

Thursday Thoughts
December 3, 2009
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Principal

I hope that everybody had a nice Thanksgiving and that you had time to be with family and friends over the holiday to share and give thanks for the many blessings God has given to all of us. Even though we live in challenging economic times, we still have much to give thanks - - our faith, family, friends, and health to name a few things we too often take for granted. Now it's the run to Christmas and the hurry and bustle that accompanies this time of year. During our morning announcements we are emphasizing this season of Advent and encouraging our students, faculty, and staff to be involved in helping the less fortunate through the many service projects we have going on in our building during the next couple of weeks. Please be as generous as possible when asked to contribute to these various projects.

In the next week or so you will be getting the results of the Terra Nova Achievement Test that was given in October. As you may recall, the week of testing saw the first wave of H1 N1 in our building and for the week over 80 students missed all or parts of the test. Many students came to school not feeling well but came to take the tests. I am sure that this will have an impact on the results. Most students who were ill were able to make up the tests that were missed the following week. It will be interesting to see the impact of all the illness as we review the results and compare to past years.

It doesn't seem possible but interim reports will be distributed this week. That means we are nearly half way through the second quarter!

During this year's parent conferences you were given an opportunity to complete a survey that dealt with this year's conferences. To date, I have received 78 completed surveys, some coming with more than one teacher on the survey. The surveys were returned to the teachers whose names appeared on the survey so they could get an idea as to parent feedback concerning the conferences. For the most part, parents appeared to be satisfied with the days and times of the conferences and felt that the teachers did a good job addressing their child's academic progress and the sharing of suggestions made by the teacher in assisting the parents in helping their child perform better in subject areas that needed to be strengthened. I was particularly interested in the final question which asked if parents would like to see conferences scheduled at the end of other quarters throughout the school year. A total of 56 out of the 78 surveys indicated agreement with the statement that conferences should be scheduled at the end of other quarters throughout the school year. From the comments received after the question, several indicated that an opportunity for conferences after the third quarter would be a good time. There were those who indicated that no formal conferences were needed, but it was important for the teacher and parent to communicate if there were problems that needed to be discussed. I would say that our teachers are very good about communicating with parents if academic or discipline concerns need to be addressed. I will be discussing the

results of the conference survey with our teachers and will communicate the results of this discussion in a future Thursday Thoughts.

Need to correspond with a teacher using email? Check our website for teacher email addresses.

And those are my thoughts for this week.