



September 2018 Family Newsletter



Another summer nears its end, albeit reluctantly (the high temperatures and the humidity remain). Another September is here and with it the start of yet another school year. As much as we love the summer, there is an excitement that comes as we return to school. The children enter a new grade, anticipate a new teacher(s); there are new challenges and new opportunities. And so we are off and running!

In recent years we have chosen various themes for the school year. We have always made an effort to choose a theme that will inspire the entire school community. During our opening of school meetings this year, the faculty decided on “The beauty of God’s world lies in the diversity of his children.” This quote truly speaks to who we are. The diversity that we enjoy is truly a gift. I discovered this gift personally in the early days of my first year at Cheverus. It was during one of my visits to a sixth grade classroom. The experience is vividly etched in my memory. There were sixteen students in the class. While there, I began to question the students on where they came from. To my astonishment, I learned that many of them were foreign-born and a majority of them were first-generation immigrants. Of the sixteen students in the class nine different countries were represented, with as many languages spoken by the children!

At Cheverus Catholic, we are a splendid mix of humanity! Our families come from all over the world: India, Pakistan, Nepal, China, Vietnam, Nigeria, Ghana, the Cameroon, Kenya, Uganda, Haiti, Honduras, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Italy, and more! So we choose to share and celebrate these rich backgrounds, while at the same time emphasizing the commonalities we share with one another as children of the same God. We will look for opportunities throughout the year to publicly celebrate our diversity.



During the summer there were two major projects undertaken here at school: The first involved putting in place the structures for the new playground, and the second was the installation of the new “state-of-the-art” security system. The playground came to fruition as a direct result of funds that were raised at last year’s Gala. The security cameras became a reality thanks to yet another generous grant from the Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation.

The total number of students on the honor roll represent 57% of all the eligible students in grades 4 – 8. Congratulations!!!

Three years ago at the direction of the Archdiocese of Boston Catholic School Office, all Catholic elementary schools participate in the Northwest Evaluation Association testing program. Once again this year Cheverus Catholic will administer the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) test for grades 2 – 8 as part of that testing program. At the end of the last academic year our students showed significant progress from the first test administered in the previous year. The results are summarized here:

Mathematics Student Growth Percentile		Reading Student Growth Percentile	
Spring 2017	Spring 2018	Spring 2017	Spring 2018
34	39	34	42

The test serves the purpose of not only indicating school-wide areas of progress, but also provides detailed data on the progress as well as areas of weakness of individual students. This information helps teachers to direct instruction to those areas of need.

We will begin the fall testing the week of September 17. This year we will share your child’s individual results with you at the December PTA meeting at which time we can help you to interpret your child’s scores.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Cheverus Catholic School I wish to express our sincere gratitude for the faith and confidence you demonstrate in entrusting your children to our care. We look forward to working with you throughout the school year.

I am including along with this newsletter a message from our parent organization. Each of you as a parent of a Cheverus student is automatically a member of the PTA. I urge you to actively get involved!

Respectfully,



Thomas P. Arria, Jr.
Principal



School News
September 2018

Hello Cheverus Catholic Families,

My name is Rose Shea and I am looking forward to serving as your PTA President for the 2018-2019 school year. Our family will be starting our 8th year at Cheverus! Time flies when you are having fun.

The entire Cheverus Catholic School Community – parents, teachers and staff -- continues to remain passionate and dedicated to supporting the PTA programs and goals. I am truly honored to be part of that!

Last year, the PTA supported many programs and events, including the after school clubs, Pumpkin patch, Harvest Fair, Breakfast with Santa, 8th grade fundraising for DC, Annual Gala, Catholic School Week, a variety of fun filled social activities, and more. Additionally, through the generosity of our school community, we were able to spoil our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week by filling the break room with goodies!

All of these amazing accomplishments would never have happened without all of YOU...we rely on our dedicated parents and staff to donate their time, talents and resources in whatever capacity available. There are SO MANY WAYS to get involved at Cheverus, whether you want to start small, serve on a committee, or take on a large event, the PTA is always looking for volunteers! And from experience, I can attest that it is truly special to see the joy in the children's faces as they participate and benefit from these programs. Sadly, this will be my last year to serve as President. Please consider volunteering to take this role on. You will not be disappointed. If you want to learn more about ways to help, have any questions, concerns, or simply ideas to share, always feel free to reach out to me at pta@cheverusschool.org.

I can't wait to work with all of you to continue to help support our school!

Upcoming Events/Fundraisers

September:

Sept 12: Back to school Ice Cream Social

October:

Oct 5: Cider Donut Sale

Order forms available for donuts and Mums

Oct 12: Cider Donut Sale and Pumpkin Patch

Pick up of all Pre-Order Items

Oct 18: Cheverus Catholic School Annual Gala

Date TBD: Yankee Candle Fundraiser for 8th Grade Trip

November/December:

Date TBD: Parents Night Out for Holiday Shopping

Cheverus volunteers will babysit your child for a minimum fee (includes snack). More info to follow.

Dec 2: Pancake Breakfast and Photos with Santa
with holiday fair (Vendors needed)

Back to School Night

Back to school Night for Grades 1-7 will be held on **Thursday, September 13 – Parents Only!**

PTA Monthly Meetings

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meets monthly. Schedule to be posted soon.

Box Tops for Education

The **Clip Program** allows schools to earn cash by clipping the Official Box Tops for Education "Box Tops" from the packages of hundreds of purchased participating products. A list of participating products can be accessed at www.boxtops4education.com.

Check your child's backpack for submission sheets!

Support your School and Volunteer - Join the PTA!