Love of Learning Faith in God Service for Others

NEW MEMBERS OF OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

New Faculty

Miss Ella Sinise – Pre-Kindergarten Teacher
Miss Kahla Vise– Grade 2 Aide
Miss Kellen Murphy – Grade 3 Aide
Mr. Justin Wedgewood– Grade 6 Teacher
Mr. Dan Stuhlmann– Grade 8 Teacher
Mrs. Christine Zisa – Resource Teacher

Familiar Faces

Mrs. Rosina Mitchell – Resource Teacher
Mrs. Linda Pastorek – Math Coordinator
Miss Casey Duffy returns to us as Mrs. Casey Graham
Miss Sara Smith returns to us as Mrs. Sara Koh
Miss Casey Fortes returns to us as Mrs. Casey Rossomondo

New Students and Their Families

Brendan Baynard
Eric Billings
Hadley Blair
Theo Bronson
Cecilia Cabanilla
Samuel Carroccio
Cecilia Chang
Jed Coleman
Cara Donohue
Sadie Eisenberg
Molly Faught
Andrew Ferrufino
Owen Gartland
Charlotte Harvey
Haisley Harvey
Emma Hughes
Grace Langdon
Dylan Latimer
Gianna Lucido
Rita Lucido
Timothy McEachern
Anna McHugh
Luca Ochoa
Taylor Papa
Caroline Roth
Benjamin Roth
Henry Schreiber
Chris Schwarz
Lucy Shooshan
Lucia Sigrist
Joan Smith
Ryan Surrell
James Trotter
William Zisa

Returning LFS Students and Their Families

We extend warm greetings to all our returning faculty, families and students and pray that the new school year will be richly blessed. May we work together to enrich the wonderful school community that is ours and to live out our theme of:

"Creating A Caring Community through Respect and Responsibility"

WHAT'S NEW??

As you can see on the first page of our Newsletter we are welcoming new faculty members, new families and students. It is our hope that each of them will enjoy their time at Little Flower and I know you will join with us in making them feel most welcome.

What Else Is New at Little Flower?

- **New Math Program for Grades K-5 and Grade 8**
- **New Security System**
- **New Entry System**
- **New Smartboards for the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten**
- **Safety Guard Rails Along the Field**

You will be happy to know that the school will receive a grant of $14,000 from the State as part of the funding for Non-Public Aging Buildings to put towards the new school entry and security system in the school. Thanks to your tax dollars at work!!!

THANK YOU

Hector Ferrufino, Eaner Weaks, Carlos Romero and Mirian Lobo

It is very important that we take the time to express gratitude to our four custodians for all that they did this summer to make certain that our school would be in tip top shape for the opening day of school. Our thanks to them also for all that they do throughout the year to keep LFS looking so good.

OPENING Day – SEPTEMBER 5th! All students in Grades 1-8 will attend from 8:10 am – 12:15pm. Parents of Prek and Kindergarten students are reminded to check the times for their child's shortened session on this day in the information letter on the Parent website.
https://www.littleflowerschool.org/parents/school-year-2017-2018/notes-for-pre-k-parents
https://www.littleflowerschool.org/parents/school-year-2017-2018/notes-for-kindergarten-parents

Please remember that parking is very tight on campus on this first morning. A higher number of children and parents than usual will be walking into the area while others are arriving by car and using the drop-off lines. We ask for your very careful attention when entering or leaving the property.

OPENING MASS All students in Grades 1-8 will gather at the 12:00 Noon Mass on Friday, September 8, for the Opening Mass for this new school year. Kindergarten will join in our liturgies in October. Pre-Kindergarten will join us in November. Know that you are cordially invited to join with us as we place this year in the Lord's hands and intercede for His special blessings on our school community.

MEMBERSHIP FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2017-2018

Meet the parents who serve our school community by their generous involvement on the Advisory Board and the Executive Committee of the Home and School Association.

SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

Chairperson: Wil McBeath

Chris Anzidei	Jim Brinkman	Matt Carroccio
James DeBritz	Denise DuFour	Matt Gannon
Laura Kallen	Tom Keon	Alex LaFrankie
Elaine McElhennon	Cara McVie	Danny Moore
Jarrett Morrell	Ben Psillas	Ana Serra
	Jodi Yeager	

Home School Liaison Katie Leasure
Parish Finance Committee Liaison Homer Hervey

The purpose of the Little Flower School Advisory Board is to provide advice and assistance to the Pastor and the Principal in the governance of the School. The Board shall fulfill its purpose and exercise its functions in accord with the mission and goals of the parish and school and the goals, policies and regulations of the Archdiocese of Washington.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President – Puffin Travers
Past President – Bill Jones

Vice President – Alex Mays
Recording Secretary – Dan Sullivan
Member at Large – Katie Leasure
Corresponding Secretary – Ali Hooper
Treasurer – Heather Gerth
Fathers' Club Liaison – Billy Cannon
Faculty Representative – Susan Cohen and Christine Zisa

An integral part of the school program is the Home and School Association, which is composed of all parents and the school staff. The Home School Association strives to work for the good of the school, to build a strong sense of school community and to foster viable channels of communication whereby parents and faculty may better communicate and cooperate in the education of our children.

IMPORTANT DATES

All of these dates have been highlighted in our newsletters and on the school calendar which you may find on the Parent page of the website under New School Year 2017-2018. We place them here as a reminder of coming events:

Opening Day	Tuesday, September 5
First Full Day	Wednesday, September 6
First day for Specials	Wednesday, September 6
After Care Program begins	Wednesday, September 6
Grade 8 Parents – High School Meeting	Wednesday, September 6
Homeroom Parent Meeting	Wednesday, September 7
Fathers Club Welcome for New LF Fathers	Thursday, September 7
Opening School Liturgy ~ 12:00 Noon	Friday, September 8
Home School Exec Meeting	Monday, September 11

Parent Night PK and Kdg	Tuesday, September 12
First Home and School Meeting	Thursday, September 14
Parent Night 1-2-3-4	Tuesday, September 19
Parent Night 5-6-7	Thursday, September 21
School Advisory Board Meeting	Tuesday, September 26
School Board Welcome for New Families	Friday, September 29

FORMS Thank you for your promptness in returning the many forms which were included on the School website. All of this information is essential to us. If you have not yet completed and returned all of these, we ask you to kindly do so as soon as possible.

VOLUNTEER ******As of today 135/160 families – 84% - have signed up to assist in some way. Have you? **** Our goal is 100%. We are hoping for 25 more families to make our goal.**

Little Flower School has always been proud of the fact that so many of our parents are actively involved in one or more of the many Parent Volunteer Programs here at school. Every parent is encouraged to be part of this generous group of parents.

There is always something that a parent can do to offer their time and talents to the school. If you haven't yet volunteered, please seriously think about doing so. Your children will be happy to know that you think their school is important to you and we will be delighted to have you as one of our involved families.

New families are strongly encouraged to participate in our Parent Volunteer Program. Visit the school website and sign up on the LFS Parent Volunteer Page as soon as possible as all of our programs should be up and running smoothly within the next week.

We are always in need of more volunteers.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN POLICY In order to participate in any of the school or parish volunteer programs all parent volunteers must abide by the Archdiocesan Volunteer Policies which include the following:

1. Completion of Archdiocesan Volunteer Application Form
2. Attendance at the Archdiocesan Protecting God's Children Workshop
3. Completion of the electronic background check.

To accomplish this, kindly:

Complete the Volunteer Application and return it to the School Office

Register for and attend a the Child Protection Workshop

Child Protection Training: Schedule and Sign-Up on the ADW website

Schedule an appointment for electronic background check which can take place here in our school office (*must file application and attend workshop first)*

Remember that this is a requirement for all of our staff and all parents who wish to volunteer in our Parish, School, Religious Education Program, CYO Sports Programs and any of the Scouting Programs here at Little Flower.

FORMS DUE: In cases where immunization records are required, children may not be permitted to attend class until those records have been supplied to the School Office.

Handbook Agreement Forms signed by parents and children must be returned to school promptly. We ask that you would please be certain to read the handbook before signing this required Agreement Form.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: Some specific supplies are purchased by the school and given to the children in the classroom at the start of the year. These are items such as specific writing tablets, music recorders, homework organizers, dictionaries, etc. that are easier to order together. **FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, THESE SUPPLY AMOUNTS CAN BE PAID ONLINE. Please use the form below. You may also send cash or check by mail or on the first day of school if you prefer.** **https://www.littleflowerschool.org/parents/school-year-2017-2018/fall-supply-list**

SECURITY We are always concerned about the safety of our children. May we remind you that the outside doors are always locked. If you need to come to school for any reason, we ask that you always enter by way of the Main doors nearest the school office. Children are instructed never to open the doors on the quadrangle for anyone.

Should your child forget his/her lunch, snack or school materials, please bring them to the Main Office. We will notify the child to retrieve them during a break in the class schedule. Please do not bring these items to the children during recess out on the playground.

At any time that you come to volunteer, please be certain to sign in at the Office. Please do not go to any classroom, without first checking in at the Office.

Your cooperation with these safety requests is greatly appreciated.

ATTENTION EIGHTH GRADE PARENTS
High School Informational Meeting
Wednesday, September 6
7:00 PM - School Music Room
This meeting will also serve as your Back to School Night.

SPECIAL CLASSES

All Special Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 6.
Please make note of the days for Physical Education classes:

Monday – Grades 1 – 2 – 5 – 6 - 7
Tuesday – Grades 1 (*half*) - 2 (*half*) – 3 - 8
Wednesday - Grades K – 4 – 6 - 7
Thursday – Grades 1 (*half*)-2 (*half*) – 5 – 8
Friday – Grades 3-4

HOMEROOM PARENTS There will a special organizational meeting for all Homeroom Parents on Thursday, September 7th at 8:15 am in the Parish Hall.

ABSENCE A child's absence must be reported to the SCHOOL OFFICE by telephone (301-320-3273) or email (office@lfschool.org) prior to 8:15 am. The office will notify the classroom teacher. If you would like for your child's homework to be left at the front desk at 2:50pm (no earlier please), please let the front office know when you call to report your child's absence. Please note that Grades 6-7-8 have "Homework Buddies" and they should have a plan in place to exchange homework assignments and books.

LATE ARRIVAL If your child arrives after the 8:10am bell, please bring him/her to the office. Be advised that continued tardiness will be subject to disciplinary consequences here at school. If it is a Mass attendance day, please do NOT drop your child directly at the church as late arrivals are disruptive to those in Church.

LOST AND FOUND It proves most helpful if **all** articles of the school/gym uniform, book covers, book bags and lunchboxes have your child's name and grade marked clearly on them. You'll be glad you did!! Children or parents should check gray bin outside the gym for missing items.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING Please be sure to come out for the first HSA Meeting of the school year. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome our new faculty and families to Little Flower. It is also a great time to renew acquaintances with all returning faculty and families.

Please plan to attend the Welcome Social, which will run from 7:00 PM to 7:30 PM and then continue after the general meeting.

We look forward to seeing you on **Thursday evening, September 14** in the Parish Hall!!

MEDICATION We ask that you would please review the Medication Policy as stated in the School Handbook. This policy is mandatory for all schools. All necessary forms are available on the website. Contact the office

ADDRESSES - EMAIL - PHONE NUMBERS Contact the school office if your address, phone number, or e-mail address has changed since completing your summer form. We will be printing the School Directory and would like everything to be correct. **SCHOOL DIRECTORY WILL BE FINALIZED ON FRIDAY, 9/15/17** We will also be updating the School Reach Program, an automated telephone/email messaging program, and will need correct phone numbers and emails for this total school communication outreach.

CELL PHONES Our students are not permitted to have cell phones with them here at school. Exceptions for this policy are given only for serious reasons. Permission may only be given by the Principal after a parent requests this permission in writing. This must be renewed each school year. Please do not use email for this special request.

AFTER CARE We are fully enrolled and have a waiting list for many of the days. If you are interested, it is advisable that you contact the School Office. Registrations are taken on a first come, first served basis and changes are accommodated in that order as well. All necessary forms are available on the website. (**Parent** page under **New School Year 2017-2018**).

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM All orders were due on August 15th. (We will allow additions through September 5th). Check the parent section of the website.

FIRST SEMESTER HOT LUNCH SCHEDULE **Delphi Caterers – September 12 – February 8**

Participation is optional. It is not possible to place partial orders. If you sign on for the Hot Lunch program, it involves signing on for the 41 lunches that will be served during the First Semester.

Students are asked to make sure that all books are covered for durability.

ASBESTOS NOTICE

In October 1986, the US Congress enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act. Under this law, comprehensive regulations were developed to address asbestos problems in public and private elementary and secondary schools. These regulations require most schools to inspect for friable asbestos, develop asbestos management plans that address asbestos hazards in school buildings and implement responsive action in a timely manner.

These regulations assign schools many responsibilities. Our program for fulfilling this is outlined in our asbestos management plan. This plan contains information on our inspections, re-inspections, the location of asbestos containing materials in the school building, response actions and post response activities, including periodic reinspection and surveillance activities that are planned or are in progress.

SAFETY

We are deeply committed to providing a safe environment for your child. Be assured that this is a major priority for all of us here at LFS. You probably noted on the September Calendar the different drills that we schedule so that there is a sense of preparedness for every situation. We pray that nothing out of the ordinary will take place but the environment is prepared so that we may deal with any emergency in the best way possible. The September drills are the only ones published, the others are unannounced.

Our goal is not to frighten the children so if your son or daughter comes home and is concerned because of different drills we may be having, please reassure them that the best way to do anything is to practice and that's just what these drills are…practices. We are required to have ten Fire Drills during the course of the school year. Code Blue, Code Red, Shelter in Place and Tornado Drills are conducted during the year.

CHILD SAFETY PROGRAM

You are well aware of the stance that the Archdiocese has taken through the years regarding Child Protection Policies. All person, employees and volunteers, who work with our children in any aspect of school or parish life must attend the Child Protection Workshop and enter into the Criminal Background Check by having their fingerprints taken at an Archdiocesan center.

To complete the program, training programs for children and young people were introduced so as to educate the whole community. These programs are age appropriate and through the years have been incorporated into both the Religion and the Health curriculums.

The key components of the program are listed here. Please be mindful of the fact that all of these concepts are introduced in an age appropriate manner for each class.

The Key Components of the Personal Safety Education Program for our students include:

1. Basic personal safety skills
2. Recognition of dangerous and abusive situations
3. Appropriate and inappropriate physical contact
4. Ability to say "no" to unwanted situations
5. Ability to identify trusting adults in their lives with whom to speak
6. Importance of disclosure if inappropriate or unwanted actions are directed to self or others
7. Recognition that abusive situations are never the fault of the child
8. Ability to safely navigate through internet forums (Age Appropriate Example)

I know that each and every one of you share our concern for the safety of our children at all times. In many ways you are already providing your child with personal safety tips. This is another effort on our part to support you in this area, to reinforce these concepts and to partner with you in providing our children – always age appropriately – information that can keep them safe.

Special class sessions will be scheduled this first marking period and Sister Madonna will meet with the students.

After School Programs

A description of the programs being offered this semester and the registration form are located on the school's website. Check this out at the Parent page. A registration form is printable there as well. Please note that checks are made payable to the teacher.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR We strongly encourage you to have your son or daughter in Grades 3-8 participate in the Children's Choir. This is a marvelous opportunity for young children to give of their time and talents for the honor and glory of God. Their beautiful voices bring a wonderful dimension to our Masses. Sister Rachel and Mrs. Ginny Curtin will be working with the children as they prepare for liturgies and other special events throughout the school year.

TUTORING

Mrs. Lindbloom is available for after school tutoring for students in Grades K-5. You may contact her by email alindbloom@lfschool.org

PARENT NIGHTS

PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THESE IMPORTANT GATHERINGS AND PLAN TO BE WITH US.

Grades Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten	**Date: Tuesday, September 12th**
Grades 1-2-3-4	**Date: Tuesday, September 19th**
Grades 5-6-7	**Date: Thursday, September 21st**

Two sessions will be scheduled for Grades Pre K-5. Grades 6 and 7 will have specific times for their sessions. Please see the chart which indicates the groupings for each of these sessions.
This scheduling will allow families that have more than one child in the school the opportunity to attend the sessions for each grade.

All parents are asked to enter and leave the school building by way of the doors closest to the Eighth Grade in the upper Quadrangle.

PARENT NIGHTS

Please note the dates, times and groupings for the Parent Sessions.
We have arranged the schedule to accommodate our families who have children in several grades.
Please: Park in the upper parking lot. ALL SESSIONS WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

PRE-KINDERGARTEN Library	*PRE-KINDERGARTEN Library*		*KINDERGARTEN Music Room*	*KINDERGARTEN Music Room*
7:15 PM	***8:10 PM***		***7:15 PM***	***8:10 PM***
Families A-H	***Families I-Z***		***Families A-H***	***Families L-W + Faught***

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

GRADE 1 Classroom		*GRADE 2 Classroom*
7:15 PM		***7:15 PM***
B - K + Leasure		***J – W + Gottschalk***
8:10 PM		***8:10 PM***
L - Z		***A - H + Jacinto + King +Fennell***

GRADE 3 Classroom		*GRADE 4 Classroom*
7:15 PM		***7:15 PM***
G - Z		***M – W + Barnacle +Carroccio + DeLellis***
8:10 PM		***8:10 PM***
A - D		***A – l + Sigrist***

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

Grade 5 Classroom	**Grade 5 Classroom**	*Grade 7 Parish Hall*	*Grade 6 Parish Hall*
7:15 PM	**8:10 PM**	****6:30 PM****	****7:30 PM****
A – J	**K - Z**	***All Families***	***All Families***

Little Flower School
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS - FALL 2017
(details on the school website)

Child's Name: _____ *Grade:* _____

o	After-School Art	Grades K-1-2
o	Debate Club	Grades 6-7-8
o	After School Math is Fun Club	Grades 3-4-5
o	After School Martial Arts	Grades K – 8
o	Jump Rope Fitness Grades	Grades K – 2
o	Children's Choir	Grades 3 – 8

REGISTRATION FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

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Little Flower School
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS - FALL 2017
(details on the school website)

Child's Name: _____ *Grade:* _____

o	After-School Art	Grades K-1-2
o	Debate Club	Grades 6-7-8
o	After School Math is Fun Club	Grades 3-4-5
o	After School Martial Arts	Grades K – 8
o	Jump Rope Fitness Grades	Grades K – 2
o	Children's Choir	Grades 3 – 8

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