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November 21, 2014

Dear Parents,

The Race for Education was a huge success! Although a little chilly, the students, faculty and parents all seemed to have a fun time. An enormous thank you to Jeff Cleveland and Jeannette Spirides for chairing this important fundraiser and to all of the parents who volunteered throughout the day – we could not have accomplished this without you. Thank you also to all who contributed; I appreciate your support of Holy Spirit School. For those who may have thought you missed the deadline for contributing, the good news is you have not! The link for donating is still available on the website and contributions will be accepted through December 5<sup>th</sup>.

As soon as we return from the Thanksgiving holiday we will launch the annual Toys for Tots drive. The gift collection will be held December  $1^{st}$  – December  $5^{th}$ . Our Giving Mass will be held Friday, December 5 at 9:00 am; I hope you can join us.

In addition, we will hold an Advent prayer service on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 am in the school gym. If your schedule permits, please come in and pray with us.

The Kindergarten  $-4^{th}$  grade Christmas Concert is fast approaching (December  $16^{th}$ ). Included in this Family Folder is information regarding costumes; please be sure to look at this.

Changes to the school website continue to be made. Please continue to check back for updates. Each of my letters and the flyers included in the packets are available on the website; we will be moving towards sending less paper home in the near future. Work on the lunch menu ordering module has been started; there are many considerations when choosing to have online payments as an option but we hope this will soon be a viable option for families.

We continue to receive calls from some of our Red Fox Forest neighbors regarding school families parking in front of their houses in the afternoon to transfer children from car to car. I again reiterate that we try very hard to be good neighbors and would ask that you refrain from doing this.



A blue ribbon school of excellence that enjoys state of the art facilities and a beautiful private campus located on 15 acres within easy access of the National Capital Beltway. Providing an education of eternal significance in Northern Virginia for half a century.

Next week is a short week as we are in school only on Monday and Tuesday. As we celebrate Thanksgiving please know that the members of the Holy Spirit School community are right there at the top of my list of those for whom I am most thankful to have in my life. Your children are amazing and I know that I was blessed in so many ways when offered this position. I am most grateful for your support and friendship. I strive each day to be sure that the mission of our school is evident to all those who enter our school building and work to thoughtfully and compassionately interact with all who are here.

I pray that you and your family enjoy a peaceful Thanksgiving. Safe travels!

Blessings always,

Maureen Ashby Principal

## Thanksgiving Prayer

For each new morning with its light, For rest and shelter of the night, For health and food, For love and friends, For everything Thy goodness sends.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)