-K and Kindergarten classes will be open for tours. The Early Learning Teaching Team will be available to assist guests and answer questions. Please encourage your families and friends to visit our Pre-K and Kindergarten. These programs provide a rich background of learning which will impact future success for students.

In next week's Wednesday Envelope there will be a detailed schedule for our celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Just know you will want to mark your calendar for our Athletic and Academic Bowls, which will be set for Friday, February 1. More details will follow next week.

I am very proud to introduce a new project to you. This project is a result of the visionary spirit of two of our seventh grade students, Gabby and Liam. They have presented me with the proposal to have students helping students. Specifically, they will be organizing a group of Middle School students to serve as tutors to our students in grades one through four. There is a flyer in the Wednesday Envelope that will break down some of the particulars of the program. The Middle School students are targeting this academic assistance two months prior to our standardized testing. What better way to function as a caring family than in such a program. Thanks, Liam and Gabby.

I am looking forward to seeing you on Friday at the Dad/Daughter Dance. And, then on Saturday, see you at some games and the Art Exhibit at the Environmental Education Center in Basking Ridge from 1-3 PM.

Thanks as always for your partnership with us to create a rich program for our children.

Eileen Brett
Principal
Saint Matthias School