



Easter Family Newsletter 2018



With Easter just days away one would think we would be witnessing some of the other signs of spring, perhaps some mild weather, leaves on trees, and even some crocus poking through. Despite the fact that spring has been delayed, we know that eventually it will come. Meanwhile, the school year continues, and it has been action-packed.

As we approach the final third of the year, we look forward to maintaining the enthusiasm and energy that has gotten us this far in the year. You, as well as our faculty, staff, and your children/our students contribute to the atmosphere of joyfulness that we enjoy at Cheverus. It's more than just a nice place to be. During one of my visits to a kindergarten classroom, I observed the children reviewing sight words. I was amazed at the skill level of these five-year olds. They can read; they can compose complete sentences! They are doing this in all three kindergarten classes. Our teachers have implemented the Reading Street Program which was purchased with money from the Gala, and the results are astounding!

Of course, the academic success of our students extends beyond kindergarten. The honor roll for the second trimester demonstrates a superior level of success. I want to share with you the honor roll statistics.

Honor Roll Totals – March 2018

	Honorable Mention	Honors	High Honors	Highest Honors	<u>TOTAL</u>
Grade 4	2	7	8	2	19
Grade 5	1	5	3	2	11
Grade 6	0	2	6	1	9
Grade 7	0	0	6	4	10
Grade 8	1	4	5	3	13
TOTALS	4	18	28	12	62

These numbers indicate that 49% of the students in grades 4 – 8 achieved some level of honor roll!

Beyond the academic component of our program, students have been involved in a myriad of activities. For example, on December 8, we celebrated a Liturgy of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin (Immaculate Conception) as well as our First Friday masses. During the Advent season,

we participated in a project known as “250 Beds for 250 Children” and raised \$2,000.00. Our PTA sponsored Pancakes and Photos with Santa, and once again Memorial Christmas Wreaths. Finally, during December the Annual Christmas Pageant was performed to a packed audience.

In January, our students completed the second round of standardized testing known as the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP). We celebrated the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday with a prayer service. Later in the month, we conducted our Open House to kick off our celebration of Catholic Schools Week which included a variety of activities including a very successful fundraiser: the Penny Game sponsored by our PTA. We celebrated “Black History Month” during February with several different activities. One such activity involved having students write reports about various African-Americans from the worlds of entertainment, sports, history, and politics. Some were chosen to read their reports during the afternoon announcements each day during February. We began the Lenten season with a Penitential Prayer Service and the distribution of ashes led by Father Mark.

Recently, I enlisted the support of several members of our parent family to participate in what we are calling the Parent Council. They are a group that represents some of the various ethnic groups here at school. The primary purpose is to “brainstorm” in order to develop a strategy to market to specific demographic groups. Additionally, we hope that in bringing in more parents we can strengthen our existing Parent Teacher Association. To that end, I am appealing to you to become more involved by coming to meetings of the PTA. Your thoughts, ideas, and overall participation can only serve to fortify our school family. “Many hands make light work.” Please consider becoming actively involved.

Each year, around Saint Patrick’s Day, our Early Childhood teachers engage their students with stories of leprechauns. As tradition has it, these imps wreak havoc with our daily lives: stealing, hiding, and breaking objects and all kinds of mischievous pranks. And so, our teachers take great pains to convince the children that leprechauns have indeed been coming into the classroom and have been responsible for the upset they see each morning when they arrive. The boys and girls become so excited. They greeted me each morning with stories of what the leprechauns had done overnight. They built leprechaun traps in the hope that they will actually get to catch one.

I share this with you for a couple of reasons. First because it is yet another example of the kind of energy and enthusiasm our teachers generate. Beyond that, it is about positive anticipation. We all know it: Santa coming at Christmas, the Easter Bunny, or something more grounded in reality like going to Disney World. This Holy Week brings us closer to the fulfillment of the promise of our faith that began with the Nativity. The Resurrection is the most important feast in the calendar. It brings with it the guarantee of eternal life!

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Cheverus Catholic School, I wish you the blessings of Holy Week and all the joys of a wonderful Easter.

Respectfully,



Thomas P. Arria, Jr.
Principal