

January 24, 2020
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Dear Parents,

Important Dates:

Saturday, January 25th- St. Chris Fish Fry- Athletic Association

Sunday, January 26th- St. Christopher Open House- 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Monday, January 27th- Beginning of Catholic Schools Week (CSW)

Tuesday, January 28th - Band Concert @ 12:15 PM, with Spelling Bee to follow (Parents are invited to attend both events)

- St. Chris Town Hall Meeting- 7:00 PM in the Church

Wednesday, January 29th- All Schools Catholic School Mass at St. Luke Parish at 10:00 (we will have 20 students attending).

-School Mass at 8:00 am. (K of C will be present to handout awards for the Vocation Writing Winners

Thursday, January 30th- **St. Chris Town Hall Meeting- 7:45 AM in the Emmaus Center**

Notes:

-It is always good to get back from vacation (the Mrs. and I had booked this vacation before I was committed to being the interim principal), but as usual there is always some issue to arise upon return. So let me inform you to the best of my ability on recent happenings at the school.

a) Gas Smell- a gas smell was detected in a classroom on Thursday. The VBFD was notified and verified that there was not a problem and conditions were safe. Apparently there is an old and inactive gas line that emits the odor of gas when it becomes wet. This old line will be capped and this should eliminate the problem.

b) A water leak has been found (a noticeable increase in the month's water bill created an alert) and necessitated the closing of school as the water line to the school had to be shut off. It is being worked on as I write this correspondence and the hope is that the leak can be found and the repairs made quickly.

c) The lice issue continues. We have had 15 students excluded from school due to either having lice or the nits (eggs). It has been mostly a primary grade issue, especially first and second grade. At the west end of the building the grade K-2 students are now putting their jackets and hats into plastic bags to keep clothing articles separated. We are working closely with the St. Chris Child Care Center to neutralize exposure and they are taking active steps to assist in eliminating the problem.

d) A student excluded from school due to a lice issue will not be able to return to class until being treated and confirmed by the school office (nurse) that the problem is resolved and no lice or nits are present.

-Town Hall Meetings- attendance at one of the two meetings times is required. 2020-21 tuition will be revealed, new registration procedures, the application process for the new Christ- Bearer Scholarship, information on our new tuition management system, and updated information and materials on Ed Choice will be presented. It has been told to me numerous times the need for continual communication from the school to our families. This is the opportunity we are providing so that you are well informed. Looking forward to seeing everyone next week at one of the meetings.

-Catholic Schools Week begins on Monday. I have attached the schedule to this correspondence that was originally sent home via a paper memo earlier in the week. This is a fun week with a general theme (Disney characters and a virtue), multiple activities breaking up the daily grind, and spiritual events to emphasize our Catholic Identity. The building presents itself with much art work, door displays and other hallway features. The atmosphere created is a very inviting place for a child to receive an education.

-Open House- it is certainly our hope that you make it a point to attend this Sunday's Open House. It is a relaxed and festive time in which you get a chance to explore your child's classroom and visit with faculty and other school community members. The time is from 10:00 AM (after the 9:00 Mass) till 1:00 PM.

Reprint from an article I wrote for a school publication while principal of Bishop Leibold School, dated Spring of 2014.

"Those Who Stay Will Be Champions"

My football officiating has taken me to many distinguished stadiums in the country including the "Big House" at the University of Michigan. Because officials get to see the more private places in the stadium, I was struck by a quote on their indoor facility door from their famed coach, Bo Schembechler, "Those who stay will be CHAMPIONS." The message was clear: if you met the expectations of the program, challenged yourself to be the best you could become, and dedicated your efforts beyond anyone's comprehension, you would reach a level of excellence that would make you successful. I made an instant parallel to the growth I see in students as a nine year principal of Bishop Leibold School.

I remember looking at the 2006 kindergarten class- my first year at Bishop Leibold. Those students have developed into champions spiritually and academically. When we examine Bishop Leibold's standardized test scores, we note that our eight grade students consistently score three and four grade equivalencies above where they are placed in school. But in order to make our students "champions" in society, we believe that it is also essential to integrate the Fruits of the Holy Spirit into all that we do. Love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control- virtues taught in strong Christian homes- are embodied in our students' education. We see love in our children's interactions with the Church and with others. The numerous school and community service projects in which we participate exemplify Joy. Peace and goodness lead us when we address social justice issues with our students. Social skills such as conflict resolution utilize the virtues of patience, kindness and gentleness. Self-control is a necessary virtue for students to reach their academic potential. Faithfulness shines when our students receive the sacraments either for the first time or weekly Mass.

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are part of the total, cumulative package we provide at Bishop Leibold. The possession of these virtues along with a strong academic foundation propels and blesses our students beyond the expectations we had dreamed for them when they were kindergartners.

While the high academic expectations are at the forefront of our proven scholastic success, I believe that our spiritual grounding is essential in making our students “champions” in life. I do believe that those students who embrace these Christian ideals- ideals we emphasize and nurture at Bishop Leibold—will replicate what Bo says, “Those who stay will be CHAMPIONS”. When we follow Christ’s model, we are CHAMPIONS!”

(it would be so easy for me to substitute St. Chris for Bishop Leibold in this article. As a faculty and staff we are grooming your children to be champions. It does not happen overnight, but you give us nine years and they will become champions.)