



# Queen of Apostles Catholic School

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*"It is our Father alone who can make us saints." (From the Little Way of Saint Therese)*

Dear Queen of Apostles School Families,

I want to wish all of you a wonderful and restful summer. The last few days of school are always filled with the excitement and anticipation of the vacation. It is also filled with a flurry of end-of-year activities. We bid a fond good-bye to those Queen of Apostles Catholic School families moving from the area and we want them to know that they are in our prayers. Also, on behalf of the Queen of Apostles school community, we extend our prayers and good wishes to our teachers and staff. We wish them a restful (well deserved) summer and thank them for giving so generously of their love and talents to the students and parents. We all extend a special thank you to Father Vander Woude and to Father Heintz for their support and prayers. On a personal note, I want to thank them for the encouragement, the words of wisdom, and the guidance they have given to me.

The Terra Nova testing and summer enrichment work is enclosed with the report cards. I have asked the teachers to include a writing component with the summer packets. There are differing viewpoints on assigning work during the summer (although all the students are in agreement on how they feel about the idea – and I am sure you can guess what they think!!!).

Here are my thoughts on the matter: I am, as a parent and as a teacher, a firm believer on assigning summer math maintenance, reading lists, and response to reading through a written component (be it book reports, logs, or graphic organizers). My reasons are as follows:

- 1) There is a serious loss, in both areas of reading and math skills, over the summer. (Much research has been done on this – for example, researchers from the University of Florida show that educators and parents can help their children avoid summer learning loss. The authors cite research suggesting that children who read as few as six books over the summer break can maintain their reading skills at least at a level achieved in the preceding school year. McGill-Franzen, A., & Allington R. (2004) "Lost Summers: Few Books and Few Opportunities to Read.")
- 2) It is an opportunity for students to discover new interests, which is why the reading lists include student's choice in the list of selections.
- 3) Students are not hampered by deadlines, stressed by evaluations, or panicked by grades. Therefore, they can focus on developing, reinforcing, or enriching their skills.
- 4) It underscores the importance of life-long learning – not just as something that occurs during the school year – and if parents present the concept in a positive manner, your child will respond well.
- 5) Last but not least, let's be honest – there is plenty of time in the summer. Turn off that TV, game system, etc., (better yet, lock them away) and you will still have time for swim teams, vacations, clubs, and camps – and just "lazing around" – one of summer's luxuries.

I cannot leave you without writing about something that has bothered me – I want to express a concern that I have over our children’s postings and pictures on Facebook. I know that I have addressed this concern before, but some of the postings and pictures are very inappropriate. Please, stop reading and go to the computer right now – check to see if your son and/or daughter has a Facebook page – if they do, check what is being posted. Monitor it often – and do not hesitate to remove anything that you feel is putting your child at risk either morally or physically. Facebook was started as a communication tool for college students to keep in touch – and I wish they had kept that age requirement. This problem is rampant everywhere and I know that parents and young people are pressured to be a part of these technological phenomena – but we really do need to look and see how our children are portraying themselves both in pictures and words. Some of you will be shocked (I know I was!).

Now for the really hard part – I want to wish God’s blessings on each and every one of you. The last few days have been that mixture of “happy and sad” that so much defines life. The students surprised me with an assembly and it truly was a time when I was laughing through the tears. They recited my favorite poem and mentioned (frequently!) my boots, coffee, and vanilla cream. The beautiful cards they drew, the skits they performed, and the songs they sang all mentioned my love and caring for each and every one of them. There is a sense of “mission accomplished” for me because from the day I arrived here the children have been my reason for showing up each day and coming back the next day!

All of us, as parents, know the feeling that the days can seem like years, but the years seem like days!! I cannot believe that two years have gone by and now I am leaving a school that I love, a home that I have been in for many years, and friends that I have had forever. It is hard but it is such a blessing in that I will have so many wonderful memories and the prayers and good wishes of so many as I embark on this new adventure- making new friends, setting up a new home, and getting to know (and, I am sure, love) a new group of students, parents, and teachers.

I will certainly stay in touch – after all, you will need to have those all-important “baby updates” (can’t you just see it now – fast-forward 15 years when I am writing to all of you about how “the baby” is starting college!).

Keep me in your prayers as you will always be in mine. I ask Mary, Queen of Peace, to bring the peace that can only be found in the love of Her Son to all of us – in our lives, homes, school, and world.

God bless,

Joanne Yates

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne Yates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# The Q of A Weekly



June 18, 2010

## Best Wishes, 8th Graders!

In this final Q of A Weekly of the school year, we wish the best to the 8th graders as they head off to high school.

The 8th grade graduation reception was hosted by the 7th grade parents. Thanks to Jeanne Pasha for organizing the festivities and to Juliet Conrad, Marta Cervantes-Miguel, Carolyn Flores, Anne-Sophie Guillaud, Nicole Hutchinson, Kathy Littlefield, Rafah Masri, Flavia Sampaio, and Max Snell for assisting her. Special thanks to Mr. Chambers for his help.

We also thank the PTO members who are parents of 8th graders for their many contributions over the years to Queen of Apostles School. Those contributions are far too numerous to list here, but the entire community thanks each and every one of you for all you have done.

To those whose youngest or only child is moving on, we give a special thank you. Please keep in touch, and we'll see you at the Auction next year!

*Have a restful and blessed summer!*

## Thank You to Our Track Coaches

Many thanks to our track coaches, Tom Sarisky, Don Tillson, Kyle Wright, and Steve Smearman, for leading our track team this spring!

**BASKETBALL SUMMER CAMP:** The Edge Basketball Camp is July 12–16 for girls and July 19–23 for boys in Grades 3 through 8. It is open to all student athletes. This camp is in the afternoon from 1–3 p.m. and occurs on the same days as the Vacation Bible School, which is in session from 8:30 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday the second week. There are two levels of instruction—fundamentals and advanced. See the flyer in last week's Friday Folder for more information.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** VBS will be held in the school and other parish buildings during the week of July 19 to 23 from 8:45 a.m. to noon. This summer's theme is Circus of Stars, and we will focus on how God the Father created each of us to be His star. We will learn about St. John Bosco,

*(continued on next page)*

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St. Catherine of Siena, St. John Vianney, St. Teresa of Avila, and our Blessed Mother. Each day there will be games, crafts, music, and snacks. Registration forms are available on the school's website ([www.queenofapostlesschool.org](http://www.queenofapostlesschool.org)) and in the parish rectory.

If your child will enter 5th grade or above in the fall and wants to help, they can be a part of our youth staff. We have three remaining staff preparation meetings (June 27, July 11, and July 18 from 2–4 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room). Each youth staff member needs to make it to two meetings so that we can set their schedule for the week and prepare them to help in their assigned areas. (The meetings have generally been fun, as well!) Please contact Anne Souser at [csouser@verizon.net](mailto:csouser@verizon.net).

*And last, but far from least . . .*

We give a heartfelt thank you to our principal, Mrs. Yates, whose work and guidance over the past two years have brought much joy and many blessings to Queen of Apostles School. We wish you the best as you begin this new chapter in life—God bless you and your family!!

**Principal: Mrs. Yates** [j.yates@queenofapostlesschool.org](mailto:j.yates@queenofapostlesschool.org) • **Pastor: Father Vander Woude**  
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A huge thank you to Michael Hogan, the boy scouts from his troop, and the adults who supervised the beautification of the front of the school. Michael is attended Queen of Apostles, a recent graduate of Bishop O'Connell, and is completing the requirements to be an Eagle Scout. His project was to clean up the gardens in the front of the school and add some beautiful plants and flowers and plant bushes along the pathway. Michael also moved the statue of Mary and of St. Francis so, as we walk up the hill, we see Our Blessed Mother and the gentle saint.

Thank you to the Hogan family for their support of this project. It was a dream of mine as I would sit at my desk and look out the window all year thinking how nice it would be to have the front area beautiful – it sets the right tone and is a concrete portrayal of the pride we have in our wonderful school.

Thank you, again to Michael on behalf of the whole community.

God bless,

Joanne Yates

Dear Parents,

We have only nine (9) copies remaining in our inventory so will be available on a first come, first served basis. The price for the yearbook is \$34.00. It turned out beautifully!

Print this letter, write your student's name and grade and return it to the office with your payment of \$34.00.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mrs. Fox,

Please accept this check in the amount of **\$34.00** for a yearbook for my student.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

