

### HOPE

**Hope is the virtue that we will be focusing on this year.** At the Meet the Teacher Night our opening prayer referenced the fact that Easter is the great season of hope given that we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord! Catholic Schools should be places of hope – Easter places! Remember to pray for this school community throughout this year that we will be inspired by a view of life that is joyful and optimistic and that our own association might contribute to this.

Of the three theological virtues, Faith, Hope and Love, hope is often the one most misunderstood according to St. Augustine. On standardized religion tests it is the one students struggle to answer correctly. Think of hope as projecting into the future. Hope isn't in the past or in the present it is looking toward what is to come. "I hope my mother packed a good lunch for me today!" talks about a future that is only a few hours away. "I hope I will be able to go to Notre Dame!" is a future goal. We pray that our children will learn to hope in a future life that is joyful and optimistic even if there are a few bumps in the road along the way. In cooperation with their family we hope to give them the skills to remember that "our hope is in the Lord, who made heaven and earth and He will be with us always.

### LANCER LOOT, KIDS STUFF COUPON BOOKS, FOOTBALL MANIA TICKETS, SCRIP SALES

At the Meet the Teacher Night we had several parents give a brief description of the fundraisers currently operating in our school. We must raise 10% of our school budget through fundraising. We offer a number of opportunities for each family to help us meet this objective. They are offered so that there is something that you would be willing to sell to help meet the Fundraising goal. Perhaps you do not like lottery type tickets but buying a coupon discount book is something you can do. If you go to the Giant Eagle or the GetGo a no brainer fundraiser is the SCRIP program where you can buy GE Gift cards and use them in the store or at the GetGo. For this card you get a percentage back in tuition assistance and a percentage goes to the Angel Fund. You still have the entire amount to use for purchasing what you need. We buy the cards at a discount and sell them to you at face value so that is how we make a small percentage of profit.

All fundraisers need people who will volunteer some time to organize and market the activity. Please consider helping us. Lea Kirchner would be happy to hear from anyone who could spend about 15 minutes after a parish weekend Mass staffing the SCRIP table. This position is important because it gives non-school families the opportunity to buy some cards to support the school. A monthly workers schedule is published and two people per Mass is the goal. Selling certificates once a month could be something you might find doable! Try it!

### ST SYLVESTER CALENDAR PARTY, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

Information concerning the Calendar Party can be found in today's brown envelope. Consider hosting a table and inviting your friends, family members or maybe a card club to join you on Sunday, Oct 1, 2017. Maybe you could call some of your high school or college friends, invite them to a reunion at our party and use your school logo as the theme for decorations. The possibilities to have a good afternoon with nice people are endless. **Hope** to see you there!

## WE WILL BE CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY THIS YEAR

**We belong to a family**, a church community, a local community, a national community and a global community. At the Meet the Teacher Night we distributed a paper to gather our family's vital statistics as a first step toward helping children understanding their own ethnicity. We asked that they complete as much as they know and skip any item that you do not want to answer.

**We recognize the fact that there are many different configurations families** can take. We want you to understand that we are emphasizing the idea that, simply put, families are groups of people who live together and love each other. If this paper doesn't exactly fit your family structure then perhaps your child can interview "a grown up at home", rather than a parent, in the case of children who may live in a foster home for example...

When we trace back through our family we most likely will find the spot where a family member migrated to this spot in Pittsburgh. They may have moved from another city or state or, they may have migrated from another country. Sometimes children do not realize that their family did not always live in Brentwood or Pittsburgh, etc.

One of our goals is to recognize that each individual is unique, but inherits many values and methods of survival and expression from his/her culture as transmitted by family and ethnic groups. As the year goes on we hope to recognize and value past and present family traditions.