

From the desk of Rob Costante, Principal...

January 1, 2012

During my initial visit to St. Francis de Sales this past spring, I was struck by the unwavering sense of tradition as I moved about the hallways and classrooms of our school. As a graduate from a similar Catholic grade school in the Baltimore area, SFdS bore a certain resemblance to my own childhood school community. It may have been the religious items that adorned the corridors or possibly it was the rose colored tiles affixed to the walls or perhaps it was the well-ordered march of students as they politely promenaded up the stairwell. With these illustrations and many others, my reflection of SFdS delivered a convincing statement to the faithful and steadfast devotion of the Catholicity and educational ideologies of the St. Francis community. These experiences validated the humble, yet distinguished educational community of which I had just become acquainted.

Winston Churchill once declared, *“A love of tradition has never weakened a nation, indeed it has strengthened nations in their hour of peril; but the new view must come, the world must roll forward”*. As I fondly recall my initial impressions of St. Francis de Sales, it was the ideological comfort that provided such strength to our community. Yet, it is the expanse upon our traditions that has profoundly influenced our evolution this year. Our evolutionary growth has been nurtured from the shared camaraderie between our veteran and new parents. Their partnership has cultivated a positive process to where time-honored traditions have engendered an evolution of sort. For example, the once popular “Trunk-or-Treat” event evolved into the “Hallo-Giving Parade Project”. This project complemented our original “Trunk-or-Treat” event with the expanded addition of enjoyable grade level activities, along with a school-wide service project that served a significant number of Salisbury senior citizens. Another example of the partnership between tradition and transformation arrived with the recently distributed ***Busy Beak*** periodical. The artistic appeal and extensive commentary integrated within this trimestral publication has garnered great praise among our parish community members. As a concluding testament to the evolution of our campus traditions, our community recently embraced a contemporary view of the once popular “Christmas Bazaar”. Its present version included the long-established assortment of local vendors, along with the enriched inclusion of craft activities for the children, a visit from ‘Ole St. Nick himself and an abundance of delicious flapjacks. The transformed tradition of this event united the creative joy of the “Santa Social and Pancake Breakfast” along with the communal festivity of the former “Christmas Bazaar”. All of these shared programs enjoy a common bond; they draw upon the long-standing traditions of St. Francis de Sales and marry them with a contemporary and cooperative spirit.

We pray in thanksgiving for the treasure of tradition, as we cherish the contemporary influence of our entire community and its members. May the Lord bless you with great happiness on this New Year’s weekend!

As we continue to enjoy our vacation, I would like mention a couple of noteworthy items:

- **School and school offices will re-open on Tuesday, January 3rd.**
- **Friday, January 6th begins the start to six days of Middle School exams.**

Have a blessed and enjoyable week!

PENGUIN PRIDE Lives Here!