

# THE FULL CURL



Monroe Catholic Schools

## Announcements

- **The annual Texas Hold Em Fundraiser will take place tomorrow night, April 26th at the Elks.** Stay tuned for more info from our athletics director, Abe Siddall.

- **Our Spring Fundraiser has reached \$110K thus far.** We still have a ways to go, but we have made great progress in the past three weeks!

## Kudos

- A big thank you to Lonnie Smith for all the hard work he has put in as our new CFO. His understanding and willingness to learn the job, willingness to be here and delightful demeanor are a blessing to our school and to me personally.
- A big thanks to the Jessica Anderson for her extraordinary leadership in leading the Comet Club Concert today. Every time I am blessed to watch her students perform, I thank the Lord she is on our team.



## Dear Parents:

As many of you know, this year's Spring Fundraiser is focused on raising funds to support increasing teacher salaries. I'd like to take a moment to highlight just a few of the teachers who embody what it means to be a teacher. I hope this will provide some insight into why it is so important that we have a successful fundraiser to support this worthy cause. Let me be clear, this is just a **SMALL** sample of our impressive teaching staff.

Since starting as Director of Schools and President of the Monroe Foundation, I made some intentional changes. The first was to arrive earlier at work. My philosophy is that to set a great example, I need to live it.

Instead of arriving at my traditional 7a.m., I determined I needed to be the first one in the building and needed to arrive around 6:15 a.m. For the better part of the year, this has been my routine. However, I learned that I am not the earliest arrival. Often, Mr. Hudson is already in his classroom by that time. Mr. Hudson is a rock. It's not that he is just "good" at what he does – he absolutely **IS** – but

## School Needs

- 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.
- **We could still use a parent and an alum willing to go on video and speak to their experience here at the school.** This would be a huge help to us in our social media campaign. If you are interested, please let me know and I will help facilitate it happening!

more importantly, the level of care and the effort and energy that he puts into his students is extraordinary. I love seeing someone who is passionate about what he does.

As our band and orchestra teacher, he demonstrates a level of expertise that is unusual. I am proud to be the leader of a school that recognizes the value of an Art & Music curriculum. I am equally proud to be a part of a community that wants to see us do better for the individual who does so much to ensure we don't just have a mediocre band and orchestra, but that we have the BEST band and orchestra classes in the community. Mr. Hudson starts training young musicians beginning in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Imagine how well-trained a student is when they walk out our doors nine years later. He is the only teacher that "keeps" his students, sometimes, for nine years. That farewell can be bittersweet for both student and teacher!

After walking past Mr. Hudson's class, my routine includes making myself a cup of coffee. Usually at that time, I would often hear the mailroom door open and close. For a couple of weeks, I would wonder who was here at 6:30 a.m. Finally, I endeavored to figure out who the heck was showing up so early. I walked around the school until I arrived at the fourth-grade classroom of Marie Wilcoxon.

I really didn't know Marie very well but that changed over the course of this first year. About once a month I would pop in, say "hello," and ask how class was going. I learned right away she had her hands full with an exciting and wonderful group of fourth graders. During these visits we would talk about her class. It was obvious that her greatest concern was being able to provide for the needs of every student and ensure that her students grew over the course of the year. I marveled at her concern and care for the class. Marie is a teaching wizard and respected by everyone for being exceptional. As I got to know her, I felt saddened that it had taken me so long to discover this remarkable person working in the same building as me. Marie is clearly extraordinary and works tirelessly to be present for her students and other teachers while she continues to perfect her profession.

Most days I would hear noise on the other side of my office, which is where the Academic Center is located. Turns out, Mrs. Halvarson typically arrives no later than 6:45 a.m., and

## MCHS Sports Trivia

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### TRIVIA QUESTION:

**Name the individual who has won the Monroe Athletics Dept. Texas Hold 'Em event the most times.**

### 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

No 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.

gets to work preparing for the day. Mrs. Halvarson is our Pre-K-12<sup>th</sup> librarian and Alumni Coordinator. She is a walking Monroe Catholic history book. I am fairly confident she personally knows everyone who has ever attended our schools. Mrs. Halvarson used to be a cheerleader, jumping up and down in the 70s cheering on our boys' and girls' basketball teams. Now, she continues to cheer on every student past and present. Some things never change. At a school like ours, the connection to our alumni is critical. I honestly can't imagine anyone who could do the job as well as she can.

Mrs. Halvarson is not just incredible as the coordinator of alumni but is equally impressive as our librarian. You will often find her instructing our elementary students or working individually with students who need extra guidance. I can't speak to her knowledge of the Dewey Decimal System, but her ability to be both kind and gentle, while also making sure a class of 5<sup>th</sup> graders understands (in no uncertain terms) not to mess with her, is both inspirational and educational. I am confident she could take over for me on the basketball court, any day, and have my players' full attention.

These are just three of the MANY examples of how outstanding our teachers are here at Monroe Catholic. When I stepped into this new role, over 9 months ago, I knew that one, we have the best teachers you will find anywhere. Two, I would work to continue the endeavor of my predecessors—to raise teachers' salaries.

I hope you will consider supporting this year's Spring Fundraiser and help us make a meaningful impact on teachers' paychecks. They greatly deserve it and I am grateful for your contributions that will make it happen.

With Grace, Faith and Passion,

Frank Ostanik  
Director of Schools  
CSF

