

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

"No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks." -St. Ambrose



Gratitude Corner

Thank you to all the families who donated food items for the Seniors' Thanksgiving Dinner.

A special thank you to Dena Larson (7th grade room parent), Mrs. Martinez, and all the 7th graders and their families for hosting such a beautiful event.

The guests expressed their gratitude for a delicious meal and the attentive service given by our students. Thanks to the businesses, organizations, and families who made significant donations that enabled us to serve 320 meals and continue this beautiful tradition started 36 years ago by Sr. Celine Walsh. We were also blessed to have the 4th grade class perform. Thanks to Mrs. Bowen and Ms. Brown for preparing the students.

Thanks to the Boy Scouts for donating \$100 to Development from their drink sales at the BBQ. I would also like to thank Mr. Hale and the Boy Scouts from Troop 3600 who led the Color Guard for our Veterans' Day Flag Ceremony.

Thanks to all our traffic duty parent volunteers who show up each day to implement safety protocols aimed at ensuring our students are safe upon their arrival at school. We also appreciate all the parents who respectfully follow the protocols each day.

Thank you to our 2nd grade families for putting on a beautiful faculty luncheon on November 3rd.

Service and Thanksgiving

During this time of year, the countless throw pillows splashed with thank you across them, and the smell of pumpkin spice in the air, serve as reminders we have entered the season for giving thanks. The rich colors of a bountiful harvest give way to images of autumn and beautiful dinner tables set with our favorite traditional meals shared by families and friends on Thanksgiving. Usually, this is also the time we remember to write down all the things we are grateful for in the journal we forgot we started years ago, prayerfully give thanks to God for the people in our lives, or find opportunities to give back to our community because we recognize the many blessings in our lives, such as food, clean water, shelter, clothing, and employment.

St. Joseph School is no different. During this time, students, teachers, and families come together to give thanks and give back to our community and others in need around the world. Classes brainstorm a variety of service learning projects to help alleviate challenges imposed by economic hardships or natural disasters, such as fundraisers for earthquake and fire victims or supporting a school in Sampa, Ghana to complete necessary projects. Our children regularly model the values of service to others, exemplifying what it means to be a vibrant Catholic and responsible citizen of God's creation.



We also have long standing traditions such as our Senior Citizens' Thanksgiving Dinner, donating regularly to the Missions, hosting food drives for His Hands, and adopting families at Christmas. These have become signature projects our students look forward to year after year.

I recently read a reflection by Mikayla Anderson on a quote from St. Ambrose that emphasizes the importance of showing our gratitude to others.



A friend recently shared an article that highlights some concerns educators have spoken about over the years. As a parent of young children, I appreciated the reminder of what I could do to support my daughters in their ability to “successfully function on social, emotional, and academic levels.” If you wish to read it, here is the link:

<http://deeproootsathome.com/kids-bored-entitled/>

PTG Fundraising

See's Candy Sales end this Wed, Nov. 15th.



Is your child tired of the same old books? Have no fear, the Scholastic Book Fair is here!



Stop by the school library 11/13-11/17.

PTG will be selling tickets for the **January 13th** Ontario Reign game during this week's parent teacher conferences. Stop by the table near the book fair.



PTG invited Kay Presto, an author and longtime parishioner of St. Joseph, to speak to our 4th-8th grade students. We appreciated hearing her inspirational story as an auto racing journalist. Her new book *Chasing the Checkered Flag* is available at our book fair.

“When people are thankful and they let others know, they are recognizing the work others do to serve them. As Catholics, we strive to imitate Jesus, who is the Servant and came to serve us during His time on earth. When we are not thankful, we are not recognizing Christ and the value of the other person.”

In addition to serving others, it is just as important to show and give thanks to those who serve us. A few weeks ago, the St. Joseph community expressed their gratitude to the Presentation Sisters who established a beacon of love, light, and hope through their service to our school and parish over the past 62 years. We honored them by celebrating the Holy Eucharist, witnessing the renewal of their vocational vows, sharing a meal together, and dedicating the parish hall in their name- Presentation Hall. I was inspired and overwhelmed with emotion as I met each Sister and heard their St. Joseph story. That night, as I carefully placed the lantern passed on to me by Sr. Mary back on the shelf in my office, I softly whispered “thank you” into the silence of the air around me for their beautiful example of service and deep love of God and neighbor.



Saying thank you to others is something that brings me great joy. The hard work and dedication of all stakeholders working together is what makes St. Joseph the wonderful place it is. The intention of the Gratitude Corner in each newsletter is to always remember we have much to be thankful for and to foster a culture of appreciation and gratitude. The fact it lives in a document I open frequently reminds me to look for moments of gratitude throughout my day.

How about saying thank you to our own parents, spouses, children, and friends that day in and day out perform small acts of kindness to show their love and support? How often do I say thank you to them for their endless examples of Christ's love in my life? As I reflected on the topic of thanksgiving for this newsletter, I recommitted myself to expressing gratitude more often to my family. Maybe you too will think of someone in your life that could benefit from hearing those two precious words.

Lately, I have been especially grateful for cozy slippers, messy pig tails, and time playing with my girls.

I would also like to express my gratitude to God for all of you in my life and the opportunity to serve you.

I pray you will enjoy a safe, relaxing, and blessed Thanksgiving surrounded by family and friends. May God bless all of you as we gather at His table of plenty.



*Many blessings,
Mrs. Alamo-Ng*

Bishop's Endowment Fund

The Bishop's Endowment Fund applications are now available in the school office for families in need of tuition assistance. Please be aware there are strict guidelines regarding documentation and deadlines. We encourage you to pick up the application as soon as possible.

What We've Been Up To

School Financial Statement- Each November we present a financial statement reflecting income and expenses from the prior school year. Please see the statement for 2016-2017 sent along with this newsletter.

Student Success Team (SST)- One of the action goals identified in our WASC/WCEA report was to establish a Student Success Team. This fall a group of teachers began meeting monthly to help colleagues who are looking for best practices in supporting students with behavioral, academic, and social and emotional learning challenges. The SST utilizes a documentation process for clearly defining goals for students, tracking strategies implemented for an extended period of time, and analyzing learning outcomes.

We have also started to work on our Math In-depth study.

Honoring Our Veterans

On Friday, November 10th, we came together to honor veterans in our community. It was beautiful to see many of our parents, grandparents, and extended family members in the crowd alongside our scouts in uniform showing their respect for our



flag and what it represents. We are grateful to all the men and women who served our country to defend our freedom. May God bless them and protect those on active duty around the world.



Upcoming Events...

Our Trimester 1 Science Lab students will be hosting the first of three science fairs planned for the school year. We are proud of the work they have done and will showcase their projects on **Wednesday, November 15th from 12:35-4:00pm.**

Our football and volleyball playoff games are **this upcoming weekend!** All are invited to come and cheer for our dedicated athletes who have done a superb job all season. They will play at Aquinas High School in San Bernardino. Look for the schedule in reminders later this week.

Parent Teacher Conferences are **Thursday, November 16th and Friday, November 17th.** If you need to reschedule your appointment, please call the school office and leave a message for your child's teacher.

Thanksgiving Break is **Monday, November 20-Friday, November 24th.** **Classes resume on Monday, November 27th.** Enjoy the time together with family and friends. May God protect you on your travels and bless you beyond measure this Thanksgiving holiday.

Bishop's Golf Tournament is **Thursday, December 7th.** Thanks to all the families for purchasing raffle tickets. We hope one of you will be the lucky winner of a new car!

Damien Mathematics Competition is **Saturday, December 9th.** Our students are registered and will begin to prepare for their individual and team exams. We look forward to having them represent St. Joseph School.

Our Christmas Program will be held in the church on **Thursday, December 14th at 6:00pm.** Our first trimester 7th and 8th grade music students are busy memorizing lines and Ms. Brown is rehearsing all the students' angelic voices. You will not want to miss this display of St. Joseph School talent!

Don't forget to check our website for current events and updated school information at www.stjosephupland.org.