

# THE FULL CURL



Monroe Catholic

## Announcements

- The Band and Orchestra Concert is scheduled for Dec. 14th, ICS will perform at 6pm and Monroe will start at 7:30pm, in the MP Room/ Commons.
- Christmas wreaths are in. If you ordered a wreath, stop by the business office in HIPOW and grab your wreath.

## Kudos

- A big thank you to the PTO gals who have put together a wonderful store on the stage for our students to purchase inexpensive Christmas gifts for family members.
- A big high five to Jessica Anderson for the work she has done with our students to plan and lead the youngsters in their Christmas performance. I had the opportunity of watching and listening and enjoyed it immensely.
- A big thanks to Lorna and the rest of the admin group for pulling off the fire drill in conjunction with Mass.



## Dear Parents:

Welcome to edition number eight of The Full Curl.

Most of you by now are aware I have assumed the role of Director of Schools here at Monroe. However, many of you may not know about the other half of my responsibilities, which fall under the title of President of the Monroe Foundation. While these jobs are certainly tied together, they are indeed different and both are of vital importance to the school.

One word I have used a lot more this year than in the past is context. I feel like it is very important to share proper context when talking about the Monroe Foundation and what it does. In a perfect world, the Monroe Foundation is responsible for raising roughly \$1.3 million to help support tuition grants for families who need financial help to send their children to the Catholic Schools. I say in a perfect world, because over the years, monies raised by the Foundation have also offset operational costs. I suspect this will continue to be the case until we are able to make a greater expansion in enrollment (which we are absolutely going to do).

While I am the President of the Monroe Foundation, Patty Walter heads up our fundraising strategies and organizes the multitude of fundraisers responsible for raising monies vital to our school. The

## School Needs

- **We could use some gift cards for – nothing to extraordinary – to use as door prizes for our staff Christmas party.** If anyone is interested in donating some gift cards for a teacher and spouse to eat out or grab a coffee, I would be very grateful.
- **In keeping with the Christmas Party theme,** I have specifically asked our staff to bring absolutely nothing but themselves, so they can fully enjoy a night of rest and relaxation. **To that end, if anyone would like to bake a dessert, I would greatly appreciate it.** I will handle the rest of the night's food and beverages (Wed, Dec. 20th)
- **We could use about 1 million Alaska Airline miles** to help with a variety of travel needs at the school. The miles would help with HIPOW packages, but also help possibly provide an opportunity for our students to travel for school related items, such as faith-based Jesuit Retreats.
- **PTO would love to have more folks who are interested joining their organization.** Info on how to join is in this week's column if you are interested.
- **Mrs. Wallace is always looking for quality substitute teachers.** Please notify her if you are interested.

office also includes Andrea McGill, who helps in a variety of roles related to HIPOW and other areas of the Foundation. Lynne Puryear has been a rock, handling every possible aspect of managing the business office. You will also find Lisa Sundborg working in the business office, along with Renee Loustalot. All of these ladies are integral to the overall success of the Foundation.

Recently I was having a discussion with a parent considering Monroe. She asked if we had scholarships. While she readily admitted that her family would likely not qualify for financial support, she was curious because she knows other families who may be interested who very well might need help. I had seen this parent at HIPOW and took the opportunity to mention the Foundation and how HIPOW plays a significant role in helping us raise money, which is in turn used to provide grants to support families who need tuition assistance. What she told me next bothered me immensely. She said she had been to a few HIPOWs and had always thought the occasion was simply a bunch of wealthy people getting together to help wealthy kids. I was taken aback.

At CSF it costs us roughly \$12,500 a year to educate a child (full tuition). While I know this is a lot of money, it is far less than the roughly \$22K the public schools are getting from the state to fund the education of one child. I can tell you we have more Monroe parents paying full tuition than ever before. Even so, we have to raise a lot more money than what HIPOW brings us in order to support all 337 students attending our schools.

While everyone knows about HIPOW, there are a number of lesser-known fundraisers we deploy over the course of the year. You may remember the summer concluding with a giant garage sale held in our multi-purpose room and commons. Yep, that was a Foundation fundraiser. In the near future, you will hear of us selling St Patrick's Day Raffle tickets, another huge Foundation fundraiser. Additionally, about five years ago we started having a Spring Fundraiser to help keep the doors to the school open. All of these events help us provide financial support to families who need it to cover some portion of tuition costs.

The purpose of discussing this topic with each of you is not so much to educate you, but to help you educate other people who may be interested in our schools. The words "private school" trigger immediate stereotypes, one of which is of a school populated only by wealthy kids, who might also be arrogant and snobby." I've been here for sixteen years now and I know very well that stereotype is far from accurate. We have a school full of children, many from households whose means are far less than affluent. In my position as a morning greeter at the front door, I've welcomed kids whose family's vehicle hood is held down by a bungee cord. And yes, I've also greeted kids in the morning whose families have been blessed financially. However, from the first day I arrived, I have been blown away by the generosity of those who have the means to make a difference.

## MCHS Sports Trivia

### TRIVIA QUESTION:

**Name two staff members who trained diligently for the Olympics and were within a whisker of competing as an Olympian.**

### RULES

To win the trivia contest, you must give me the answer IN PERSON. Emails, texts and phone calls will not suffice! Remember, only one guess per household. The first person to correctly answer the trivia question will win an MCHS T-shirt.

### LAST WEEK'S WINNER

There was no trivia question last week.

### SMALL PRINT

The spouse of the Director of Athletics, parents and STAFF who work directly inside CSF are not eligible for participation in The Full Curl trivia competition for 24 hours after the emailing of The Full Curl.

I mentioned that my two job titles are intertwined. As the Director of Schools, I want to see our school grow. We need to turn the ship in regard to enrollment. To do so, we need to maintain a level of affordability for families and we NEED to continue to raise as much money as possible, so we can make the dream of a better, faith-based education possible for ALL parents who desire a better life for their child. These children include Ronni Bennet, who recently wrote a wonderful article about her experience here at Monroe and her gratitude for financial support from the Foundation. I highly encourage you to read Ronnie's article, which I attached to the email that contains this week's Full Curl.

I'm hoping you can help us with the continued education of the public, which can impact our school positively in two very distinct ways. First, we need to let more families know the dream of an extraordinary, faith-based education is viable. To be clear, there will be no free education. Everyone will be required to make some sacrifice if they wish to be educated in these schools and be a part of this remarkable community. Still, we need parents to know we have the ability to provide financial support through the Foundation. Parents also need to continue to be made aware of the BEST program and money that is available to them through BEST and other programs like it.

Secondly, by letting people know what we do in the Foundation, we may find donors who are willing to support the Foundation at an even greater level. In addition to the fundraisers we currently run, I am actively seeking donors who would love to impact the life of a student by offering specific scholarships to help cover significant — not all — portions of a child's tuition. More donors means potentially more money which in turn means more ability to help more families. Ultimately, this means greater enrollment, which means a football team, a larger ACADECA team, and more important to me than anything, it allows me to address teacher salaries at a level I need to.

I'm proud of the educational experience we offer here at CSF. I'm proud of the job our teachers do and the commitment our parents make to our schools and the education their child is afforded. It is my hope that we now educate the public as well.