

December 6, 2019

Upcoming Dates:

Saturday, December 7th- The Robo Raptors robotics team #1923 competes this Saturday, 12/7/19 at the Air Force Museum- Good Luck to our Falcon Team.

Wednesday, December 11th- Videographer will be filming on site - promotional video for website

Thursday, December 12th- Band Concert and Christmas Musical

Thursday, December 19th- Student Out of Uniform Day- Wear Green, White and Red with your favorite Christmas sweater.

Friday, December 20th- Last Day of School before Christmas break

News:

- Next week a videographer (St. Chris parent) will be in the building filming highlights of our school for the St. Chris School website. To date we have only three students who are not to be filmed or have their picture taken for public purposes. If you do not want your child's picture taken please notify the school office and complete the necessary paperwork.
- Next week on the St. Chris facebook page we will be featuring classroom activities of the kindergarten classes. The following week we will feature the first grade.
- We are moving forward with a marketing plan with the assistance of pastoral associate Mary Lauterbach. Our plan is to direct our efforts in several paths.
 - 1) St. Chris pre-school and other Daycare facilities.
 - 2) Student retention of our current St. Chris families.
 - 3) Market to our GIFT students grades 5 to 7.
 - 4) Outreach to St. John's Parish.
 - 5) Dispense information on the EdChoice scholarships.

As current families of our school, the administration realizes that your voice is the most important aspect in promoting and selling our school and program.

Highlights of the Week:

- Seeing some of the young students holding hands with their "prayer partner" as they enter church. What a sense of security these young students have when with their partner!
- I began doing formal observations of the teaching staff this week. The observations just confirmed what I believed. The teachers are child centered, knowledgeable in their field, are using best practices and utilizing technology in their lessons. This is a strong teaching faculty.
- Getting to know more and more of the parents of St. Chris. Please introduce yourself when in the building so I can begin connecting children with their parents.
- Noticing the great art work that is on display in the school hallways. Take notice when you are in the building.

Recent testimonial from a 2016 graduate of St. Chris School- Erin McGraw

"St. Christopher has shaped my academic drive and resilience. I am a well- rounded student and I work to the best that I can do because of the standards set at St. Chris. My values and morals are no doubt based in my education at St.Chris and I am able to rebound from life's disappointments. I have learned

to be compassionate of others as well as empathetic. This has only grown since my years at St. Chris because of the firm foundation I received in grade school.”

Reprint from an article I wrote for a school publication, dated Winter of 2014.

“Jesus, I bring my family before you right now. Please come, and release your healing love and grace into our lives.”

I have been a parent for over thirty years now and an educator for 39 years. I have been witness to the frustrations and struggles of parenthood in my office multiple times and in my own home, too. As parents, we do suffer when our children make poor choices, do not listen to our advice, are not meeting our family standards, agonize over personal decisions, or demonstrate a poor attitude. It is tough to see our kids suffer and struggle! It is painful to see that child of ours, the one for whom we have such high dreams and expectation, not progress forward. Much of our personal happiness is because we gain meaning to the purpose of our lives through the parenting of our children. Sometimes our kids’ lives get messy, so when things go wrong, it is a painful experience. Illness, failure, rejection, difficult life circumstances, and disappointing Mom and Dad are life events that enter into our imperfect lives and those of our children. They are tough to confront and accept. A parent will eventually feel that their influence and parental role is compromised. And I do not know of any parent that has at one time or another not felt a sense of loss as their child becomes their own person and seeks independence.

Please know the Holy Family experienced the struggles and joys of parenthood, too. Events such as the birth of Jesus, the flight into Egypt, the wedding feast of Cana and the passion of Christ bring to mind that even the holiest of families experienced joy, peril and heartache. Recall the finding in the temple, when after three days, Mary and Joseph’s anxiety turns to joy and relief when they find Jesus “sitting in the midst of the doctors, hearing them, and asking questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his wisdom.” (Luke 2:46- 47)

Parenting is a difficult exercise, one that is there for a lifetime and one in which our training is minimal. I wonder how many of us seek Jesus to assist us and intercede in our role as a parent. In the gospel of Mark, a man named Jairus came near Jesus and appealed to him for the sake of his young daughter: “Please come and lay your hands on her so that she may get well and live.” I don’t believe God wants us to fill the enormous role of a parent by ourselves. Do we ask Him for wisdom, for patience and compassion? Do we simply ask for His help? Do we have faith in God that He truly has a deep and strong love for our children and families? Lord, give us the strength and guidance to make wise decisions as we face the ever- present challenges of parenthood.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Paul Beyerle