

2018-2019 Monthly Newsletter - February

Dear Families,

I am very proud of our school community. January started off very challenging for many and through this time there have been many discussions, questions and actions that can hopefully lead us in a very positive direction. Through some of the turmoil we have unfortunately experienced, members of our school community and the Diocese have already (and will again soon) come together to have a dialogue that can lead us into the future. This situation is not holding us back. We picked up momentum as we approached our Day of Service and it continued into Catholic Schools Week celebrating our pride in our school, students, teachers, parents and community.

What is surfacing time and time again here at GSS is our commitment to charity and service. Not only did our school participate in our Day of Service to honor the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 18th, but our students participated in activities which will touch the lives of many that they will not even meet. Our PreK to 5th Grade heard presentations from the Ronald McDonald House as well as Catholic Charities. Then our students did many activities including making care package bags and cards for families among other educational activities. Our Middle School was out of the building lending a hand in a few different places. The 8th Grade went to a school that serves children with special needs, St. John of God in Westville, NJ and our 6th and 7th Grade classes teamed up with "Lifting Up Camden's Youth" (LUCY) Outreach to clean, fix and arrange different rooms at their center. We would like to thank the St. Teresa Men's Club who made this day possible for our Middle School by donating the bus taking them to their locations for this day. Charity and service are embedded in us as selfless acts. Thank YOU for instilling our children with these gifts and qualities so we can continue to develop the ideas of Service Above Self.

With this being my first experience of Catholic Schools Week Open House here at Good Shepherd, I was impressed with how our families came together to celebrate us. This does not happen everywhere. I hope you enjoyed seeing a snapshot of our students and teachers showcasing their excitement for what we do in our school. Additionally, our prospective family numbers increased from the previous year, so thank you to Mrs. Gallagher and our families for spreading the good news of GSS. This started the week off on such a good note which carried over into our planned activities. Special thanks go to our staff who planned portions of the themed days to give our students and families a little something extra during this week. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

As we turn the page into February, we need to look at the picture for next school year. While I begin to plan the budget for the 2019-2020 school year, I am asking for your help in returning the re-registration forms as quickly as possible. If you are interested in being considered for Financial Aid / Tuition Assistance for next year, please fill out the necessary information in the Facts Management System at factsmgt.com by February 22, 2019. Assistance funds are limited, so please be prompt with this deadline.

Our students in 3rd - 7th grade will be taking the IOWA's the first week in March. This test is a nationally standardized test that measures basic skills in the areas of Reading, Language Arts,

Mathematics, Social Studies and Science. The 4th and 7th grades will also be taking the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) which measures reasoning abilities in three categories: verbal, quantitative and nonverbal.

While some of our planned safety upgrades are not yet complete, please see the information below regarding our latest update.

May God richly bless you and your family,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray Bonnette". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Ray Bonnette, Principal

Latest Safety Upgrade

In January, we had a blue strobe system installed that appears above three entrance/exit doors of the building: Lees Ave student entrance, Atlantic Ave main entrance and the door near the Parish house. The strobe light is connected to our lockdown system to give those outside of the building a visual cue that inside we are in a lockdown situation. If you see this light flashing, please do not approach the school. If you are dropping off your child and this light is flashing, please keep driving. Our panic system also produces an audible message that is repeated over our PA system that is broadcast both inside and outside of the building. This strobe is an added layer of protection for those outside our building to stay away in case of a lockdown emergency.

FACTS SIS (formally RenWeb)

Parents who are not signed up to see grades (K-8th) are encouraged to do so. Please go to <https://logins2.renweb.com/logins/ParentsWeb-Login.aspx> to sign up for an account by clicking "Create New ParentsWeb Account" our district code is DCAM-NJ. Your email address that receives the Wednesday Communication emails should be used. You will receive an email to set up a password where you can log in to see all grades. After logging in, please click "Student Information" and "Student Home" to see all grades from each subject. Grades 3-8th will see numeric grades. If you click the numeric grade, it will take you to all assignments that make up the grade. Grades K-2nd you will need to click the specific class to see the letter grades of the assignments. If you have any questions regarding this system or you cannot get on, please contact Mrs. Bowker at ebowker@goodshepherdcollingswood.org or 856-858-1562.

Athletics

Spring Track season is right around the corner. Did you see that the program is expanding to a K-2 team too? If your child is interested in trying out/playing a sport for the school, please visit the Athletic Clearance ([CLICK HERE](#)) page well in advance of the start of the sport so all medical clearances can be approved **before** the start of the season. The spring season will be here before you know it, so please make sure everything is handed in early. If you have any questions about paperwork, please contact the office.

School Closure due to Weather or other Emergencies

If we need to close Good Shepherd for weather-related emergencies, we will be getting that information out to the school community as quickly as possible. We will strive to get that information to everyone by 5:30 AM the morning before school. Sometimes we will not be able to do that, but we will keep the safety of all students/families as well as the staff in mind when making weather-related decisions. Our name will be on CBS3/KYW News Radio (#995), 6ABC and NBC10 News Stations. We will post the information on our website and social media sites. Lastly, you will receive an email sent to the email addresses we have on file indicating what the status is for school on the given day.

Teacher websites

Please check your child's teacher page found on our website to see the upcoming information that your child will be learning in the coming week. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the direct link. To alleviate checking four different sites, the Middle School teachers are now combined onto one page. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the Middle School (6th, 7th and 8th Grade) page. You may need to scroll to see each class. All information should be current by the first

school day of the week. On the websites, our Teachers should be providing informational blurbs about what the students are learning about in the coming week.

“Eagle Eye”

The Eagle Eye showcases a class each week on a rotating basis. If you are unable to see the St. Teresa bulletin, we have the inserts at the bottom of our school’s homepage www.goodshepherdcollingswood.org. Please check it out!

Parent Volunteers

Thank you to those individuals who have been able to go through our volunteer process and are cleared from the Diocese. If you are interested in volunteering (room parent, chaperone, assistant coach, chaperone) please visit our Parent Volunteer Center ([CLICK HERE](#)) to find out the process. Thank you in advance for going through this process to provide opportunities for our students. If you are interested in getting involved in the Parent’s Association, please email GSSParAssoc@goodshepherdcollingswood.org.

Social Media

Please follow our Facebook and/or Twitter Pages to keep current with school activities, events and announcements. Let the GSS light shine on the web so that our family, friends and others in the community will know what we are about. Hide it under a bushel? No! We’re going to let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine! Please like, share and retweet.

- Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdCollingswood.org/>
- Twitter at <https://twitter.com/GSSCollingswood?lang=en>