



September 29, 2019

Dear Parents,

It seems like we just got here and in the blink of an eye September is over. Where did it go? As the saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun!" so we must be having really good fun at SVMS because September has flown by. The stage has been set for a tremendously good and positive year and the flashing smiles would light up the night sky.

I have spent much time in most classrooms this past week and I have come away from each room with a great sense of gratitude for our teachers and for your children who contribute great information to accentuate the curriculum. I am very impressed with everything I am seeing from our little ones in PreK3 to our big students in 8th grade. The level of teaching and learning is very high and the atmosphere is very conducive to learning. The interactions between the teachers and the students are excellent and I have learned many interesting facts myself! Visiting classrooms is the highlight of my position as principal as well as being in

the cafeteria. You children are in very good hands and I have no doubt that this will be a very successful academic year.

Great vibes radiated from the cafeteria at the New Family Reception on Friday evening. All of the children have settled in and it was lovely to see the new and the 'old' parents mix and mingle so well. By now the hope is that SVMS has soaked enough into your bones and marrows for you to feel a part of the fabric of this school. I thank most sincerely Erin Nallin and Carrie Ritchie for coordinating this event year in year out. They make it look so easy but I know that much work goes on behind the scenes. Thank you also to so many who contributed goodies to this event. The hospitality gene that is so present in parents is brilliantly radiated in your children each day. Thank you for teaching them this valuable lesson by osmosis.

On September 30th each year the Diocesan Schools Office bell rings demanding many reports, policies and paperwork. These documents have been shared through Google folders. We have an updated Emergency Operations Plan, Pandemic Plan, Integrated Pest Management Plan, Asbestos Plan and Concussion Plan. Financial Reports, a Marketing Plan, standardized testing data, teacher files data and professional development plans are also submitted for review and approval. Teachers have developed Student Growth Objectives that outline how their teaching will improve knowledge, comprehension and application of required information in each grade level and subject area. They also form comprehensive lesson plans that ensure all of prescribed standards are taught. This presents a very splendid portfolio of teaching and learning at SVMS. We are very blessed to have the staff that we have.

Our sports season has already begun with soccer, volleyball and track in full swing. The coaches have been practicing hard and some games have been played already. The children are having a blast and there is much buzz around the school. It is healthy to provide the children with outlets through sport and we are lucky at SVMS to have so many parent-volunteers step up to the plate to be with the athletes. Sports is a great community builder and I love that cross-country, soccer and volley span the grade levels with volleyball being co-ed. You will be receiving information about basketball soon so be on the lookout!

We are doing very well with our new security initiatives. Thank you all for being so supportive. I know that change can be hard but this is all for a very good cause -

the safety of your children. We have become much better at making sure that the children have lunch and also that they come to school with all of the supplies that they need. Items left in the bins has lessened so I thank you for working with us on this. Please be reminded that uniform exchange access is only before school and right after school. We will be changing into winter uniforms soon so it is good to know the access times.

Our lost and found bin is full and brimming over. Please be aware that if your child has lost any item, it more than likely is in the lost and found bin. This blue bin is labeled "Lost and Found" and is located behind the front desk under a table as you go down the First grade hallway. Be sure to label all of your children's uniforms with permanent marker. In the warm weather this past week the children tended to toss the sweatshirts so having them labeled helped to locate the owners.

We suffered some sadness in our school this past week with the unexpected death of Bridget Mantone's brother, Nicky Costa. I know that you will all pray for Bridget and her family and offer your support. May Nicky be resting in the loving embrace of our loving God and may the family's belief in the resurrection bring them comfort.

At prayer this past week we marveled at God's creation as told in the Book of Genesis. Take time this week to observe the glory of the Lord is revealed in the resplendent trees changing color. May God be praised!

Blessings,
Sr. Noreen