**Open House**

Sept 6, 2017

Good evening and welcome to the 17-18 school year.

**Welcome**

I wanted to take this time to recognize the important people that make up our community. Hopefully you had a chance to visit the classrooms in the school and visit briefly with the teachers.

Our teachers make up and represent more than 250 years of experience. I am proud to be a member of such a hard-working group of people. Our families have dedicated their time and efforts to place their students here at the school, we wouldn't be here without you. The 68 students that we have enrolled in our school this year represents continued tradition in the roots of Catholic education. With all three groups working hard together, we will do our best to provide a quality education for the longevity of Saint Paul’s Catholic school.

**Challenge**

Thank you to all those who have given so much time to support this school. This school cannot continue in it’s current capacity, with the lowest tuition in the state, and over bearing differed maintenance without the help, service and fundraising from each and every family. Many will say, “well I pay the tuition”, but the tuition doesn’t cover the operational costs for our school. In order to recoup that, we expect each family to offer 60 hours of community service and participate in each fundraiser. It has been suggested that we revamp our income strategy to maybe include no fundraisers, increased tuition, greater rewards for the service, or increased parish subsidies for active parishioners.

All these ideas have been expressed to the office by different families at one time or another, that want to see St Paul’s thrive, without burning out the dedicated families or staff. The St Paul’s Parent Association, or SPPA, as we know it, is comprised of all of you, not only the 8 families that make it to the meetings.

Changes are coming next year, and we invite you to be part of the discussion later this month.

**NEASC**

This is the 10th year in our accreditation process by New England School and College Association. This NEASC review is an intense report that tracks areas we have improved and where we need to continue our improvements. You have been asked to fill out climate surveys last year and just last night, one concerning curriculum. Thank you for your support in these projects. The teachers have nominated Mrs. Carmen Tarbox and Mrs. Stacey Lemire are the co- chairs to this report. Mr. Kevin Mayor, from the parish, is helping us edit. The goal for this report will be to complete the report and send it in by summer. A visiting team will come see us next fall. At that time, we will host a group of 4-6 teachers that will evaluate our report and school. They will want to meet with families, staff, students, the Board and alumni. We need to provide opportunities for them to communicate and observe how wonderful our school is. They will write a report back to the NEASC Board, commending our efforts, and will make 2-3 goals for us to address in our next 10 years. This accreditation proves to the whole world that we have complied with the vigorous standards that other good schools, both private and public have had to a follow. This action plan is continuous. Every year we need to file a progress report. This process has proven to be fruitful in many ways especially in that it incorporates many facets that make our school wonderful. We have reevaluated programs, and curriculum, made great strides in our building and facility, supported our staff in their professional endeavors and moving their salaries to a more equitable means, redefined our Board and adopted new bylaws, expanded our PreK program gaining 3 STARS in the VT recognition system and expanding our academic programming to compete within the state at such programs as Science Fair, Math Counts, GeoBee, Spelling Bee and History Day.

We have a wonderful gem of a school community here and I am blest to be a part of it.

**Conclude**

Thank you for joining us tonight. Father and I invite you to join us Sept 28 at 6:30 PM at Saint Theresa’s parish Hall to discuss the future of the school’s income potentials.

Drive carefully. Good night.

*Glory Be to the Father …..*