

# Saint Francis De Sales Parish School Newsletter



## Think and Thank

For the last 19 years I have facilitated an activity with students and/or staff called Think and Thank. The idea of the activity is to make a list of things (IPAD, Mac-N-Cheese, electricity, etc.) they are thankful for, a list of people (their spouse, parents, kids, and any people who have made an impact on their life) that they are thankful for, and a list of others (love, freedom, faith) that they are thankful for. Once they have completed the lists we look at the many things we have in our lives that we are thankful for and why we are thankful for them. The final piece of this activity is to look at the people on their list and write down the last time they thanked them for being in their lives. If they have never thanked them, or it has been over a year since they have been thanked, then the participants of the activity must take some time to reflect and thank those people on their list.

My list started with 29 people the first time I completed the activity and over the years I have added names and thanked the original 29 people. For me it has been especially significant as it has caused me to watch and be reflective of how much people do for each other and for me.

This Thanksgiving I would like to take this time to thank all of you for your hard work and the time you give to make our school the best school possible. I am thankful for the parents of SFDS for the warmth, love and support they share with our school. Our parents continue to amaze me by the way they support our school's growth with their time, skills and knowledge. I am thankful for all the amazing staff members of SFDS for the focus they have building a school that helps students grow spiritually, academically, mentally and physically. Their openness to grow as leaders while dedicating their lives to facilitating post-secondary success for every student has been the thing for which I am most thankful. I am thankful for my family support me on this journey here at SFSD. As my son continues to exceed at Badger High School, I feel blessed that our middle school teachers prepared him to take on any challenge that may come his way. My daughter Chloe, remains the toughest kid I have ever met, but who has a smile that will melt your heart. Although I wish Chloe was at SFDS, we are blessed to know that the staff at Lakeland is a close second to our staff. My wife Kim, is not only this amazing person who keeps me focused and grounded, she continues to shine as the special events chef for our school. Kim continues to make the most amazing meals for special staff occasions and for our birthday and student of the month breakfasts.

Finally, and without a doubt the most important group I am thankful for is our students. These truly gifted, open, spiritual, and righteous groups of young people are always willing to collaborate and support me as their principal. I have seen our students in many different venues and worked with them in the different roles I play in our school, and I continue to be impressed with their character and ability to showcase their Roadrunner Pride on a daily basis. I am thankful for their hard work in the classrooms. I am thankful for the way they are respectful, responsible and caring in all school and church settings. I am thankful for the way they carry themselves when they represent our school as members of teams, clubs, programs or groups. I am thankful for the ideas they have come to me with as they help to build a school that students want to come to, not just now, but years from now.

This Thanksgiving I plan to reflect on how lucky I am to be in the lives of all the people I have mentioned and hopeful that SFDS prepares them to be successful post-secondary. I will also be thinking about my nineteen days of 2017, and how I will make them count. Ask your child about what they plan on doing for their nineteen days of 2017.

Thank You and Happy Thanksgiving, Eric

**Monday November 27, 2017**

- BOB Meeting 11:30-12:10 in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Swing Choir 3:30-4:30 ALL in Church
- School Advisory 5:30

**Lunch: Chicken Patty w/bun, Sweet Potato Fries, Cauliflower**

**Tuesday November 28, 2017**

- DC Casual \$2

**Lunch: Mac & Cheese, Salad w/dressing, Carrot Sticks, Fruit Cocktail and Milk**

**Wednesday November 29, 2017**

- Choir of Angels 8:10
- Mass 9:00 (3) (Mrs. Glass, Mrs. V, Mrs. Sykora)
- Student Voice 11:30
- Mary's FIAT Meeting 3:30-4:15 in Art Room

**Lunch: Salisbury Steak w/gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Salad w/dressing, Dinner Roll, Pears and Milk**

**Thursday November 30, 2017**

- Bob Meeting 11:30-12:10
- Swing choir Middle school 11:50-in 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip , Christmas Carol 8:30-3:00

**Lunch: Cheeseburger w/bun, Baked Beans, Tomatoes, Applesauce and Mik**

**Friday December 1, 2017**

- Progress Reports Go Home

**Lunch: Chicken Nuggets, Roll, Celery w/dip, Steamed Broccoli & Cauliflower, Peaches, Snickerdoodle Cookie and Milk**

**Saturday December 2, 2017**

- No activities

**Sunday December 3, 2017**

- Advent Breakfast 8:00-12:30