

November 19, 2020

Dear Falcon Families,

Although much different than how we usually celebrate, our whole school enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving Feast here at St. Francis. A huge thank you, to our incredible cafeteria staff, who cooked and individually packaged a meal for every student and staff member in our school. Mrs. McVicker sang our traditional prayer created by past teacher, Sr. Joan, and our youngest students wore their fun, festive hats. You can check out some of those fun, festive hats [here](#). Although we had to change our format for this tradition to remain safe during COVID, we are still so thankful for the opportunity to celebrate together.

With all that is happening in our community, it may feel challenging to have grateful hearts, as fear and uncertainty seems to be surging right along with COVID. And yet, we have just to look to our Blessed Mother as an example of gratitude and trust as we begin to approach this Advent season. She was just 14 when she said “YES” to being the Mother of the Son of God. She then continued to say “YES” to God by accepting poverty, giving birth in a stable, fleeing with an infant to a foreign country, hearing a sword would pierce her heart, losing her child for 3 days, watching him be rejected, beaten, whipped, spat upon, and crucified next to criminals, and waiting for three days while her son and her very heart were in the tomb. She didn’t know what each new event would bring, but she accepted all the uncertainty and fear because she trusted that God would keep His promise to be faithful to her.

And so, even in the uncertainty and fear of COVID, let us together say “YES” to knowing that God keeps his promise to never leave our side, and each day, choose to look at all things through a lens of thanksgiving and gratitude. I thank God for each student, family, and staff member in this St. Francis de Sales Parish School Community. Your grace, support, and encouragement of what we are doing during this pandemic is so appreciated.

We know that there is so much information from state and local authorities and health care agencies regarding COVID being released in the last several days. Please know that we are monitoring all things and that our Task Force will be sharing our responses and current plans with you in an email tomorrow. As mentioned in the Tuesday Eblast, starting yesterday, our students are wearing masks during recess. We feel, with the current surge in cases in the greater community, and the proven efficacy of masks, it is prudent to maintain wearing masks during recess.

Congratulations to our latest Falcon Five Winners! We are so grateful for their witness of LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS, BEING KIND, SERVING WELL, WORKING HARD.



Congratulations to Crosby Stanfield, Evie Johnston, Milly McKinney, Lucas Didyk, Jeremy Sykes, Maddie Molnar, Madden Provo, Andrew Goshe, Braden Payne, Paul Okoye, Bridget Patton, and Rocco Palermo.



Congratulations also to Simultaneous Learners, Macrina Frain and Jack Hollenbaugh, for being Falcon Five Winners!

### **Pig Anyone?**

I have promised our students I will kiss a pig but I didn't realize it would be so hard to find the pig!! Does anyone know of someone that owns a pig that I can kiss? I do not want to disappoint these kids, so if you have any connections to a pig, will you please see if they would let me kiss it?? If you know of any leads, please [email](#) me.

### **A reminder from our Tuesday email:**

Please note the following! **Emmanuel Song Advent Reflection for Kindergarten through Grade 4 students on December 9, 2020 has been CANCELLED.** This decision has come with great prayer and discernment. Thank you for your understanding. However, these students will participate in a virtual prayer experience, Epiphany's Hope, that will be recorded and released early January for the Feast of Epiphany. May we all come to the manger this Advent and Christmas Season. Let us worship as the wisemen did in Adoration of Christ and be ignited by the hope the Eucharist can bring us.

**New Reminders**

There will be no aftercare on Tuesday, November 24. We will begin Thanksgiving break on Wednesday, November 25 and return to school on Monday, November 30.

I will be transitioning back into my role of Coordinator of Educational Growth and Development as we return from Thanksgiving Break. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve you in this way. I have felt all your prayers throughout this, and ask that you keep those going for Mrs. Dougherty upon her return. Mrs. Dougherty truly has always been in close contact and behind the scenes while on maternity leave, working on behalf of our students, staff, and families. Please pray for a smooth transition back for Mrs. Dougherty and her family.

Happy Thanksgiving to each and every one of you. I pray all of you have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving!

With hope,  
Mrs. Goshe