

From the desk of Rob Costante, Principal...

www.stfrancisdesales.net

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“Close your eyes and tap your heels together three times. And think to yourself, there's no place like home.”

L. Frank Baum

One of my favorite scenes in the movie *The Wizard of Oz* is when the Wizard, unseen for much of the film, is discovered behind the curtain. And as the curtain is drawn, the moviegoer sees a man feverishly operating a variety of mechanisms that work together to sustain the machine that is “The Great and Powerful Oz”. In many ways, if we were to pull back the curtain on “the great and powerful St. Francis”, you would find a dedicated cadre of parents who enthusiastically manage a vast array of activities, events and fundraisers which offer necessary support to our school community.

As I reflect on the great success of the 2015-2016 school year, I know well that the parents who have selflessly led our Home & School Association are true gifts to our community. Their devoted enthusiasm and creative vision brought a joyful spirit to our entire school. Although we will never be able to repay the recent H.S.A. Executive Board for all that they have done for SFdS, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to this dedicated troupe of parent leaders who are the true “wizards of Penguin Nation”: Jenni Perunko (President), Tara Pieroni (Vice-President), Manda Ruark (Secretary) and Charlie Moore (Treasurer).

Another committed group of volunteer parents is our Homeroom Parent teams. This supportive group of parent leaders provides inspired creativity for which they offer their necessary support to our teachers. Therefore, on behalf of our faculty, I would like to thank the following group parent volunteers for all that they did for our staff: Sarah Neall, Jenni Perunko & Sam Kane (Pre-K); Candy Bauer, Renee & Josh Kelley (Kindergarten); Kristen Kirby, Manda Ruark & Candy Bauer (1st Grade); Jess Emhoff & Tara Pieroni (2nd Grade); Danielle Green & Margaret Swierkosz (3rd Grade); Heather Johnston, Melissa Wilson & Bridget Ketcham (4th Grade); April Brilliant (5th Grade); Sara Haverty (6th Grade); Kim Wilson (7th Grade); and April Brilliant & Cindy MacDonald (8th Grade).

Another group of outgoing leaders can be found within the St. Francis de Sales School Board. Their guidance, wise counsel and visionary perspective have offered great support to the mission of our school. On behalf of our community, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to two members who completed their tenure on the board: Dick Keenan and Dave Phillips. We are grateful for the many years of volunteer support that they have provided to our parish school.

We are grateful for all of these community members and all they have done to help make SFdS the ‘best school on the Eastern Shore’. There truly is no place like home!

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