

UUAA 1.26.20

Up Up And Away - Notes from the Upper School Director

January 26, 2020

Serenity now!

For all their benefits, electronic devices like laptops, tablets, and smartphones feed an expectation of instant gratification that appears to erode our ability to sit still, or wait, or simply think. I believe it's important to counter that tendency by deliberately carving out downtime, whether in the form of relaxation, reflection, silent reading, walking in pristine areas, or (as discussed earlier this year) sleep. Adolescents may not always gravitate toward those activities naturally but often appreciate them once undertaken. Our weekly Mass service, no matter one's religious outlook, builds a habit of silent meditation and prayer. We are lucky to have quiet nooks on campus like the Wetlands and the Labyrinth as oases for reading, sketching, and study. Parents are hopefully finding creative ways to encourage such serene activities at home since life otherwise seems to move at light speed.

On another "note," congratulations to the performers and to all those working behind the scenes to make *Into the Woods* such a success. The actors were hilarious, the singing was beautiful, the staging was remarkably professional, and there was a chicken. What more could you want?

Events This Week:

● This year's **Math-a-thon** kicks off in Chapel on Monday, January 27. Collection packets with results will go home at the end of this week and are due back by Wednesday, February 12. Please support your child's efforts in any way you can.

● **Co-ed Soccer** playoffs for the "A" team take place this week. This is a single elimination tournament, so the team must win to advance to the next round:

Tuesday, 1/28 - Leman Marana or Calvary @ Udall (field "A") at 4 p.m, team released at 3 p.m.

Thursday, 1/30 (if we win on Tuesday) - @ Udall (field "A") at 4 p.m, team released at 3 p.m.

If we win on Thursday, we will likely travel to Pusch Ridge on Friday (1/31) for the final round match. Look for updates from Coach Greene.

● Eighth Grade Community Service **Team Five** is due to help make sandwiches for Casa Maria here in the Smith Parish Center Friday, January 31, at 5:30 p.m. The following week **Team Six** will spend the morning of Tuesday, February 4, at Casa Maria itself preparing for a meal service.

Events Beyond This Week:

● Our **Science Fair** week, February 3-7, begins with the annual **Edible Car Race** on Monday, February 3. Registration forms must be turned in by this Friday, January 31, at 4:00 p.m. See the attached flier for rules and further information as well as the necessary registration documents.

Science Fair Week concludes with **STEM Night** on Friday, February 7. There will be a uniform exchange and Eighth Grade graduation meeting for parents that same evening. (The uniform exchange will take place the next morning, Saturday, February 8, as well.) It promises to be another dynamic event.

● Parent information nights for the 6th grade Crow Canyon trip and 7th grade Catalina Island trip are both scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, February 12, from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

● 8th grade families are asked to submit images and text for the dedication pages of this year's **Yearbook.** Every 8th grader will receive space, but parents must furnish the materials to use by **February 14th** at the latest. Full page tributes are \$100.00, half pages are \$50.00, and quarter pages are complimentary. Please see the separate email from Ms. Southern and me for further details and for the link to our online Yearbook portal.

● There's no school for our **Rodeo Break** the week of February 17-21.

That's all for now...

Best wishes,

Alex Hawes

Upper School Division Director

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Links of Note:

[Main School Website](#)

[School Facebook page](#)

[School Instagram page](#)

[St. Michael and All Angels Church](#)

[PlusPortals \(online grades\)](#)

[Eagle Express Blog](#)

[Google Classroom](#)

[McGraw-Hill ConnectEd Textbook Login](#)

[School Uniforms](#)

[Hot Lunch Ordering](#)

[Student-Parent Handbook](#)

[SMA Volunteer Page](#)

[Main School Calendar](#)

[5th Grade Test Calendar](#)

[6th Grade Test Calendar](#)

[7th Grade Test Calendar](#)

[8th Grade Test Calendar](#)