



151 Gropp Avenue Hamilton, NJ 08610

Phone: 609-585-7733

www.srsnj.org

**Inspired by Faith Empowered by Knowledge United by Community**

November 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

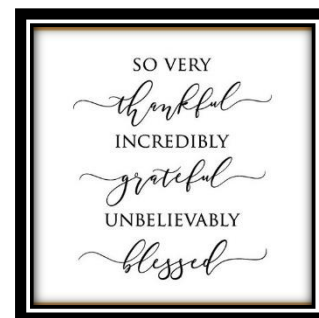
The month of November is often times referred to as the “**Month of Gratitude**”.

During the month of November, we are called to take pause to recognize and reflect upon the many gifts, graces, blessings and protections we have received. How often do we really do that?! Do we take the time or make the time to acknowledge the GOOD things in our lives or is it just the opposite? Of late, I have heard many people speak of the significant challenges we face, the worries we have, and the wonderment of what tomorrow will bring. Our challenges, worries and wonderments **are** very real. They are a part of life’s journey. With that said ... I have found that when my attention and focus comes from the lens of the “glass is half empty” ... I am exhausted! When I **actively** choose to look through the lens of the “glass is half full” and celebrate God’s presence in my life with a TRUE and GRATEFUL heart and acknowledge ... despite the challenges of life ... how richly and unbelievably I have been blessed ... my blessings multiply **EXPONENTIALLY!!!**

What am I grateful for? Just to name a few ... I am grateful for the GIFT of ...

- my FAITH
- my husband of 33 years, Rob

- my daughter Katie and my son-in-law Rob
- my sweet beagle, Penny
- my Saint Raphael School family
  - for the love and support of our pastor, Fr. Gene
  - for the **most dedicated** teachers and staff in the Diocese of Trenton
  - for the **joy-filled** students who continue to learn and grow each and every day and have truly made me a better person
  - for the trust, patience, cooperation and support of our parents
- the protection of the Blessed Mother as we are now about to successfully complete our **TENTH** week of school! **TEN WEEKS!!!**
- blessings received and prayers answered



When you change the way you look at things, the things that you look at change. Choosing to live with the “attitude of GRATITUDE” is a GAME CHANGER. I invite you to take some time to reflect on your “list”.

With **exceptional** gratitude to the teachers, staff and students for ALL that has been accomplished over the course of the past **TEN** WEEKS ... I am declaring **“WELL DONE, MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS” WEDNESDAY** ... a **PRINCIPAL’S HOLIDAY (\*NO SCHOOL\*)** on **Wednesday, November 25, 2020** and a **12:30 Dismissal Day** on **Tuesday, November 24, 2020**. This will allow us to begin our Thanksgiving break a day early. Please mark your calendars and make the necessary pick up arrangements accordingly.

Thanksgiving has always been a VERY special holiday to my family, most especially to my “Pop”, as we would gather together from all parts of the United States to share some AMAZING food and good company. This year, at least for my family, Thanksgiving is going to be quite different as we have chosen, out of an abundance of caution, to significantly reduce the number of people that will gather together as COVID-19 numbers continue to rise throughout the United States.

It should be noted that there are schools that have elected to preemptively move to FULL remote instruction the week **after** Thanksgiving. **Given the safety protocols we have in place, we are NOT planning to take this course of action at this time.**

Students will return to school from Thanksgiving break on **Monday, November 30, 2020.**

As the Thanksgiving holiday is quickly approaching, we must be mindful of the following:

- Our partnership is based on TRUST.
- We have been vigilant in following all established COVID-19 protocols that have allowed us to successfully complete TEN WEEKS of school. Most especially:
  - Wearing a mask ... over the nose and under the chin shows that we TRULY care about one another.
  - Social distancing of 6 feet
  - Washing our hands regularly for at least 20 seconds
- Thanksgiving is a holiday that celebrates the gathering of families and friends including:
  - gathering with family/friends that you have NOT seen or had physical contact with in the past 10 + weeks.
  - gathering with family/friends in larger groups.
  - traveling within the state or traveling to other states.
- Just because we are on Thanksgiving break, does **NOT** mean that we relax our established COVID-19 protocols. They have kept us safe for TEN weeks.
- I absolutely cannot tell you how to celebrate this holiday. I would not presume to do so. What I will tell you is ... **it is the expectation that if you do travel out of the state and/or come in close contact with family/friends that you are not usually in contact with (aka “Your Bubble”), you, as a member of the Saint Raphael School community, have the personal responsibility of FULL**

**DISCLOSURE with this information and elect remote instruction for the established quarantine period.** Respectfully, do you want to be the reason that Saint Raphael School has to move to Remote Instruction due to a COVID-19 outbreak?

- If it is necessary to move your child/children to Remote Instruction as a result of your family's Thanksgiving break activities, please email me at [ann.cwirko@srsnj.org](mailto:ann.cwirko@srsnj.org).

May God continue to bless and protect you.

I wish you God's peace.

God Bless.

Mrs. Cwirko