



December 20, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we approach the season of Christmas, it is a nice time to pause and reflect on what has been and what is to come. Christmas is the season of the Advent where the first two Sundays in Advent look forward to Christ's second coming, and the last two Sundays look backward to remember Christ's first coming. Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture readings move from passages about Christ's return in judgment, to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah, to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ's arrival by John the Baptist and the Angels.

Following the Advent theme, we would like to take some time to both reflect on our school opening and what is yet to come. The first four months have brought many successes. We have focused hard on our school priority of creating a welcoming, safe and caring environment for our students. In late October, we surveyed students and below is a brief synopsis of their feedback.

<i>Q1 What are three words you would use to describe St. Joseph?</i>	<i>A1 "Fun / Welcoming and Friendly / Helpful and Supportive"</i>
<i>Q2 What is the most important quality you believe all staff should have in our school community?</i>	<i>A2 "The most important thing we (teachers) are doing as a staff is caring about kids."</i>
<i>Q3 In what ways have you contributed to the positive culture in our school?</i>	<i>A3 "Students feel they are creating positive culture by smiling, being friendly, opening doors for others, being kind, being involved in activities and taking ownership for creating positive culture."</i>
<i>Q4 In what ways would you like to have input into decisions at our school?</i>	<i>A4 "Students would like to have a student council that allows them to influence decisions at St. Joseph."</i>

As a school, we are hearing that students feel safe and are enjoying their educational experience. We have also heard that they would like to be involved to a greater degree in maintaining our strong welcoming culture that is evident at St. Joseph. As we look into the New Year, a priority for us will be to create our student council and also to establish our School/Parent Council. Stakeholder input is crucial to the success of our school.

On behalf of the staff of St. Joseph High School, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and blessings for the New Year!

God Bless,

Graeme Daniel/Teresa Borchers/Ian Stang  
School Administration Team