



# DRAGON UPDATE

Jan. 4, 2019

Dear Parents,

It's here the official half of the school year! January 11<sup>th</sup> your children will receive their second quarter report card. It's hard to believe. The children have been very busy since August. They have raised over \$500 for Fr. Dandi's Sugarcane Workers' Mission, they might have been on a field trip to the pumpkin patch or the Science Center or maybe even the nursing home, they have participated in an 8th grade cakewalk, hosted a Christian Concert and collected gifts for the poor of Gasconade County, PLUS, all the countless hours spent studying, exploring, doing projects and learning daily since the beginning of school. The Lord has blessed us with many good things thus far, faith tells us that He will continue to provide all we need in the days ahead. The coming months will be packed with many new, exciting and interesting projects, concepts and innovations. Keep the students, faculty and staff in your prayers as we take God's hand and continue this glorious journey of learning and growing closer to Him.

## **“Rooted in FAITH ... Growing in Gratitude”**

Gratitude is being thankful ... or is it? As I began to prepare the reflection for this month I asked myself, is gratitude just thankfulness? Is it just being thankful for the actions of others and for the things we have or that are given to us? Or is it more than saying thank you?

We have all heard the phrase *“Attitude of Gratitude”*. When reflecting on this phrase I think about my father-in-law. He was a military man who served his country for 30+ years and his family for more than that. I don't think there was a time that he ever failed to say *Thank You*. He would thank everyone and anyone all the time; no task was too small to be thanked for according to the way he lived his life. I always thought what a great habit that was. The habit was so embedded that even as the terrible disease, Dewey Body Dementia, ran its course and his body slowly shut down he still faithfully thanked the nurses, doctors, orderlies, family members, and anyone who attended to his needs. Him thanking people, was it just a habit? Now that I look back over the 40 years I knew him, the thank you's he gave were not just lip service, they were not just given out of habit. Each one was genuine, it was given humbly, each one was said with a heart full of kindness. I have tried to imitate his habit of *“Thank You's for Everyone”* and I find it is not an easy habit to form. Because you see, by him saying thank you, he was not just merely thanking people for their assistance or for what they gave him. He appreciated what they did for him, he felt blessed for the kindness people showed him and out of that appreciation, he passed the kindness on. Another lesson I learned from him was how to accept someone's *Thank You*. He didn't brush it off as if it was no big deal, he didn't gloat over how he helped someone, he simply acknowledged their gratitude with a reply of *“Your welcome.”* His life exemplified an *“Attitude of Gratitude”* on every level.

So, I don't think gratitude is merely saying thank you. It begins there, but gratitude is the readiness to show appreciation for kindness and then return it humbly; an *“Attitude of Gratitude”*! So the challenge is how many times can you say *Thank You* in a day? How many times can we, as a school community, say *Thank You* in a month? How many times can we humbly accept a *Thank You* from another person without pushing it off as *“no big deal”*? Let's find out ...

Continue to add your prayers to grow in the virtue of GRATITUDE this month, to the prayers of the saints we will be studying: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Julie Billart, and St. Josemaria Escriva.

'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus' (1Thes 5:16-18)

## **REPORT CARDS**

The second quarter officially ends Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>. You can expect your child's report card to go home on Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions regarding your child's progress, please make arrangements to conference with his/her teacher.

## **MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019: School is IN Session**

This day was scheduled as a day off, however because of our recent snow-days in November, we will be making that day up on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Please adjust your family calendars accordingly.

## **Pro-life Pilgrimage to Washington D.C.**

There will be 20, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders with their chaperone making a pilgrimage to the PRO-LIFE MARCH on January 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. There is 43 people all together from Hermann attending the pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to help a person grow in their faith. As you know this enthusiastic group of teen-agers raised over \$6,000 in order to attend the march. Thank you very much for your generosity. We now ask that your family keeps these children and adults in your prayers while they are making their pilgrimage. Please pray for a safe trip, good weather and that God will work through them to build His Kingdom when they return.

## **HUMAN SEXUALITY GRADES K-8**

This year the school has adopted Tobet's *Theology of the Body* series to help the children understand their sexuality through the lens of the Catholic Church. This series will teach three basic principles: Gift of Self, Language of the Body, and Holiness. Although the series will address the physical part of sexuality, its overall focus is why the entire body (physical, emotional, spiritual) is a perfect creation of God's love for us. The teachers' are excited about the program. As always, you may preview any material that will be used in the program. Please call the office for a time if you would like to see the program. If you have any questions please direct them to your child's religion teacher.



## **Cold –n- Flu Season**

The cold and flu season is upon us! As a precaution if your child might be having signs of the flu please keep them at home. If your child is running a slight fever the night before or has been sent home with a fever, please remember that they need to be FEVER-FREE **24 hrs** before returning to school. Your full cooperation in following the rules is one sure way to help us combat the "flu bug".

## **DRESS CODE: Long sleeve shirts**

If your child chooses to wear a long-sleeve shirt under their polo it must be white. If they wear a long sleeve shirt under their yellow t-shirt then it may be black or white. There should be no writing on the sleeves of the shirt. The long-sleeve gray St. George spirit shirts are only to be worn on spirit days. Thanks for your full cooperation in this matter. Also, Coach Jett wanted me to

remind you that PE days are Monday and Thursday. Your child should wear tennis shoes on these days. Points are deducted when students don't come dressed appropriately for gym class.

**Lunch Days**

December . . . . . 14

January . . . . . 21

February . . . . . 20

**Catholic Schools' Week ... January 27-February 2 ... update of activities and events will follow.**

**God Bless,**

*Mrs. Julie Clingman*