

August 2015

Warm salutations to All,

With a new school year around the corner, we await with anticipation Pope Francis's visit. In a more local sense, parents and teachers alike begin again with expectations of a successful learning and growing experience for all the children. This letter and accompanying literature is intended to provide information and reminders that can help families get off to the best start. We are in earnest that the 2015 -16 school year be a positive one for all.

Changes since last year that highlight the beginning of the new school year include:

- The Pre K 3 classroom has been expanded in size
- Classroom aide time in Grade 1 and Pre K 3 and 4 has been increased
- The acquisition of a new Science program for grades K-4 and an update of the program for grades 5-8
- Adding some extra Spanish instructional time for upper grades
- The adoption of a new Religion series for grades 1-5 that is more in sync with our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program
- The hiring of an additional school nurse who will be with us on a part-time basis daily
- The addition of a beautiful new statue of Mary in our front yard

Please review your back to school mailing (sent in August) for information including calendars, forms, online resources, faculty, dropoff/pickup, and school uniforms.

Most sincerely,

Bruce Hagy

## **Calendars, Forms, and Other Information**

Please retain the calendars received in your mailing in a prominent spot in the house for reference throughout the school year. Also know that the calendars are tentative. As the school year progresses, circumstances arise that sometimes lead to adjustments. Therefore, it is important to review the weekly reminders that are sent to you electronically on Tuesdays as changes in schedules are noted. In addition, a hard-copy, monthly calendar is sent home in the Family Envelope at the beginning of each month which reiterates what is on the yearly calendar and posts any changes. Our calendars are also uploaded onto Google Calendar and are updated as changes occur. This packet is a start but not the end of all you'll need to know as we progress through the year. Information will continue to flow to you on a weekly basis.

As we did last year to alleviate too much summer paperwork, a **School Policies folder** will be sent home in the first Home Envelope. This folder will contain our updated *School Handbook, Code of Courtesy, Anti-bullying Policy and Procedures and Use of School Technology Policy*. Teachers will review these policies with all students in the first days of school. Please review these policies at home and return to school the forms included attesting to your family's intent to support the policies.

## Faculty and Staff

Our staff for the 2015-2016 school year will be:

<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Richard Leonard
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Susan Canio
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Lauren Gorman
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Nancy Rowbottom
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Melissa Logan
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	Megan Kletzel
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	Nancy Weir
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	Samantha Bucci
<b>Kindergarten</b>	Vikki Mayberry
<b>PK4</b>	Michele Snyder
<b>PK3</b>	Kat Dumenigo
<b>Library</b>	Diane Luffy Sister Theresa Cargan
<b>Spanish</b>	Mariem Silva
<b>Technology</b>	Melissa Nash
<b>Art</b>	Liz Lasek
<b>Physical Education</b>	Debra Pave
<b>Advanced &amp; Horizons Math</b>	Emelie Sutter
<b>Catechesis of the Good Shepherd</b>	Betsy Puntel Linda Manuel Gail Toto
<b>Music</b>	Elise Malizia
<b>Aides</b>	Chris Brennan- Hagy Liz Lasek Chiara Lattanzio Kathleen Powell Stacey Fogel

Ms. Lauren Gorman will be taking over our 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Ms. Gorman was our Math specialist last school year and had a great year with her students. Ms. Gorman holds a BS and Master's degree in Education. Ms. Emelie Sutter will be taking over the Math specialist role. Ms. Sutter is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a BS in Psychology. She also holds a Master's of Science in Education from St. Joseph's University with a concentration in Math and Science. Ms. Sutter comes to us with high recommendation.

Ms. Susan Canio will remain in the position of 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, a role she stepped into when Mrs. Bihun moved to Wisconsin last April. Ms. Canio holds a BS in Education and has been an upper grade teacher in the Archdiocese for over 36 years. Mrs. Malizia and Mr. Leonard have worked with Ms Canio in the past and are happy to be able to do so again. Ms. Canio's experience and dedication to Catholic education are superior. We are fortunate to have her with us.

Also, continuing on in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, (the position she filled during the course of last school year) will be Ms. Samantha Bucci. Ms. Bucci holds dual Pre K – 4 and Special Education degrees and certification. Ms. Bucci had a very positive experience with us last year and we are happy to have her back.

Our long-time Early Childhood teacher, Ms. Gallagher, announced her departure at the end of last school year. Mrs. Kat Dumenigo will be our new Pre K 3 teacher. Mrs. Dumenigo received her BS in Early Childhood Education from the University of Delaware and a Master's in Education from Chestnut Hill College. She is certified in Early Childhood Education and as a Reading Specialist. She is excited to join us.

The addition of our new faculty brings the total number of Masters degrees in our population to twelve which is quite good for a small elementary school.

Finally, Mrs. Joanne Ravasco will join our staff. Mrs. Ravasco is a certified, registered nurse at Chestnut Hill Hospital and one of our mothers. She will be with us on gym days and at lunch recess to address any scrapes, bumps or bruises that occur in the course of the children's play and activity. We are expecting that as in the past, the School District of Philadelphia will continue to provide a nurse to do all physical examinations and maintain school medical records. We are fortunate to have Mrs. Ravasco with us. Please be welcoming to all of our new staff.

## **Support Services**

As was anticipated, the Archdiocese engaged a new organization to supply support services to its schools. Instead of the Elwyn Inc., CORA has been given the contract for this year. This organization has been a part of Diocesan services for many years in different parts of the city. CORA will be providing the same services to our school that Elwyn provided but of course with new personnel. It is our understanding that the number of hours dedicated to our school for these services will increase which will further benefit those students in need. Title 1 services have been transferred to an organization called CATAPULT. We had one specialist last year through Title 1 and have not heard as of this writing in regards to her replacement.

## **Online Resources**

The MYSTUDENTPROGRESS student information system will be accessible when school starts. By popular demand we have decided to maintain the TEACHERWEB program that has proved so useful for the teachers in communicating class activities, work and reminders.

## **School Uniforms**

All students are to be in the proper school uniform for the first day of school. This includes the proper school shoes. The school gym uniform will be needed starting the week of September 14th. Specifics regarding uniforms can be found in our **Handbook of School Policies**.

## **Rules for Dropoff and Pickup**

Please be mindful of the flow of traffic in the school parking lot and review the instructions included. Two important points that need emphasis are:

1. Please do not leave your car unattended in the central area of the lot in the morning or at dismissal. If you are walking your child over to school, please park along the spaces facing Norwood Avenue
2. Please keep your children at your side at dismissal. For safety's sake, children cannot be left to wander or play in or around the lot.

Thank you in advance for helping us maintain a safe and efficient drop-off and pick-up.