

## November 2018-2019 Monthly Newsletter

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that our first Marking Period is coming to a close. Within those days we all have the joys and possible frustrations that come with learning and experiencing a new grade-level and new material. My message to our student body, and school as a whole, is to “Finish Strong.” It is extremely necessary to maintain a focus when we have so many distractions available to us. Have you ever driven to an unfamiliar house for the first time and while looking for the house, turned the music in the car down or even off completely? I know I have. How does hearing something make us see better? As many know, the flood of information acts as a distraction to concentrate and eliminating any extra “noise” can help us focus on the task at hand. Let that analogy guide us in the last few days of the marking period both academically and spiritually.

While we approach the coming month of November, let us reflect on the good and give thanks for the gifts and talents that God has given us. Sure, it is nice to want more, but let us not forget what we have and what Good Shepherd provides to and for our school community... daily expressions of our Catholic Faith. I had such a tremendous experience at two of our public displays of faith this past month: our First Friday Mass where our Student Council was installed and our Living Rosary. At the beginning of the month, we joined the 9 AM Mass congregation to celebrate together as a Catholic Community. Our voices filled the church with joyful and prayerful song that left many feeling the love and joy that God brings to us. Then at our Living Rosary, the profession of faith, celebrating our diverse backgrounds by praying in different languages was something special to experience. If you are able and available to attend 9 AM Mass with us on November 21, you are more than welcome to pray with us in our community of faith.

I am extremely proud of the efforts of our teachers, staff, families and friends who support our school in many ways. Kudos to our Parent’s Association and for all those who were a part of our Designer Bag Bingo event. This is one of the many events that help our school continue our mission for our students and families. Thank you to our Parent Volunteers who work to make lasting memories for our students.

May God richly bless you and your family,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Bonnette". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ray Bonnette, Principal

## **Report Cards and Awards Ceremony**

Report cards will be distributed at Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 15 and 16. Parents/Guardians will need to attend conferences to pick up report cards. The 1<sup>st</sup> MP Award's Ceremony will be Wednesday November 21 at 12:20 PM. There will be an early dismissal at **1:00 PM** on this day before Thanksgiving. Families are welcome to attend.

## **RenWeb and FACTS Mgt**

Since the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marking Period is upon us, the parent's section of RenWeb will be closed so teachers can finalize report card grades. This will occur after school on Friday Nov. 9 and will be opened after Parent-Teacher Conferences on Friday Nov. 16. If you have not tried to log on to RenWeb, please go to <https://factsmgt.com/>. This is a little different because RenWeb and FACTS are now combined together. Please create your account on this page. If you have any problems, please contact the office.

## **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 (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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"**

In the month of October, we started a new section in St. Teresa of Calcutta's bulletin called the Eagle Eye. This showcases a class each week on a rotating basis. We are working on getting this page uploaded to our website, but until then, please check out our school's page in the bulletin and see all of the amazing things our students and teachers are doing.

## **Collingswood Holiday Parade**

Good Shepherd School will be participating in the annual Collingswood Holiday Parade on Saturday Nov. 24. We are looking for students to be a part of the experience either on our float or walking, showing support for the school. Details will be forthcoming.

## **Student Attendance and Tardiness**

All students are to be seated in the cafeteria by 8:15 AM because we begin our day right away. We have such a special gift given to all of us that we can come together as a school community and pray. We stop in a busy world and set aside time to give God thanks and pray for those who may need our prayers. We need time to prepare our minds and hearts for this special time and in many cases, it is the major reason why we exist as a Catholic School. If students arrive after 8:15 AM, they are considered Tardy and report to the office to receive a Tardy slip. Please refer to the handbook located in the student agenda that outlines the Tardy policy. If you need to call your child out of school, please call the main office.

## **School Uniform**

The Winter Uniform went into effect on Monday November 5<sup>th</sup> and all students have been instructed on the expectation the appropriate dress. Students are permitted to wear jackets and hoodies into the building, but the expectation is that all students remove these items during Homeroom. All students in K-8 must wear a cardigan, sweater or vest. Thank you for your attention to one of the visual aspects of our school.

## **Uniform Exchange/Swap/Take**

Please see the letter attached in the Wednesday Communication. If you have any piece of a uniform that you would like to donate, please wash the articles of clothing and hand them in to the office in a bag. This will then be added to our supply.

## **Donations**

Thank you to those who have donated so far this year! We are currently looking for donations in the following areas to help improve our school. If you are able to help us out, we would greatly appreciate it and we can give you a donation letter for tax purposes. If anyone is interested in donating items, or denominations of money for these items, please contact Mr. Bonnette **before** filling up the car to drop off items or writing a check. By the time a response is received, we may have already had this donation filled or the item may not meet our need.

- **Keyboard** for our Music/Choral program – our preference would be a full-sized (88-key) keyboard with stand, sustain pedal and adapter, but if you have a 61- or 76-key keyboard at home, we could use that too.
- **Gently Used Musical Instruments** – many students may want to play an instrument and can afford the lessons but cannot afford the rental of the instrument. If you have an instrument tucked away, we might be able to use it for our program.

## Annual Fund

Mrs. Gallagher will be sending out our Annual Fund letter and pledge cards in the coming weeks. As this is a major fundraising event that happens periodically throughout the year, if you receive them, please pass these cards on to relatives and friends of Good Shepherd School. As tuition and other school costs are already a family investment, having others help with this Fund is an excellent way to “pay it forward” to our students. All monies raised are used to help our students directly. If you are able to make a tax-deductible donation as well, we would be very appreciative.

## #GivingTuesday

We know about “Black Friday” and “Cyber Monday”, but do we know about #GivingTuesday? Please help us as we join the Global Giving movement that was founded seven years ago to call attention and bring “people together around the values of service and giving back” ([givingtuesday.org/about](http://givingtuesday.org/about)). This Day of Giving will be Tuesday November 28, 2018. Please visit our Facebook and Twitter pages to like and share/retweet our posts about it. Our focus for this fundraiser still needs finishing touches before we announce it.

## 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. Gloucester Catholic has a few spaces remaining for **Monday Nov. 26** and St. Andrew the Apostle in Gibbsboro has spaces remaining for **Thursday Nov. 29** for those who need to satisfy the Virtus requirement. 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](mailto:GSSParAssoc@goodshepherdcollingswood.org).

## Athletics

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.

## **Spirit Wear Sales**

Please consider purchasing some of our Spirit Wear for the entire family. The Order Forms have been sent home in Wednesday Communications, but if you need another copy, please ask the office. All orders are due Friday November 16. Thank you!

## **Academic Calendar:**

- Friday Nov. 9 – End of 1<sup>st</sup> MP
- Thursday and Friday Nov. 15+16 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Wednesday Nov. 21 – MP1 Awards Ceremony
- Thursday and Friday Nov. 22+23 – Thanksgiving Break

## **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 is 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 → <https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdCollingswood.org/>
- Twitter → <https://twitter.com/GSSCollingswood?lang=en>