

Counseling Corner

“Happy New Year!”

Labor Day marks a new year for many. Students come back to school just before or after this date, and find themselves in higher grades and/or new buildings or wings of the school. One Saint Anselm first grader heard his dad comment about how excited he was to be back in school. The little boy corrected him and said, “I am excited AND nervous.” I asked him if he was more excited or more nervous at the end of the school day. He said, “Excited.”

Teachers are not very different. One Facebook posting showed a father with his son, knocking on a bedroom door, presumably waking up a sibling. Then, he said, “You have to go to school. After all, you are the teacher!” It is a scary time for educators, wondering what kinds of students they will face each day, wondering how they will interact, hoping for inspiration to make a difference and parents who will be supportive. Then, the final bell rings at the end of the first week, and it is like old times.

It is a new year for Mrs. Kraetke, too. All her plans for making this school one of the cleanest on the planet have happened. Hopefully, you have had an opportunity to see the differences. Mr. Nosis and team not only spruced up the building, they worked tirelessly to make the parking lot and entrances safer for the children, and we all stood in awe as the new playground was blessed last week. Stay tuned, because, Mrs. Kraetke has so much more on her wish list for the 2015-2016 school year, all supported by Monsignor Moloney, who loves the school more than anyone could. In addition to all he does for the parish and parishioners, as well as the world-wide missions, he is always present in the school building, communicating with Mrs. Kraetke and cheering on the teachers and students.

Personally, our family had the same feelings as the first grader when our daughter got married the Friday of Labor Day weekend. We worried about the weather and all of the little things that needed to be in place before our special couple pledged vows to one another. We were relieved that it did not rain, appreciative of the beauty and spirituality exuding from Old St. Mary in Greek Town, and excited that our guests seemed to enjoy the reception at the historic Gem Theater. We all breathed a sigh of relief, were proud of all that had been done, and the couple started their new year. I toasted the new school year before the wedding. So, I am well into a routine, peppered with excitement about meeting with students and parents, and continuing to write my weekly articles again.

May the pastor, principal, teachers, administrative assistants, maintenance crew, and other staff members find the 2015-2016 school year filled with more excitement than nervousness. Happy New Year!

Diane Rivard