



# Queen of Apostles Catholic School

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June 4, 2010

Dear Queen of Apostles Catholic School Families:

Wednesday night we had our final PTO Board meeting (a cookout at Mrs. Griffith's house – my favorite type of meeting!) and I want to thank the current PTO Board for all the support they have given me these past two years. Also, I was able to meet with Mrs. Ascencio and discuss some thoughts and ideas for next year. You are very blessed to have her as your new president – God takes good care of us, sending us Mrs. Griffith and now Mrs. Ascencio. She has some great plans and I know that you will be lined up outside the front doors to volunteer to help her make great things happen for our school.

The reality of leaving is starting to set in and I am, on one hand, so excited about being with the baby (I know, she will be 18 years old and I will be saying “the baby”) especially as she is talking so well – we have whole conversations on the phone concerning the state of the world, the economic situation, and the deeper meaning of existence (for example, I ask her if she eats her banana or her pizza first and she replies that she eats the pizza first – when I ask her why, she responds that she likes the pizza better than the banana! An 18 month old has life all figured out!!)

I am going to miss all of you so much. I have been a teacher, a principal, and a parent at various schools in the Diocese and I can honestly say that no school has touched my heart in the way that Queen of Apostles has...the students here are so very special and all of you are so very supportive. The teachers and staff are amazing and we are very blessed by having a loving, caring pastor and parochial vicar. The person who is selected to be the next principal will be very lucky to be here – and I am sure that the Holy Spirit will guide the Selection Committee and Father Vander Woude to offer the position to the person who will continue the mission of our school.

The rumors are buzzing (I have heard all about the “new principal” – who has not even been selected yet!). Please know that we will keep you posted but it is not worth your time or effort to listen to “suppositions” or false information.

The eighth graders attended their last school Mass today as they will be “graduating” next Thursday. I really love this group of young men and women – they bring an enthusiasm and an honesty that is refreshing. The kindergartners also attended their last school Mass for this school year and we certainly hope to see them back in August. This is another terrific class – they get so excited about every little thing (just ask them about the hot dogs on field day – they are still talking about them!).

Field Day was great last Friday – the weather was amazing (cool and overcast) and Mr. Miner and Mr. and Mrs Caballero provided a fun-filled day for all of us. Thank you to the many volunteers who gave their very valuable time to help with the lunch, with the games, and with the clean up. The parents/teachers won the kickball game (only by a point or two) – probably because they had me on the team - Father and Mr. Miner helped some, too!

More updates on next year: Mrs. Molnar and I are discussing ways to make the Math Department even better – for example, using a differentiated approach which offers more accelerated learning opportunities for those students who are developmentally ready to utilize abstract problem-solving skills. This keeps the frustration level lower for those students who need a slower approach or more repetition (still challenging them and exposing them to the prerequisite math strategies such as pre-Algebra and Algebra) and keeps the students who can work at a faster pace engaged and excited about the curriculum. This is something I have thought about for many years and in order to have our children achieve at a competitive level we must move in this direction.

I have hired a teacher (Mr. Lanaham) who will be teaching P.E. and Latin. He is wonderful – a scholar and an athlete (great combination) and is enthusiastically putting together a Latin curriculum. There will be the option to continue in Spanish Level I for those students who have taken the first half (it is a two year process) of Level I. Here are my thoughts and answers to some questions you may have on implementing a Latin curriculum:

My own children studied Latin in middle and high school (as well as taking another language in high school – one studied French, one Spanish, and two German – and one became fluent in Mandarin in college and grad school) and scored very high on the high school placement test, the test for admittance to Jefferson, and the SAT. They attributed the perfect verbal score to their knowledge of Latin.

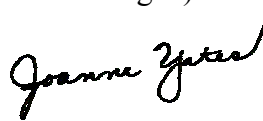
You may wonder about Latin’s influence on English, which is not a Romance language...Because Latin was the usual language for any scholarly, legal, or scientific activity, and because English (unlike, for example, French) has no qualms about borrowing words from other languages, English speakers borrowed Latin words wholesale. About one-half of the words in modern English have been borrowed from Latin. Many of these are in everyday use: parent, accuse, wine, liberty; others are less common, such as obdurate, equanimity, impecunious, but these too should be part of an educated person's vocabulary--and may well appear on the high school test or the SAT!

Also, because Latin is taught entirely through its grammatical rules, as it is learned an understanding is gained of the mechanics and structure of any language - not just Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, but German, Russian, Arabic - becomes easier for students who are grounded in Latin. A student can use Latin to grasp the bones and sinews of any language.

Few reminders: Kindergartners graduate on Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>; Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> is an early (11:30) dismissal for all students except eighth grade (they get the whole day off). There will be Extended Day available. Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> is a regular day.

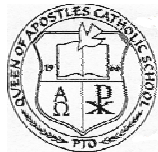
My last day in Virginia will be June 30<sup>th</sup> so I hope many of you can stop by and say good-bye (not good-by – more like “until we meet again” or “hasta luego”).

God bless



Joanne Yates

# The Q of A Weekly



**June 4, 2010**

## Field Day

Many thanks to Kathryn and Mike Caballero for another wonderful Field Day!! A special thank you goes to Mr. Miner for a very fun day (with no rain). Thanks also to all who helped with the picnic and games:

Mulu Amde	Maggie Liss
Ernesto Ascencio	Karina Llamas
Mimi Asfaw	Son Mai
Valerie Bernardo	Kate Markey
Carolyn Fanning	Elsa Matos
Jim Faris	Emma Mikael
Trudy Filipek	Dora Morales
Gladis Griffith	Mesfin Mulat
Anne-Sophie Guillaud	Jeanne Pasha
Haragweine	Carmen Ramos
Wanda Johnson	Natividad Ramos
Lourdes Ledesma	Flavia Sampaio

## Dates to Remember

<b>June 10</b>	11:30 dismissal—Extended Day available
<b>June 17</b>	11:30 dismissal—Extended Day available
<b>June 18</b>	Last day of school 11:30 dismissal—no Extended Day

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**Arlington Diocese Catholic Schools  
Three Year Advance Calendar**

	<u>2010-2011</u>	<u>2011-2012</u>	<u>2012-2013</u>
First Day Teachers	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 20
First Day Students	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 27
Labor Day	Sept 6	Sept 5	Sept 3
Columbus Day	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 8
Veteran's Day	Nov 11 (Thurs)	Nov 11 (Fri)	Nov 12 (Mon) Fed. Day off
Thanksgiving	Nov. 25, 26	Nov 24, 25	Nov 22, 23
Christmas Return to school	Dec 23-Jan 2 Jan 3	Dec 23-Jan 2 Jan 3	Dec 24-Jan 2 Jan 3
Martin Luther King	Jan 17	Jan 16	Jan 21
Presidents' Day	Feb 21	Feb 20	Feb 18
Easter Break	April 22-29	April 6-April 13	Mar 29-Apr 5
Memorial Day	May 30	May 28	May 27
Last Day if no inclement weather days are used	June 13	June 11	June 11

October: Diocesan Education Institute  
 November: 2 Days for Parent Teacher Conferences  
 January & March: Professional Development Day

**Number of Days Each Month:**

August	2	3	5
September	21	21	19
October	19	19	21
November	17	17	17
December	16	16	15
January	19	19	19
February	19	20	19
March	22	21	19
April	15	15	17
May	21	22	22
June	9	7	7