

Ram Review

Principal's Message

The Challenge of Inclusion

We have now come to the end of our first trimester. The first few months of school are always difficult with so many new beginnings. But I've noticed in classrooms and on the playground that students are settling in. The uncertainty that existed early in the school year is not as apparent and the students are now feeling more comfortable with each other and with the expectations.

This was true in our recent liturgy on November 6th. I was amazed at how students truly became the "Community of Saints." Older buddy classes supported their younger friends and many parents witnessed the true spirit of community among the fifth-grade students. It made me appreciate

the one body and many parts of our school, and the closeness that comes with an intimate PS-8th grade program such as ours. I saw that students who didn't know what to do at a liturgy in September were now able to guide each other through parts of the mass. The liturgies always remind me how God is present to our students when they are together as one body.

Yet, being a truly inclusive community continues to be a challenge for us all. Students form their groups of friends early in preschool or kindergarten and these same groups follow them through to graduation. What might happen if we encourage and even foster students to break out of what is comfortable? I was made aware recently of a family at our school who schedules play dates with

EVERY student in the class over the course of the year, whether or not he/she is a friend of their child's. Imagine the school we'd have if each of us made that effort. Please continue to give thought, as I do, to what we can do as families to facilitate this cohesiveness between our children. I am attaching a copy of "How We Can Connect" that is posted in each classroom so that you can review this again at home and use it to guide discussion about this topic. Thank you.



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Board of Directors Update

The Mission Effectiveness Committee meets on Wednesday, November 18th. We are currently finalizing our mission statement and revising our philosophy and vision statements. Since these three essential components drive our goals and objectives, having a clear language and common understanding of these things is very important. Thank you to families and parishioners for their input in this process. This committee includes Committee Chair, *Gloria Dioszegi*, parents: *Victoria Kaufmann, Liz DeFrancesco, Nikki Maas*; and teachers: *Angela Rebol, David Teherani, and Patty Duffy*.

Our next Communications Committee meeting will be held Monday, December 10th with consultant, Richard Burke from Catholic Schools Management and Superintendent, Kim Pryzbylski. The team continues to create an annual communication plan including: an annual report, consistent *State of the School* addresses, a marketing calendar, timelines for philanthropy campaigns, ways of communication with parishes, and regular correspondence with parents. Thank you to parents: *Brian Schnack, Gary Byrne, Sandra Gresham, Meredith Feldsted, Chris Yoshida, and Rebecca Liljenstolpe* for being a part of this committee. Additionally, *Dominique Hansen* is formatting our annual newsletter this year and *April Muzzio* is creating our new brochure.

The Board of Directors will have its next meeting on Monday, January 11th. At that time, we hope to review the current fiscal year; discuss a new play structure for second and third grade; approve our revised mission, philosophy, and vision; and finalize our Strategic Plan, including specific action plans for four of our nine goals and objectives (development, curriculum, enrollment, and facilities).



Ram Review

KUDOS...

- ♥ to **Señor Yoshida** (dad of Logan in 1st grade) for creating and donating the K-4th grade Spanish music CDs. ¡Gracias!
- ♥ to **Kathy Thomas, Sharon Bargetto, Karen Shipley, and Randi LeBlanc** for their dedicated efforts in the Book Fair this year, recruiting volunteers and ensuring the continued success of this fun event.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Nov. 18 8:00 am Hot Lunch
Order Deadline
- Nov. 20 Report Cards
- Nov. 24 2nd Gr. Free Dress
- Nov. 25 Minimum Day
12:00 Dismissal
SEP Closed

Free Dress Day for
8th Gr. & VIP Students

Remember to check the calendar
& announcements on RenWeb.com

Calling all Good Shepherd

Families...

St. Joseph's will be having its first Children's Mass on Sunday, December 6th at 9 AM.

Fr. Matt is looking for student volunteers from our school to help him celebrate the Eucharist and explain the meaning of the Advent Wreath. We need at least 10 children from grades K-8 who can be a part of the procession and participate in a simple interactive homily with Fr. Matt--no prep needed and speaking parts are not required. We also need two 5th-8th graders who can help Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Gabrio light the candles on the Advent Wreath.

If you and your child are interested in being a part of the liturgy or want to learn more about the details, please contact **Lisa Holdaway** at **475-7445**. Teachers, staff, and families from all parishes are encouraged to attend and help Good Shepherd celebrate this very special Children's Mass.



While doing your Thanksgiving cooking remember to clip those Box Tops for Education. Each one is worth 10 cents.

A Thank You Note to The Good Shepherd Family

To The Good Shepherd Community:

On behalf of The Alliance For Children, thank you so much for your participation in our fall coat drive. Thanks to your generosity, we have distributed over 500 coats to children in Santa Cruz County.

Thanks again for your help in keeping kids warm this winter.

Eileen Donnelly
Volunteer, Alliance For Children

Do You Like to Cook or Bake?

Come Help Us with the Middle School Elective Program!

The second trimester of electives is beginning soon and we are looking for people who are willing to cook and/or bake with the children. Many of the middle school students love to cook and want it to be a part of the elective experience. You would be sharing your time and "yummys" with a small group of students. Ingredients are provided; we only need adults to lead the class. Elective time is Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:45 - 2:30. You could help every time or just specific days. Lead electives with a friend or on your own! Please contact Angela Rebol ASAP if you are interested in helping at arebol@gsschool.org or x25.

If cooking isn't your thing, how about Movie Making? Work with a small group of middle school students to create videos, skits, or stories. Make movies to show younger GSCS students and have fun! Elective time is Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:45 - 2:30. You could help every time or just specific days. Lead electives with a friend or on your own! Please contact Angela Rebol ASAP if you are interested in helping at arebol@gsschool.org or x25.

Teachers are present during electives, therefore you're never on your own. Class sizes are small and personal. It's a wonderful way to earn Parent Points, give back to our school, and learn more about our middle school program. Please Join the Fun!!!

FOOD DRIVE

Last day to turn in food is Wednesday, November 25th.

Thank you to everyone who has already participated!



Thanksgiving



This is our last full week of our fall food drive! The last day to drop off food is Wednesday, November 25th. The food will be delivered to St. Joseph's Church to benefit the St. Vincent De Paul Society throughout Santa Cruz County.

We appreciate all the help that has already been given and are excited about delivering more food in time for Thanksgiving for those still in need! Great ideas for this time of the year are stuffing, green beans, gravy packets, mashed potatoes, and canned fruits. Your generous donations of non-perishable food will nourish someone's body and spirit!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!!

How We Can Connect...

We can be friends.

That means:

- Spending time together
- Helping each other
- Playing with each other
- Sticking up for each other
- I like you and you like me.
- Trusting each other

We can be classmates but not friends.

That means:

- It's OK if we don't like each other.
- We are polite to each other.
- We are not mean to each other and we help each other in schoolwork and emergencies.
- We may stay away from each other.
- We may choose not to play with each other but we don't stop the other person from having friends.
- We do not try to hurt the other person.

We can be enemies.

Good Shepherd does not allow that and if we act like enemies there are consequences.

Being an enemy means:

- Hurting the other person's body or feelings
- Making fun of the other person
- Stopping the other person from having friends
- Starting or spreading rumors or lying about the other person to get them in trouble