



The Principal's Communicator

Volume 5, Issue 35 (Total: 1,004)

June 10, 2011

Closing Thoughts

The dreaded June 10th has finally arrived. Back in October when it was announced officially that St. Matthew School would join Corpus Christi, St. Catherine's, and St. Mary of Assumption to form the new All Saints Catholic School, the end of the year seemed so far away. The mood with the students and teachers is different from any other year – yes we want summer vacation, but no, St. Matthew School will be no more.

Declining enrollment, increase in tuitions, decline in family income, increase in the number of schools in the area have all played a part in why our beloved school is closing. In order to keep Catholic Education in our area, a consolidation of schools had to occur. All Saints will have input from our parishioners in all areas and programs. Our Catholic School will grow and prosper because we, the parishioners and families of St. Matthew, will work to make this happen.

This year has been one of the best years I have ever served as Principal in my 32 years in Administration. Part of it is because the smallness of the enrollment allows for smaller class sizes, which helped with teaching/learning, social skills, and communication. It appeared that teachers, parents, and students knew everything was not perfect, but they tried harder to make things work because it was our last year. The school as a family shone forth at Family Masses, fund raisers, sporting events, Spring Musical, meetings, and even conferences. It was a dream year with a sad conclusion.

Our 115 students will move forward to All Saints Catholic School with an additional 25 students going to other Catholic Schools. The remaining 25 students will attend either Charter Schools (8 students), Public Schools (12 students), or are undecided (5 students). I invite those not attending a Catholic School to register for St. Matthew's Religious Education Program to keep your child's Faith and Spiritual Development advancing.

Our students will adjust to their new surroundings over a period of time (6 weeks). Like all of us, they will miss a certain friend, teacher, maybe even a certain Prin-ci-pal; help them with their grieving process, but encourage them to move forward.

I ask you to offer up your Masses and Communions this summer for our students and teachers. Prayer is a powerful tool that helps us find our way in life. Continue to pray for our two teachers and three staff members still looking for employment.

Keep your family involved in St. Matthew Parish. This is still your parish and All Saints Catholic School is the school of St. Matthew's. Brick and mortar do not make a school, the people (students, parents, teachers) in the school set the tone, atmosphere, and core values. Keep our new school as your school.

Thank you to all our parents, students, teachers, staff, and parishioners who helped support our school during this difficult year.

Thank you to our Boards: Home and School Board (HSA), Youth Activity Council (YAC), Christian Formation Committee, Finance Council, and Pastoral Council. Our Boards have all been generous with their support to our educational programs.

Thank you to all who volunteered in the classrooms, playground, lunchroom, the homeroom parents and those who worked at-home on projects from the classrooms - I thank you for your gift of time and talent.

Thank you to Father Drobinski, Father Hazzard, Father Klapps, Deacon Frank Quinlan, Mrs. Rita Truono, Ms. Patricia Berrigan, Deacon Harold Chalfant, Deacon Bill Kaper, Deacon Michael Wilber, Mrs. Cronin, Mrs. Barbara DiGiacomo, and the other personnel from St. Matthew Parish for making our children a high priority. God Bless all of you!

To our faculty and staff, I thank you for your dedication and service to our students. I am truly thankful for your support of the Mission of our school and how you work tirelessly to achieve our goals.

To those who work in other areas of the school besides the classrooms, Mrs. Fisher, Ms. Luce, Mrs. Dorso, Mrs. Baran, Mrs. Celano, and Mr. Reece – thank you for all you do for our students, parents, and staff.

To you, the parents of our students, I thank you for supporting Catholic Education. It is through your sacrifices and determination to have your children receive not only an academic education, but an education based on morals, values, and manners, that our school has been successful. As the economy continues to slide in a downward trend, you have put your children first. You will see the difference a Catholic Education makes as your children grow. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Continue to worship each Sunday as a family. Take time to experience and enjoy each other this summer – your child(ren) will grow older very quickly.

As I conclude my 39 years as a Catholic School Educator I am also moving forward. I believe the Lord still has plans for me. Keep me in your prayers.

I wish you the best and I hope you know that I include all of you in my prayers. I thank you for allowing me to be a part of your family for these short five years.

I bid you farewell,

Mr. Bernard J. Fisher

