



Grace and peace, dear parents,

It was so good to see so many of you at the Blessing of the Athletes on Sunday and the reception following. The support our student athletes receive from the school and parent community is heartwarming.

We have very exciting news to share. Our fifth, sixth and seventh grade team representing St. Matthias School took first place in the Bishop Ahr Competition on Tuesday afternoon. Of the thirteen schools in the competition, St. Matthias took:

- Third Place in Dramatic Arts
- Second Place in STEM
- First Place in Problem Solving
- Third Place in the Spelling Bee, and
 - Third Place in the individual Spelling Bee with Myanelle B.

Our team of students were the following:

Problem Solving

Philip F, 7th

Tehya L, 7th

Samuel K, 6th

Iana M, 6th

Athletics

Madison S, 7th

Jon M, 7th

Jack L, 6th

Isabella H, 6th

Forensic Science

Kayla F, 7th

James N, 6th

Carissa T, 7th

Sam V, 7th

Spelling Bee

Myanelle B, 5th

Bobby B, 5th

Dramatic Arts

Loralei W, 7th

Helena C, 6th

Alexis O, 7th

Edward S, 6th

STEM

Ryan T, 7th

Elena K, 6th

Sophia L, 7th

In our Cross Country Meet on Sunday, our team continued to be quite brilliant. And, once again, Nicholas W and Alexandra H lead their races with speed and grace. Congratulations to this entire team for a great season. You have made us very proud.

Congratulations to those students who exemplified the virtue of fortitude during the month of October. These students are Talia K, Ava H, Abigail W, Alexa K, Jonathan A, Leah Y, Colby L, Maximilian W, Eva C, Brayden N, Danielle C, Isaiah N, Chloe C, Bartholemieux D, Yuna A, Isak K, Peter K, Logan J, Mia W, Natalie M, Amari S, Maddie S, Frank P, Logan S, William M, Emma P, James N, Tyler N, Julia K Ryan T, Olivia L, Julia P, Joy D, Ashley A, Jessica K and Mia F. Many thanks to Ms. Mortenson for providing lessons in each class demonstrating how these students share the gift of fortitude in their daily lives.

In light of Father Doug's recent resignation, Msgr. Fell, will be joining us for the next few weeks as our interim pastor. I welcome Monsignor and am grateful for his presence in the parish and school for the next few weeks. We are a strong, faith-filled learning environment at St. Matthias School and as always we will move ahead with confidence and grace.

Hopefully, each parent will have an opportunity to dialogue with their child in the manner they see best in regard to Father Doug's resignation. If you need the assistance of one of the administrators or our school counselor, Ms. Mortenson, please contact us.

Friday will be a bittersweet day for our first grade students. It will be time to say farewell to Mrs. Lynch, our long term substitute teacher for a maternity leave. Mrs. Lynch has done an outstanding job and we will miss her so much. She has endeared herself to the students and made a wonderful impression that they will hold dear for a very long time. On Monday, November 12, we welcome Mrs. Wiegler back to our school family as the first grade teacher. She has been spending the last few months with her beautiful baby boy. Welcome back, Mrs. Wiegler.

Also, joining our staff will be eighth grade homeroom teacher, Donna L Vattelana. Donna comes with 21 years of teaching experience in Catholic Middle Schools. Her expertise in the teaching of math will be welcome in our Middle School department. Welcome, Mrs. Vattelana.

The SMS Athletic Association is in need of a parent assuming the position of treasurer. If we are not able to get someone to take on this position, we may have to end all of our athletic activities. How sad would this be for your children, if we have to terminate the program, after all these years. We are very grateful to Mr. Frangie for his service and dedication in this position. He has now resigned due to his new work schedule and we need someone else to step up to the plate. If you are interested, please email Mr. Gidaro, jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org.

As always, I thank you for your partnership with us in creating and maintaining best practices for our beautiful children.

Eileen Brett
Principal
Saint Matthias School