



January 2012

The View From Here

Behold the turtle that only makes progress when he sticks his neck out.

Dear Parents,

A heartfelt Happy New Year to all in our Assumption School Family. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed your time together during the break. I pray that God will bless you abundantly in the coming New Year.

I have been so very blessed to have had a wonderful career. I loved my time as a teacher, principal, and as an Assistant Superintendent. However, God truly blessed me when I was given the opportunity to serve as your principal. I tell you from the bottom of my heart this is the best experience I have had in my forty year tenure (did he say 40?) in education. You parents, teachers, and parish members have built a truly wonderful place for children to grow in their faith and learn to serve their God.

I pray you don't take for granted what you have built and are building. It is different and special here. We aren't perfect and need to improve, but you are giving your children a real gift by sacrificing so they may attend Assumption.

God bless you all, you are the best.

Christmas Thank You

I would like to extend a special thank you to all of you that continue to spoil us with your generosity. The Home and School provided cookies and punch after our Christmas program. They also provided a wonderful lunch for the staff. Also, to all of you that gave gifts and made donations to the school so we can help others – thank you for your support.

Donuts with Dad – January 26th

Hey Dads if your schedule permits, join us for coffee and donuts Thursday, January 26th from 8-8:30 am. I suspect it isn't easy to take that extra 30 minutes in the morning, but besides the fellowship of other Dads it sends a powerful message to your child. "I have a very busy day, but this is the first and most important thing I have to do." Please join us if you can. There is nothing more important than a room full of strong Catholic Christian men taking time out of their day for their children.

Sorry moms, your time is in May. ☺

More on Affluenza

After one of the last newsletters I heard from many of you that you liked the pieces I shamelessly stole from the book "Affluenza." As we get ready for the "run for the White House," I thought this next section fit pretty well. I will again steal from "Affluenza."

"We've mutated from citizens to consumers in the past sixty years," says James Kunstler the author of "The Geography of Nowhere." "The trouble with being consumers is that consumers have no duties or responsibilities or obligations to their fellow consumers. Citizens do. They have an obligation to care about their fellow citizens and about the integrity of their town's environment and history."

Harvard political scientist Robert Putman has devoted his career to the study of “social capital” the connections among people that bind a community together. He observed that “the quality of governance varies with the level of involvement in such things as voter turnout, newspaper readership etc.”

This point reminds me of a quote attributed to Ben Franklin “that most people get the kind of government they deserve.”

He continues his point by suggesting that too many Americans are bowling alone. I know it sounds strange, but he makes the point that “we were a nation of joiners. We’ve now become a nation of loners.”

Only half of the nation's voters typically vote in presidential elections. “Only 13 percent reported attending public meetings.” He goes on to cite many more examples.

Mr. Putman goes on to opine that while the actual number of people who volunteer for say the Red Cross or Boy Scouts is up, many people do it “on the run” and for shorter time periods. Thus, total volunteer time is down. The reason as he sees it is the “fun factor.” If it is fun, people volunteer. If not, forget it.”

I can honestly say, personally, that I have not seen this phenomenon here. I see hours of time sacrificed by our parents after school, Saturday mornings, Santa Secret Shop, and on-on. It seems our children will be going into a world where this type of behavior is rare. Thank goodness our kids have you parents as role models.

New Look

I’m not sure if you’ve had a chance to notice, but the front of our school has a new look. You may recall on the top of the school, over the gym there was an antenna. Now, thanks to one of our Assumption’s friends, we will have a beautiful cross. As I write this a mock up is in place now, but keep watching.

Spelling Bee

The winners of the Scripps Spelling Bee were Noah Clements (6th grade) in first place and Michael Luczyk (8th grade) was the runner up. They will go on to compete at the Regional Bee held at Covell Elementary on February 15th. Good luck boys!

Box Tops for Education

Thank you to everyone that participates in the Box Tops for Education program. We just received a check for \$1,122.70. This money will be used to upgrade our student technology.

National Geographic Bee

The National Geographic Bee is this Friday, January 6, at 10:30 am in the school gym.