

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School



October 19, 2020

THE NOTE!

I'm writing this on Sunday afternoon as clouds roll in. I'm not from a farming family, so I don't know if you guys are like, YES, a break, or NO, let me get finished with this harvesting. Whatever you wish for, I hope you get it.

I thanked the kids last week for how well they handled our first indoor recess day. It's not ideal, but winter is coming, so getting us all used to it is good. Our kids are so much tougher than we are! Thanks to our recess parents/grandparents for hanging in there!

This is a pretty quiet week with Friday off for conferences. Thanks to all of you for making it possible for me to say 100% of our families are having a Parent/Teacher conference! That's a BIG compliment to all of you and to our teachers.

WAY TO GO SAINTS!

As days continue to get shorter and the Presidential election gets closer, I just wanted to mention how important it is to watch how we discuss things around our kids. This year has been so negative and polarizing with so much happening in our country. Everyone seems to be on the defense. As I mentioned last week, the kids are internalizing some of that. So, please, as Father Dean mentioned at mass last week with our 6th-8th graders and this weekend, we are to show love and respect for everyone, even if they disagree with us or vote differently than us. We do our best to explain things to the kids who are old enough to have the conversation, which sometimes means explaining both sides of an issue, so they are prepared for discussions. If your son or daughter were to come home and talk about it, and you have any questions, please give his or her teacher a call. As one of our parents pointed out, we need to work together, parents and teachers, to make some of this understandable, but to always put faith first, which includes respect and love above all. Let's vow to be good Christians first – not Democrats or Republicans!



SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: Cheer 5:30-7 p.m.

Tuesday: Grade cards come home

Wednesday: **All-School Mass (5)**, AR party (2nd-8th), Cheer 5:30-7 p.m.

Thursday: Happy Birthday Father Dean!, Honor Roll presentation, P/T conferences 3:15-9:00 p.m.

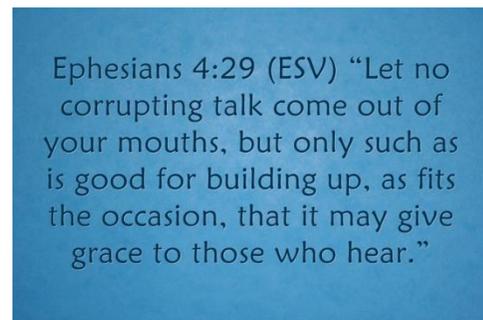
Friday: NO SCHOOL-P/T Conferences 8-10 a.m.

ATTACHED/IN PACKET: A.M. Bus slips, Gun Raffle Tickets, Gun Raffle Flyer, Porkburger Sale worker sign-up, Mission party information letter

- I had a parent approach me about helping conduct a fundraiser for a little guy in our community who is fighting cancer, **Waylon Dow**. Because my own children have always been healthy, this family's situation pulls at my heart and I'm sure it does yours too. So, I am asking all of you to chip in and help out if you are able. First, the **gun raffle** is just selling tickets. I'm sending some home with you today and if you need more, please let me know. Checks can be made to St. Thomas. Also, because Waylon's brother plays soccer with several of our students and his dad coaches, we thought a great place to have a **porkburger/hotdog sale** would be at their end-of-the-season tournament this Saturday at Farley Field. Alan Buerster is graciously letting us use his grill. I'm offering fair share hours to everyone who helps out and the sign-up sheet is in the packet today-work as long as you'd like. Please send it back in as soon as possible or email me. You can also help by posting the gun raffle flyer at work or somewhere around town. We will draw for the guns on Nov. 6th to allow us a little more time to sell tickets. What an awesome example of our virtue of Service for our kids to see. I know as a school family we, who have been so blessed, can do this to help the Dow family!
- Our 3rd-8th graders took home **bags of goodies** on Friday. Those were from the Jasper County Health Department in effort to encourage everyone to fill out the census. Unfortunately, the census was finished Oct. 15th instead of Oct. 31st as originally planned. Thanks to our health department for the work they put in to the bags.
- If you have misplaced your time for **conferences**, shoot me an email and I can tell you when it is. It's very important to be timely so the conferences stay on schedule. Thanks again for being such involved parents who value your child's education and their teachers.
- Just a reminder that **layers or coats** are a good idea. We're trying to keep the kids outside as much as possible for their needed mask break!
- We are working with Scott Avenue Christian Church to fill boxes for **Operation Christmas Child** through Samaritan's Purse. Your child(ren)'s teacher may be asking for a small donation. I know we do a lot of giving, but always know to just

do what you can. I'm wondering if the Christmas spirit will be less generous this year due to COVID-19 affecting our businesses and families so drastically. If you still can, thanks for your help! Be watching for the teachers to let you know what they need. Thanks!

- **Grade cards** will come home tomorrow. I plan to hand out **honor roll** certificates for 5th-8th Thursday morning. I encouraged our kids this morning, especially the older ones, to start this quarter strong. Before we know it we'll be playing sports, so getting our grades up now when we aren't as busy is important.
- The 8th grade is asking for some **clean 20 oz soda bottles** for some of the games they are playing. If you drink one, and don't mind to wash it out, send them in. Thanks!



In the book I'm reading, [I Heard God Laugh](#), by Matthew Kelly, it focuses on how prayer is an essential daily habit. It provides direction for praying at least once during your busy day:

1. Gratitude (begin by thanking God), 2. Awareness (Admit to your shortcomings), 3. Significant Moments (Identify something you experienced), 4. Peace (Ask for forgiveness), 5. Freedom (How does God want to change your life or see change through you), 6. Others (Lift up others to God), 7. Finish (Pray the Our Father)

Sometimes it's just nice to have some direction!

Have a great week. Let me know if you need anything. I hope many of you can help Saturday or will find success in selling the raffle tickets. Keep Waylon Dow and his family in your daily prayers.

Jill