

# PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

"Education cannot be neutral. It is either positive or negative; either it enriches or it impoverishes; either it enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him. The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients." -Pope Francis

## Highlights



Our volleyball, football, and cross country teams are off to a great start. **Go Vikings!**

Our **after-school clubs begin this week.** Master Builders and Club de Español will meet on Monday, Drama and Book Club will meet on Tuesday, and STEM on Thursday. Clubs run for 6 weeks. See flyer for dates.

PTG has started our next school fundraiser- Cookie Dough Sale. Don't forget to stock up for those unexpected dinner guests or a last minute dessert solution!



Our students raised **\$564.75** for Hurricane Harvey victims with the Shorts for Harvey Day. We will continue to plan ways to support other victims of natural disasters in upcoming weeks. Relief funds are needed well beyond the time of the disaster as communities work for months and years to rebuild and recover from the devastation. Thank you for supporting your student's desire to help others in need.

## "Many Ingredients" Indeed

When I read the quote above by Pope Francis for the first time, it brought me back to the moment in my life when I realized my career in education would be an important part of my life forever. As the first in my family to receive a college degree and go on to pursue a graduate degree, I was sitting in my first class at UCLA and reminded myself why I had decided to become a teacher. I had been fortunate to have had many teachers open my eyes to the beauty and goodness of the world. From the literature they chose, to the projects and field trips they planned, every decision was intentional and required action on their part. They were the reason I knew about photosynthesis, Calculus, Mars, tectonic plates, and so on. Their carefully orchestrated lessons enriched my understanding of the world, while their kindness, patience, care, and dedication were what Jesus modeled as a teacher so many years ago.

I also thought of my parents and how they believed a good education would lay the foundation for a better future. They had made many sacrifices to put my brother and I through Catholic schools, and for that I have always been so grateful. I also knew it took the dedication of many teachers to help me get to that very moment. I could not pinpoint one particular individual as the role model for the teacher I was hoping to become. Rather, I sat there remembering the many teachers who showed great care in who I was, challenged my thinking, and who had encouraged me when I had wanted to give up. I knew somehow I needed to be more like them for each of my students. My teachers and coaches were the many "ingredients" along my journey, and soon I would become one for the young learners in my classroom.

Sixteen years later, I am transported to this moment with a few simple words by Pope Francis that embody what I believe to be



## Gratitude Corner

**THANK YOU** to our fabulous coaches who volunteer their time to develop athletic and collaborative skills amongst our students. Our coaches are: Mrs. Guerro, Mrs. Morand, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Valencia, Mr. Vasquez, Mr. Alamat, Mr. Fox, Mr. Chupek, and Mr. Bettencourt. We could not run a successful athletics program without their commitment and dedication. I would also like to thank Mr. Grant, our athletic director who oversees the whole program.

## Development News



The annual Development BBQ is **Saturday, October 14th** from **11am-2pm**. We will be selling Santa Maria style Tri-tip plates for \$12 and hotdogs for \$2. Don't forget to turn in your order. You are welcome to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy fellowship with our school community- present families, past alumni, and friends of St. Joseph School.

true about education and what our students experience at St. Joseph School. One might argue the “sense of truth” is what is taught and outlined in the curriculum, standards, and policies of our academic institution. But as Christians we know using our time, talent, and gifts to do God’s will is what brings us closer to Him and the truth. Schools are the perfect place to help each student develop the skills needed to succeed in life. At St. Joseph, we also take the opportunity to model how to serve others in our community, pursue dreams, respect others as children of God, and face challenges with humility, patience, and love.

Students do not forget about their experiences here. Many return to visit on their first day off from high school to see their buddy from kindergarten or check in with former teachers. They love to share about their new reality and experiences after leaving St. Joseph. The truth is they know and believe our teachers continue to care for them well beyond the day they graduate.

There is no question we ask our students to work hard and persevere. We know students will make mistakes as they work to achieve their personal and academic goals. But together we commit to working through the challenges, learning from one another, and celebrating the successes. Parents and teachers are the many ingredients in the life of a child. I pray for the guidance and wisdom of how to best show them the way to a truth that “is good and beautiful.” I commit myself to help prepare a generation that will know and live out the Christian values we believe will bring about a world filled with greater peace and love.

*Mrs. Alamo-Ng*



## Reminders

Progress Reports for grades 3-8 will be sent home this week. Please view these as a communication tool to help families stay informed about their child’s progress to date. It is a great opportunity to discuss with your child what their academic goals are, acknowledge their areas of challenges, and together establish routines and strategies for studying and completing homework to support their journey towards success.

## Parish News

Please join Fr. Tim in the church on **Thursday mornings at 7:15am** for shared prayer.

The St. Joseph Parish Festival will take place **October 20-22, 2017**. There is **NO SCHOOL** on **Friday, October 20th**. If you would like to learn about how you can participate in this community event, please contact Carolyn Hite at 909-981-8110 ext. 16. We hope you and your family will come and enjoy the rides, food, and entertainment. It is a great way to support our parish and school.



## Good Neighbors

In recent weeks, we have received several complaints regarding parents parking in handicapped spaces and leaving their cars in the fire lane after school when picking up students from ESC or sports. Some cars have been blocked in the parking spaces near the office door for long periods of time because parents are watching or waiting for their child to finish practice. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK AND LEAVE YOUR CAR** in the fire lane. Thank you for your cooperation.

Students in ESC must always be signed out by someone on the emergency card.

All School **Mass** and **Flag** on **Friday, October 6th**. Rev. Msgr. Wallace will be our Celebrant. **Noon dismissal**.

**ESC pizza orders** for Friday, October 6th **MUST BE** turned in by Thursday, October 5th by 3:00PM. The updated cost is **\$3.50** for a slice of pizza, chips, and drink. An extra slice of pizza is \$1.00.

**Blessing of the Animals** is **Friday, October 6th** in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4th). The blessing will take place at **11:40am** on the school field. All families are invited to bring their pets for a blessing. Please remember animals **MUST** be on a leash or in a cage for the safety of all children. Plan to arrive early to park. Students remain with their teachers until parents arrive. If your child is not able to bring an animal, they may bring a picture or stuffed animal for a blessing.

**Cookie Dough** orders are **DUE** Monday, October 9th.

**STAR Testing** window ends Tuesday, October 10th.

**Read-a-thon** begins Monday, October 16th and ends Monday, October 30th.

**NO SCHOOL** on **Friday, October 20th** (Parish Festival) and **Friday, October 27th** (Diocesan Inservice for Teachers).

7th & 8th grade parents- Information regarding the **Damien High School Math Competition** will be sent home soon. The date of the competition is **Saturday, December 9th**.

Student Council will announce October activities throughout the month.

## Got Robotics?

We still need a coach for the Damien Robotics Competition. If you are interested, please let us know.

*Don't forget to check our website for current events and updated school information at [www.stjosephupland.org](http://www.stjosephupland.org).*