



### From the Principal

#### Come Grow With Me

It's sounds simple, pleasant, and easy enough, but setting an arbitrary resolution to be "better" at something is too vague to yield actual results. Emotions and responsiveness to life can vary from day to day, so what's more positive one day could be totally different the next. Instead, resolve to choose gratitude and happiness daily, focusing specifically on replacing negative habits and thoughts with positive ones. I have read several articles/books on reflection, growth, and our personal relationships with one another and far better than I could say it David Wolpe does.

#### 1. Engage with people more than pixels.

Looking at a phone is quick and undemanding. Texting is easier than talking—it gives you intimacy without danger. This year, resolve to spend more time looking into someone's eyes when you communicate with them. Replace an extended exchange on text with a meeting for coffee. Make a promise of presence.

#### 2. Take your soul seriously.

It is easy to pretend that what we watch and how we speak have no effects on us. But the constant pounding of hatreds and dehumanization that marks so much of our media have consequences for our character. Part of who you are is the sum of the influences you choose: what you watch, who you associate with, how you speak about others both publicly and

privately. Life is a continuous journey of soul shaping, and this year, resolve to keep your deep journey in mind. Turn away from something seductive but corrosive—Twitter rants full of bile, or people who continually insult those around them, or depictions of violence that take savage delight in suffering. You only get one soul; don't squander it in things unworthy of its majesty.

#### 3. Increase your kindness.

If you wish to feel kind, do something good. The great secret of moral growth is that it often begins from the outside. Rather than your joy leading you to smile, your smile can lead you to joy. Behave generously even when you do not feel like it and the habit will grow as will your innate quality of kindness. The act can be small or large; it can be a charitable contribution or a gentle word or help with a heavy bag on an airplane. Do it.

#### 4. Choose someone to forgive.

All of us have legitimate grievances in our lives. Some people are very hard to forgive but you need not begin with the toughest cases. Small acts of grace will grow. Forgive the guy who cut you off in the street; after all, you have cut people off as well, on purpose or inadvertently. Forgive the person who made an unkind remark about you. Choose a place to begin. The more you forgive, the less the world can injure you; forgiveness is a soft shield for your soul.

#### 5. In forgiving, include yourself.

Fight against perfectionism. Leave a dropped stitch in the knitting of your life. There will always be more possibilities to get something wrong

than to get it right. Allow yourself the latitude of mistakes, without self-punishing. God is supposed to be perfect, not human beings. Have expectations of yourself, but don't enforce them with a hammer.

The New Year is here. Do not waste a single day of the future. Here is your chance to live purposefully. Will you achieve this every day? Of course not (see #5 above). The key resolution is not to triumph or to always succeed. Resolutions of the spirit come down to one thing, in this New Year, growth.

*Mrs. Dangler*

#### Baskets to Spare?

Do you have a couple of baskets around your house that you



don't know what to do with, but are too nice to throw out? We will take them! We use those baskets to create wonderful gift baskets from the items that are donated for the Gala. We accept all kinds. Thank you!

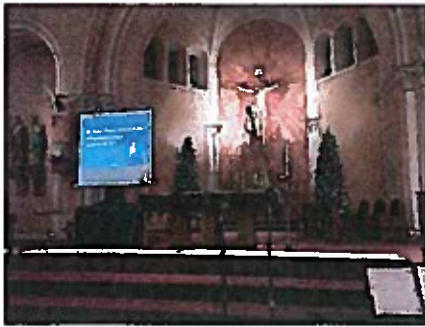


#### Thought for the Month—

What one does is what counts and not what one had the intention of doing. - Pablo Picasso



### Christmas Concert



On December 19, the students joined together to celebrate Christmas with our families and friends. We performed for the first time at St. Joseph Church. Our 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade bands performed classical, and Christmas selections. All students from 4K thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade sang and celebrated the season of Christ's birth. Thank you to Mr. Newbern, our



music/band teacher, for planning this wonderful event, and thank you to

all who shared it with us!

### Boys' Basketball



Our 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade basketball team just wrapped up a hard fought season. The boys' skills and technique improved with each game. Thanks to Coach Kerwin and Coach Tomaszewski for sharing their time and talents with the team.

The 4<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball season begins next week. Our first game is against Gibraltar, Tuesday, January 10 at 5:45 p.m. for the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys, and 6:45 p.m. for the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys at Gibraltar.

### Journey Across the U.S.

This year the third-grade students wrote and illustrated the book *Journey Across the United States*. The students wrote individual pages, partner pages, and worked in small groups to develop a page. They wanted to share their favorite states that they visited or would like to visit, in hopes of convincing the reader to visit that state as well. Through research and sharing their personal experiences, the students made each page unique and interesting. On Monday December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Ms. Prue received a letter from the company saying that their classroom book had the most sales for November. Since their classroom book had high sales, they were entered in a drawing to win a \$25 gift card to Walmart, and the **THIRD-GRADE CLASS WON!** They will be using the gift card to purchase supplies for their classroom to do fun activities throughout the school year.



### Catholic Schools Week

National Catholic Schools Week, January 28 thru February 4, is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Through various events, St. John Bosco will focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

**Catholic Schools Week Spaghetti Dinner**  
January 28, 5:00-7:00, St. John Bosco Gym  
Take Out Available!

### Gala of Giving

The Gala of Giving is set for Saturday, March 4 in the St. John Bosco Gym. This wonderful event contributes over \$40,000 to our operating budget each year. You can be a special part of it by donating items for the event and/or by coming to the event. Some ideas for donations could be a themed basket, gift certificates, a craft or woodworking project, a service you provide, a piece of art, or cash to offset event costs. Your imagination is the only limit. Bring your donation to the St. John Bosco school office during regular office hours by February 10, 2017 or call us and we will have someone pick them up.

### Creative Spirits – Creative Souls

Creative Spirits – Creative Souls is our playground/outdoor education project for this year. The 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter Foundation initiated the campaign with a donation of \$15,000 and a challenge of a 1 to 1 match for up to an additional \$15,000 by December 20<sup>th</sup>. I am very happy to say the challenge was met and we received the additional funding from the 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter. A huge THANK YOU belongs to Casey and Nicole Rabach for once again believing in the project and kicking off the fundraising. Thank you to those donors who contributed to the match – without you we would not be as far along as we are. We currently have \$45,450 raised toward our goal of \$235,000 by May 1st. Several grants are pending, some to be written and we have our Gala coming up on March 4<sup>th</sup> with the Electric Moment. I am confident we will reach our goal and grateful for the ongoing support we have. If you have any questions on the project feel free to contact me anytime 920 743-4144. *Mrs. Danler*