

# The Weekly Newsletter of Mr. Courchane, SJE

October 24, 2019

## *Go Forth and Be a Blessing!*

Dear Parents and Students:

Thank you to everyone who attended conferences on October 17<sup>th</sup>. I hope all of you found the time useful.

This week the 8<sup>th</sup> grade planned the school liturgy and used to skits to demonstrate how we should choose obedience to God over obedience to sin. I thought they all did a wonderful job with the skits, readings, and participation in key parts of the mass. They received many compliments from Father Michael, Mrs. Laidlaw Otto and teaching staff members.

Beginning in November we are going to start very tentatively planning our JOG presentations. At first this will mainly compose of reminding the students the format of JOG, the information they should start gathering (pictures, pictures, pictures!) and answering any preliminary questions they or their parents might have about this worthwhile process.

On a totally unrelated note, I would like to say that I appreciate how a healthy snack now and then throughout the day can help a student concentrate on his or her schoolwork and keep one's energy level up. However, I must say the snacks are becoming a distraction and a detriment to learning in the classroom. Students are swapping snacks or bartering for food at inopportune times (for instance, I don't need student work time interrupted by a student asking "Anyone got any food?"). I am finding wrappers, crumbs, etc., on the classroom floor. Students are talking with their mouths full. In general, it has become an annoyance. I hope 8th graders will be mature enough to handle this problem on their own with a few gentle reminders. If they cannot there will be strict limits in my classroom as to when snacks may be had. We had to do this last year, unfortunately.

Finally, a reminder that when a student is absent they have days equivalent to their absence to make up any work they missed. If they miss three days they have three additional school days to get the work in, for example. We will prepare work in advance if possible if we are given advance notice of an absence, but this is not always possible and sometimes schedules change. Thank you for keeping this in mind.

### **Other important dates in October / November include:**

- October 25<sup>th</sup> is an out of uniform day and Trunk or Treat.
- October 29<sup>th</sup>, pumpkins due for decorating contest.
- November 1, All Saints Day and VIP Day.

Thank You!

*Mr. Courchane*

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Homeroom  
6/7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Religion  
Grade 5-8 Science



"Continuous effort- not strength or intelligence – is the key to unlocking our potential." Winston Churchill