

Thank you to those that participated in our Coffee with the Principal event on March 28 held in our LaSallian lounge! A special thank you goes out to Patti Fabrizio for helping to promote and coordinate the event.

The forum presented an opportunity for parents of the Saint Patrick community to learn more about current and future doings from the principal's prospective. In addition, families were given an opportunity to ask questions and further discuss other issues that needed clarification or additional explanation.

Below is a brief summary of the agenda items:

- Calendar days for 13-14 and 14-15

Much has been discussed with regards to whether or not we will have to make up school days for the 4 weather related days we took earlier this year. The state of Illinois requires that we have 176 school days or 880 school hours. We are well over the allotted hours for the school year and therefore will not have make up for any of the snow/cold days. The difference between public schools and private schools with regards to making up school days correlates with state funding. St. Patrick is not provided state funding and therefore (like most archdiocese schools) uses the school hours rule. Furthermore, the state rule asks for an average of 5 hours a day in school where we are in session for 6 hours and 40 minutes a day. For the 2014-15 school year, the archdiocese has asked all schools to be consistent with the number of days offered. Additional details will follow once the calendar is finished.

- Green & Gold success

I shared with the group the overall success of the Green & Gold Dinner Auction. In addition, I thanked those that attended and supported the work of the event. Listed below are some of the highlights of the March 1<sup>st</sup> event and well as the date for next year:

- **\$200,000** raised this year to benefit our students
- **\$30,000** pledged during the Financial Aid Live Appeal
- **550** Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinners served
- **750** bids on **110** fabulous silent auction prizes totaling **\$33,000**
- **\$5,000** worth of raffle tickets sold

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

for next year's Shamrock Green & Gold:

**Saturday, March 7, 2015**

Chicago Journeymen Plumbers' Hall

- St. Patrick Day Parades

Please check out the video I put together capturing some of the sights and sounds of the 2014 Downtown and Northwest side parades: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_lGt4V1eol4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_lGt4V1eol4) It was a blast to be part of such spirit!

- Class of 2018 update

There were only eight schools in the archdiocese that had an increase in the number of 8<sup>th</sup> grade test takers from 2013 to 2014 and St. Patrick was one of them. In fact, St. Patrick High School led the archdiocese with an increase of over 14% of our test takers from the previous year! This is a testimony to our admissions team, faculty, staff, parents, and students in making this recruiting season a success.

- Strategic planning update

The strategic planning committee met on January 25 and February 22. We discussed the internal strengths and challenges with regards to operating St. Patrick High School and how they ultimately shape our plan for the next five years. The last strategic planning date will be April as the group finalizes the overarching as well as measurable goals. The outline of the plan will be shared with our board on May 22.

- Volunteer subbing opportunities

The school is currently looking for people who would be able to volunteer and substitute at St. Patrick High School. It would especially helpful on our heavier faculty absence days when people are involved in retreats. It is preferred that someone is a certified substitute teacher, but not a mandatory requirement.

Thank you to those of you who were able to participate in this year's Coffee with the Principal! I look forward to meeting more families next year and in future years as well.