

March 8, 2018

Dear Parents,

One of our most beloved school events and fundraiser for our school is held this month--the Taste of Trinity! This fun event is held on March 10. The Taste of Trinity is a celebration of our school community. Like our elementary schools and parishes have their carnivals that celebrate their church families, this is our very own representation of the diversity present in our school population. We can't wait to share it with you! Thank you for all of your help getting ready for our special day.

Save the date! ¡Apunta la fecha! Để dành ngày này!



Our 8th graders participated in the National Assessment of Educational Progress, NAEP in US History and Economics this week. Known as the "Nation's Report Card," NAEP is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our students know and can do in core subjects. NAEP testing is mandated by Congress and used to assess progress and develop ways to improve education in the US.

Please make plans to attend our Parent/Teacher Conferences on Tuesday, March 13 or Wednesday, March 14 from 3:45—6:30 p.m. We look forward to discussing your student's progress with you.

The Diocesan-mandated standardized test, the Terra Nova, will be administered to all grade levels from April 9—12.

In order to build community at Trinity, we have been inviting speakers in at the first of each month since school started, and we have had a great experience so far. We just wanted to take some time out to talk with the kids about some things that are crucially important (or even just timely or interesting) but that we often don't get around to nearly enough. This has been a very positive activity for us.

Speakers so far this year include Deacon Norm DeBriyn of St. Thomas Parish in Fayetteville, retired Razorback Baseball Coach—Pilgrimage to the Holy Land; Dr. Kristi Kindrick and Lisa Albuja—Stress Management for Adolescents; Jan Schaper, State Coordinator of the Citizens' Climate Lobby of Arkansas; Coach Josh Newman—sportsmanship, what coaches look for, and teamwork; State Rep and Mayoral Candidate George McGill—becoming a great young man and Jennifer Holland, Enrollment Generalist UAFS—becoming a great young woman; Deputy Mike Burcham, SCSO—safety, bullying, life choices and Chief Ray Ottman, UAFS—dangers of social media; Jeremy May—Board President, Hope Campus; Sue and Sonny Robison, "Judge and Mrs. Isaac C. Parker"—Bicentennial of Ft. Smith; Sr. Kimberly Prohaska, Br. Francis Kirschner, Fr. Alejandro Puella—Vocations to Religious Life, and John Jeter, Don Bailey, and the Kool Cats from the Ft. Smith Symphony. Upcoming speakers include a World Trade Center Survivor from 9/11. We are always looking for interesting and educational speakers. Please let us know if you know someone!

Special activities during Lent include a Passover Seder meal, in which all Religion classes participated to build family relationships at school and to commemorate the tradition celebrated by Jewish people as part of the Jewish Passover, when God through Moses led his people out of slavery. We celebrate as Christians to remember that God keeps his promises, and to remember Jesus's celebration of the Passover during the Last Supper.

We also hosted the Ft. Smith Symphony String Quartet during one of our weekly Masses. Our Lenten Reconciliation service will be Wednesday, March 13, and we are encouraging Lenten almsgiving by participating as a school in a food drive for the Community Clearinghouse. This was highlighted on local channel 5 on Friday, March 9.



Fr. John with members of the Ft. Smith Symphony String Quartet

We continue to discuss student safety, especially in the aftermath of the tragic shootings in Florida. We conducted two separate drills during February, one evacuation and one lockdown, with the focus being paying attention and listening to teachers. Both FSPS and SCSO have offered to send officers, in uniform, to school during lunch hours to become more familiar with students and our building.

We have offered support to the newly formed Ozark Catholic Academy, a Catholic high school that will open in August. An invitation to their open house was sent to our 9th grade parents, and we will host Head of School John Rocha, who will visit with 9th grade parents after our conferences on March 14, at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming important dates:

Taste of Trinity—March 10

Varsity Track Meet @ Alma—March 13

Parent/Teacher Conferences—March 13/14

Lenten Reconciliation Service—March 14

Spring Break—March 19—23

Varsity Track Meet @ SHS—March 27

7th/8th Track Meet @ SHS—March 29

Good Friday—NO SCHOOL—March 30

Thank you for your ongoing support of Trinity! We appreciate our families.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Karen Hollenbeck