

The Counselor's Corner

Oh What a Feast

If you read the St. Anselm School news, you will have read lots of praises for the pastor, the principal, all staff members, and the students. Our school gives a lot of “bang for the bucks”. We have lower tuition for a Catholic school, have small class sizes, sports teams, math and reading specialists, as well as volunteer reading teachers, free tutoring opportunities two days each week for those who need extra help, opportunities to give service to others at the soup kitchen and in other ways, and lot of clubs. Singing the praise of this school is quite easy. However, few know of a wonderful event that took place the day before Thanksgiving vacation began. In my mind, it was the feast of all feasts!

On Tuesday, November 21, our entire student body and staff got together for a free Thanksgiving meal. Monsignor led us in prayer, and then volunteer parents served a salad, turkey, gravy, potatoes, a vegetable, and cupcakes for all, along with milk and bottled water. Whenever I tell anyone about this tradition, they are amazed, saying they have never heard of another school doing this. They wonder how it is possible to feed 130 or more people. They wonder why any parent would undertake such a huge project in an age when volunteerism seems to be down.

This feast only happens because parents volunteer their time and lots of effort. This year, the main person we thank is Mrs. Daniela Yglesias. She has a daughter in second grade, Gabriella. Mrs. Yglesias leads a very busy life, but she chose to make this event happen. She not only organized everything, she shopped for turkey breasts (and lots of them), and she worked the entire day before and into the night to make them taste just right. She also made the rest of the table fixings, including the cupcakes. I don't know about you, but the greatest number of people that has every graced my table is 32, and the meal was potluck. How she managed this extravagant feat is beyond me. She made the complete meal for about 100 more people.

Not only was there a great variety of food, but there was an abundance of it. I don't think I have ever seen such large portions of turkey. Other volunteer parents ran around pouring gravy on as many areas as we wished, and they offered to pile on more turkey and other food in case the huge amount we started with was not enough.

Years from now, I will remember lots of nice things about St. Anselm Elementary, but I will never forget this day. For some students, this was the only Thanksgiving meal they received. The joy was evident as we ate our beautifully prepared food and watched our younger students wearing creative Thanksgiving hats that flapped up and down as they gobbled their meals.

Thank you to all the parent volunteers who worked on this event. Our school motto is “what will you do today to make someone else's life better?” You sure get stars for making our life better that day.

Diane L. Rivard