

From the desk of Rob Costante, Principal...

February 19, 2012

As our calendar has now turned to late February, many events have reminded me that while we are absorbed in all that this year has to offer, I have also found that we have an eye toward the 2012-2013 school year. In our preparation for the coming year, two broadly distinct parent groups find themselves perched on the mantle of thoughtful reflection as they discern where they will entrust the precious gift of their child. These two groups can be largely described as current school parents and prospective school parents.

Though I proudly serve as Principal of St. Francis, I value that my view of our school is often seen through the parental lens. Accordingly, as a current school parent, I find myself in search of those signs that indicate intellectual, spiritual and social development within my two children. Furthermore, I look for the joyful pride that my children bring home each day - pride in themselves and pride in the school they represent. Having young children, I also look for the type of role models that influence my youngsters each day, be it both peers and adult leaders. And finally, I look to how my children have grown in their faith life as they recognize the presence of God in all they see and encounter.

Recently, I have been given a contract to sign that will indicate my renewed belief in the school. As I sign this document to indicate reenrollment for my family, I feel firmly convinced that in just 7 short months at SFdS, my two children have been nurtured to reach their developmental potential.

With two recently held admission open house events, as well as countless other campus tours and meetings, I know that a significant number of prospective parents are also in the process of thoughtfully discerning where they will entrust the precious gift of their child. As I consider those elements which contribute to a positive educational culture for my own children, I know well that prospective parents looking at St. Francis seek the same type of environment in which to have their child thrive and develop.

As our current parents consider reenrollment and our prospective parents consider their first enrollment, I am honored by both groups. In knowing that there is no decision a parent makes on behalf of their child that is more significant than that of educational placement, I am grateful that both parent groups might consider St. Francis de Sales as a desirable match for their child.

With reenrollment contracts due by February 29th, I joyfully invite any current parent to arrange a meeting so we may discuss how SFdS may best continue to support the growth of their child. Correspondingly, I would also take pleasure in meeting with any family which desires a school environment where a *Foundation in Faith and Excellence in Education* are the hallmarks to all that we do and all that we believe.

As a parish community, may we pray in thanksgiving for the investing belief of both current and future parents. We are honored and grateful as you consider our school as a positive and beneficial choice for your child.

As we celebrate the twenty seventh week of the school year, I would like mention a few noteworthy items:

- **Any family (current or prospective) who is interested in exploring the possibility of tuition assistance must complete the diocese's FACTS Grant and Assessment Process. The application and all required paperwork must be completed by no later than March 1st. You may find more information at www.factstuitionaid.com.**
- **The HSA will meet at 5:30pm on Tuesday, February 21st in the Parish Center.**

Have a blessed and enjoyable week!

PENGUIN PRIDE Lives Here!