

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT-PRINCIPAL

DAY OF GRATITUDE

There are few schools in our nation that would attempt to accomplish all the activities that were part of our homecoming week. I'm so thankful to our parent/guardian community for supporting the unique scheduling and especially to those of you who actually came to campus to support our guest speaker series, Mass, and Dancing with the Stars. So grateful to everyone who either walked in the parade and/or came to the homecoming game.

Most of all, I'm so thankful for a faculty and staff members who put in so many additional hours in the planning and execution of such a successful week. We have a faculty and staff who work diligently all of the time, but during homecoming week, we all step up our game.

Recently the LA Times printed a statistic that 70% of all Los Angeles Unified Teachers report feeling burned out and thinking of quitting. LAUSD teachers make significantly higher salaries, have a union that would never permit members to participate in night schools, parades, etc, and their benefits are far superior to what we are able to offer.

One thing we can offer our staff is a day off to say: we recognize your devotion and we are grateful.

Therefore, there will be no classes on Friday, November 4, 2022. This is a day for our teachers and staff to get caught up on rest, errands, grading...or however they choose to spend it.

Please join me in supporting our teachers as we continue to explore ways to increase our salaries and to enhance our environment so we can maintain our excellent staff.

WHY DO SOME PEOPLE INSIST ON BREAKING RULES AND EXHIBITING BAD BEHAVIOR?

First, I want to recognize that the vast majority of our parent/guardian community is outstanding. If you are one of our parents who consistently supports our school, our teachers, our staff, our policies...know that you are a cherished member of the community. Not only do I recognize that the majority of our parents are terrifically supportive...I continually pray prayers of gratitude for you.

However, during recent conversations with members of our security team I heard these comments:

"I need to preserve my energy before I go out to afternoon pickup; it can be brutal out there."

"Pickup is the worst part of my day."

"it is evident that the students are more respectful than some of our parents."

These comments are coming from the guys whose job it is to keep our community safe. We have been trying to hire an additional security guard for the last several months with no luck. Our team is short-staffed. If we can all agree that the safety of our students is paramount, why can't we agree to treat our officers with kindness and respect? I simply don't get it.

I've mentioned before the frustration that I experience after a Mass school shooting when I receive emails from families asking what our plan is to keep our children safe. Can you imagine how frustrating it is when we can't find an officer after looking for months...only to hear the guys that are on duty express their frustration with our parent community at drop-off and pick-up.

Please remember to instruct anyone who acts as your agent in dropping off or picking up your child what the procedure is. Please follow the rules. Know that there will be delays...it can be a tedious process waiting in a long line of cars. However, if we continue to treat our safety officers poorly, we are not going to have them at all.

Be kind...instead of expressing your frustration...make a point to express your gratitude.

SO FAR...SO GOOD

Actually

SO FAR...REALLY GOOD!

And finally, last year at this time, I was writing to you or leaving voice messages about the disciplinary issues we were having with both students and even adults. I am so happy to report to you that so far this year, we are having a really wonderful school year. The unity of our students, the commitment of our staff, the ease with which our new teachers are adapting to our community has been inspiring.

One of our guest speakers last week, Dr. Gerald Durley, in his opening remarks loudly proclaimed... "St. Genevieve is BACK." I couldn't agree more.

And a special shout out to our middle school students. We began the year with some disciplinary issues...including some harsh comments students were making to one another in 7th and 8th grades. Following a day of retreat led by our high school students, there has been a marked change. In fact, from what I'm witnessing in our middle school, they are well on their way to being perhaps the best middle school group I've witnessed in my career. So, if you have a student in our middle school...please continue to encourage their positive and unifying behavior.