



SAINT CATHERINE of SIENA SCHOOL

November 8, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On Saturday, I got home from the dentist and checked my email. I scanned my inbox and saw an email from one of our 8th grade boys. It is unusual for me to receive an email from one of the students on the weekend and so, I immediately clicked it open wondering what I would find. The email was 1000 words filled with God's light. The student wrote eloquently on behalf of himself and a few other students in appreciation of a faculty member's goodness and grace. The words filled my heart like the November sunshine and I couldn't help but be proud to know students who are living our school motto to 'See Christ in Others. Be Christ for others.'

It was perfect timing because the faculty had voted last week to honor 3 teachers who best exemplify our school mission, *Saint Catherine of Siena is a joyful, Catholic school of dynamic, formative learning for students in grades preschool through grade 8. In a personalized, student-centered environment, we celebrate the God-given greatness and unique potential of every child. We help students to develop a deep faith and love of God, and to grow as compassionate, confident, and courageous young men and women, prepared to use their gifts as Christian servant leaders in the world.* It was such fun to celebrate teachers honored by teachers. Our Middle School Math & Science Teacher, Mr. Chambers won the award and Kindergarten Teacher, Miss Sullivan and Third Grade Teacher, Mrs. Vadala both received *Honorable Mentions*. It was so nice to have a few of our 8th Graders want to add to that list and celebrate the God-given talents of another educator, Mr. Dulong as well. Student voice, teacher voice, and the voice of our families is so important as we grow and nurture our Catholic learning community.

Lately, I have also heard from our students who have used their voice to shout out about Cardinal Sean's day off for SCS! Those of you who watched the *live stream* on October 7th when Cardinal Sean visited to offer Mass in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary know that Cardinal Sean made an announcement at the end of the Mass. *Apparently, it is a tradition that when the Cardinal visits to celebrate a school Mass, the students and teachers are given an extra & special day off. Together with Father Donohoe we will honor this Boston Catholic School's tradition.* I hereby announce in appreciation of his Eminence's words that **Monday, December 20, 2021 will be the Cardinal's Day Off at SCS.** Please know that this is absolutely an unusual occurrence and so, I thank families in advance for your understanding regarding this day. Our *Extended Day program* will be open on that day from 8am to 4pm but SCS will be closed for the Cardinal's Day off. As we all still navigate a world changed by the pandemic, I hope that your family will be able to enjoy the extra time at Christmas with family and friends.

With that hope on my heart, I share some of the words from the 8th Grader who wrote to me about Mr. Dulong, *'I am writing this hoping that something special can be done for Mr. Dulong, whether it's a card, gift, or maybe a surprise party or event after-school one day to show our appreciation for him. (We could also do something special on his birthday instead.) If you approve of any of these ideas please let me know if there is anything I can do to help setup and*



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organize something for him, as many other students and I would like to show our appreciation for him. He tries his best to help all of us do better and is a great role model. Thank you, SCS families for giving the teachers and I the opportunity to know and teach students who, like the 8th Grader who wrote me the email, shine God's light so brightly at Saint Catherine of Siena School, even on the weekend. Especially as we near Thanksgiving, the teachers and I are so grateful for your patience, understanding, support, and partnership as we do our best to celebrate our school mission each day at SCS.

Yours in Christ,
Beth