



Dear Cheverus Family,

It hardly seems possible that the holiday season is about to officially begin. Yet, here we are but two days away from Thanksgiving. Where has this year gone?

Tomorrow, as we break for the Thanksgiving recess, we will gather as a school community to remember those whose names have been written in the "Book of Remembrance." Most of all, we gather to give thanks as a school family for all that we have. In our service tomorrow, we will express gratitude for the sun, the harvest, the trees, water, and food. The prayer service is the culmination of a month long effort on the part of our teachers to encourage the children to think about what it is they are grateful for. From pre-school through grade 8, students talk about, write about and draw illustrations of those things and people that they are thankful for.

As adults laden with the responsibilities of work, home, family, we are not reminded by teachers or parents to think about how grateful we should be. We don't go through lessons and exercises on gratitude.

This past Sunday, I attended a production of the musical "Mama Mia." Two of my granddaughters were part of the cast and my grandson was part of the production crew. Watching them, listening to them, naturally filled me with pride, but also made me so thankful that they are a part of my life. And that's just three of my seven grandchildren. Then there are my children and their spouses, my parents, brothers and sisters; you get the idea. How blessed are we to have family and friends? How lucky am I to be able to leave my office and walk into a pre-k classroom where the little ones will treat me like a "rock star?"

We are taught that God created us in his image and likeness. Indeed, to witness a child's joy and smile, or the pride they take in their successes is to see the face of God. The privilege of working with your children, the love they bring, and in doing so, bring Christ to us, is a gift for which I am inestimably grateful.

On behalf of the entire Cheverus Community, I wish you a Thanksgiving filled with peace, happiness and love!

Sincerely,

Mr. Thomas P. Arria, Jr.
Principal