



# St. Stanislaus Kostka School

"Do not walk through time without leaving worthy evidence of your passage." Saint John XXIII

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Principal

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"All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."

Pope Francis

May 5, 2016

Dear St. Stan's Families:

Pope Francis speaks of all the masterpieces of God's creation; the halls of St. Stan's are full of these unique and beautiful masterpieces and we are blessed to be surrounded by each of these children. Our second grade masterpieces will celebrate their First Holy Communion this Saturday, May 7, 2016. My prayers and the prayers of all of our school family are with these young ladies and men. On Friday, May 13, 2016 we will be celebrating Mrs. Lisa Grover as our Mother of the Year and Mr. Ron Madiera as our "Grand" Father of the Year. The celebration is at 7pm and we hope you will join us in this celebration for two individuals who are so very dedicated to the children of our community.

Just some reminders; May 16<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> are 12 noon dismissals and May 20<sup>th</sup> is our annual field day. On May 26<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating Father Ken's birthday. Father Ken is our biggest supporter and is so very devoted to our school and its students. If you are able, we will be accepting donations for his gift between now and May 25<sup>th</sup>.

One item that was brought up on our recent survey, was annual teacher evaluations. In our school we follow a very similar model that the state of New Jersey has put into place for all teachers. Our teachers receive three "official" walk through evaluations and one annual summative evaluation annually. In addition to this, it is my responsibility to be as frequent a visitor in each and every classroom as possible; over the past two years I have done over 700 classroom observations in our classes. Teachers and I discuss these observations regularly and we determine ways each and every teacher can improve their instructional delivery. Another question that was also brought up in a survey, was why we do not switch teachers every year. Approximately two years ago most of our teachers received new grade level assignments. Changes in assignments should be made so that teachers remain fresh in their content area and grade level; however, changing teachers yearly would create gaps in student learning. Many experts in the education field suggest "looping" or staying with a group of students for consecutive years allows teachers to become more familiar with students and dive deeper into content and allows teachers to develop a better level of understanding for students. I hope this answers these questions. Should you ever have any other questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

In His Peace,

  
Elena Malinconico

Principal