

A New School Year August 2012



Prayer for Staff

“Give courage to those who are apprehensive, care for the weak and be patient with everyone”.

1 Thess 5:14



Opening Prayer: (Leader)

As we gather here today to begin our new school year we take time to pause, and become aware of the presence of God here with us this morning. (*Short silence*)

We thank God

- **for the energy we have gained during our summer break.**
- **for each other: for colleagues we know already and have worked with, and for new colleagues whom we welcome into our school community today.**
- **for the students we will meet and teach during this school year.**

We pray that we will always be mindful of each other; and thankful for the gifts and talents of our students, which we will endeavour to enable each to develop to the best of his/her ability.

A suitable piece of music may be played here. Hymn, sacred song or instrumental.

Reader 1:

People of goodness do not need to bestow blessing; instead they become a blessing. Their presence is goodness and they engender new life, strength, courage and vitality by their presence. That was exactly how Jesus blessed the people around him.

Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy.



Leader.

Jesus was a model teacher. He met people where they were at; spoke to them in a way that they could understand; was a great storyteller – but his parables always had a much deeper meaning than might appear on first telling. His style of teaching invited people to explore their own lives and to grow into a deeper relationship with God and with each other. He both inspired and challenged his listeners. He connected with them.

Teaching is not only a matter of covering a syllabus, but is about enabling students to gain an understanding of the meaning of their lives; the extent of their giftedness; their value as human beings.

Reader 2

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark 4:26-29

Jesus went on to say: “The Kingdom of God is like this. A man scatters seed in his field. He sleeps at night, is up and about during the day, and all the while the seeds are sprouting and growing. Yet he does not know how it happens. The soil itself makes the plants grow and bear fruit; first the tender stalk appears, then the ear, and finally the ear full of corn”.

The Word of the Lord

Short silence for reflection.



Leader:

Henry Adams said that teachers affect eternity; they can never tell where their influence stops. Bearing this in mind let us pray together:

All:

God Our Father,

We ask that, during this school year, your Holy Spirit will guide us in all we do:

- In our relationships with colleagues - that we will always be supportive of each other.
- In our teaching - that we may inspire a love of learning in our students.
- In our interactions with our students – that, no matter how difficult, we will always remember that each is a child of God.
- In meeting with parents – that we will be the friendly face, and caring soul they need to meet when they sit in front of us.

We pray that we may always be inspired by the teaching of your Son; that we will remember to make space for silence and reflection in our own lives; and that we will always use the gift you have given us to enable our students to discover their own gifts and become the best people they can be.

May our school community be a place of faith; of hope; and of love.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

