

An Important Message for Our HFGS Families 2.27.2019

Dear **HFGS Families, Faculty, and Staff**,

Please be informed that we had an important **student assembly at 2:00 p.m. today**. Our announcements today covered the following:

* **Congratulating our students** who received their awards from our schoolwide Science contest. The winners finally received their medals and trophies yesterday. Thank you for everyone's participation! All other students are encouraged to participate in the next schools' activities.

* Preparing our students for the **Season of Lent** starting with a combined Grade School and High School Ash Wednesday service at 10:00 a.m. on March 6th. We are learning the three important pillars of Lent: **Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving**. There will be no after school activities in the parking lot and in the Grade School yard next Wednesday. After School Care will students will be picked up from our 3rd Grade classroom (TK through 2nd grade) & Spanish Room (3rd through 8th Grade).

* Inviting all of our families to come and cheer for our Varsity Basketball team who will be playing against St. Dorothy at Serra High School, 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 2nd for the finals. It is a **Championship game** and we are vying for the GOLD!

On Sunday, March 3rd, starting at 7:30 a.m. will be our **Cheer teams' competition** to be held at West Covina High School. In advance, we send our best of luck and gratitude to Coach Karl Johnson, Mrs. Teri Nelson, Assistant Coaches, Mr. Jared Soliman (Hip-Hop Team Coach) students, and their supportive parents.

* For all of our students to **remain consistent in their class engagement, focus and discipline in their work, and character development**. We challenge all to be extra careful and thoughtful of their words and actions. It is best to simply exhibit kindness and courtesy always inside and outside of their classrooms.

* The need to be aware and choose not to engage in **videos, apps, and you tubes whose content and practice can lead young children or teens to harm themselves, lose sleep, and other reasons that could make them addicted to gadgets**. In line with this, our faculty were in discussion about the potential danger of technology if not **closely monitored by supervising adults in school and their parents at home**. So, let us work hand-in-hand to make sure that we are able to guide all our children.

As one unified team, we continue to take a stand and **avoid games** such as Fortnite and other video games that may harm the children in any way. Here is from one of our faculty:

"There has been a concern brought to my attention regarding the "Momo Challenge" (a hacker viral ghost story) appearing on children You Tube programs, video games that allow customization like Roblox and Minecraft are also seeing Momo themed costumes being shared by players and online message "Whatsupp".

As in the "Blue Whale" challenge of the past, this Ghost like person appears in the middle of a children's video (Fortnite and Peppa Pig) and asks the child to "turn on the gas of the stove at night when parents are asleep, or place the screw driver in an electric socket". The creature tells the child

to keep it a secret, or it will "get him and his family". With the Momo Challenge, contact is also triggered by searching for a special phone number online and sending a text or Whatsapp message. The player enters into a conversation that sends distressing images and aims to persuade them to complete challenges ranging from waking up a certain times to self-harm and even suicide.

A second grader arrived to school this morning in tears after her cousins had shown her this video, and there was talk amongst the faculty regarding this. Forbes.com has addressed this issue as well as many other news articles, and I have found that the sound advice is worth sharing:

"Rather than sharing warnings that perpetuate and mythologize the ghost story, a better focus is good positive advice for children, set up technology appropriately and take an interest in their online interactions. It is important that children know that they should not be trying to contact strangers online regardless of the method, and parents would be checking security systems on devices".

You Tube has been monitoring these scare videos and are now "identified as content being inappropriate for some audiences."

Some adults find the value of today's gadgets obliging in a way that the electronics keep the children busy, quiet, and literally, able to babysit for them. We are here to continue to encourage you to spend quality time in engaging your family and your children in other meaningful activities.

Here are the **results of the weekend survey regarding possible new school activities**. We can hold these events during the remaining months of the year. These were voted -

1st - A Family Movie Night

2nd - A School Mass & A Special Program for Grandparents

3rd - Father & Daughter Dance

4th - Mother & Son Tea Time

We will be sending a flyer with a return slip very soon after we have determined the date for each of these activities. Thank you!

If you recall, our PTO Board members have suggested various ways into looking at **how to solve the traffic issue on Elk Avenue**. know that we shall have Mr. Ernie Lacambra to render his services during the morning drop off to facilitate the easy flow of traffic. Mr. Lacambra will begin on Monday, March 4th. We look forward to see some improvement and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Our **8th graders** will begin to receive the results of their **high school acceptances** this weekend and we wish them well to get to their dream high schools!

Thanks and sincerely,
Dr. Suelto