

Important for the Weeks of February 15th and 22nd, 2021 / Newsletter 2.16.2021

Dear HFGS Families, Faculty, Staff, Students, and Friends,

I hope that you had a wonderful weekend celebrating the **Chinese New Lunar Year, Valentine's Day, and President's Day**.

As significant as this holiday we celebrate today, we recall how we recognize our first President in many ways through portraits, statues, on currency, and this holiday. We still celebrate the holiday as Washington's birthday but widely, this has evolved into a day to celebrate all of our past Presidents and the ways in which they shaped our country with vision and dignity.

This **Ash Wednesday**, 2/17/2021, marks the beginning of Lent, a 40 day season of fasting, reflection, and remembrance before the Holy Week and resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. In churches on Ash Wednesday a priest or a Church minister recites Genesis 3:19 "**for dust you are and to dust you shall return**" - while applying ashes in the shape of a cross on the recipient's forehead. However, this Wednesday, ashes will be sprinkled on the heads of the faithful.

Please read the attached **Newsletter** as our faculty have shared more highlights and photos of their classroom learning through the most recently celebrated events, Catholic Schools Week, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, current lessons on Black History Month, field trips, and more.

A Field Trip Report from Mr. Clarence Clark, 5th Grade Homeroom Teacher

Fifth Grade enjoyed a virtual field trip to the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens on February 10th. Their program, titled *Art Encounters: An Interactive & Virtual Tour*, was hosted by Ms. Shirley Vistan and Ms. Amanda Hernandez featured a sampling of landscape, realistic sculpture, still life and abstract painting in which students looked intensely at pieces and then responded to questions about what they saw. Among the works was an oil painting, *Still Life with a Basket of Fruit, Flowers, and Cornucopia* by Joseph Proctor, a noted African American artist. Unfortunately, videos and screenshots were not allowed during this online encounter (hence, no photos here). On the other hand, student engagement was very high, with Mr. Clark recording no less than 187 instances of student participation, both orally and via the chat function in Zoom, all in less than one hour!

Important for the Weeks of February 15th and 22nd, 2021

Mon. 2/15 – No School. President's Day

Tues. 2/16

8:00 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. – School Mass (Live Streamed)

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. - Faculty Meeting

Note: Submission of all Short Fiction and Illustration Contest entries. Parents will drop off these entries at our school office.

Wed. 2/17 – Ash Wednesday

Note: Chess and Robotics sessions will begin today. Mr. Krikor Kiladjian will email the families from 4th through 8th grade.

Fri. 2/19

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. – Stations of the Cross (Virtual)

12:00 noon – Tentative dismissal time for TK – 8th Grade classroom set up by all subject teachers on campus.

Mon. 2/22

1:00 p.m. – Deanery 6 Principals' Meeting

Tues. 2/23

8:00 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. – School Mass (Live Streamed)

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. - Faculty Meeting

Wed. 2/24

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – Fr. Marlon Mateo will visit Kindergarten.

Fri. 2/26

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. – Stations of the Cross (Virtual)

School Reopening

Please read the attached memo from DCS Superintendent Paul Escala. Below is an excerpt of his email dated 2/11/2021 to all school principals and pastors.

Los Angeles County: *There has been a lot of discussion in the press about the reopening of grades TK-6 recently. Here is what we know: As of this week, LA County is averaging 31.7 cases per 100,000 residents over the past seven days. The LA County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) has communicated to all schools serving grades TK-6 to “begin to prepare” for the county to permit the reopening of those grades as they anticipate the county will achieve 25 cases per 100,000 daily cases as early as next week. If the county maintains this for five consecutive days, grades TK-6 will be permitted to reopen so long as schools have fulfilled the CSP/CPP requirements. Cohort restrictions will be lifted and the new standard will be based on social distancing; 6 feet between desks/teacher, but no less than 4 feet of spacing. This could come as early as the week of February 22nd. Schools serving these grades should start preparing now for this eventuality. We will keep schools informed.*

For our prayerful meditation to begin the week...

Lord Jesus, may I always recognize your saving presence in my life and never forget your promises when I encounter trials and difficulties. Give me a faith that never wavers, a hope that never fades, and a love that never grows cold.

Psalm 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now I keep your word.

68 You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.

71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.

72 The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

75 I know, O LORD, that your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

76 Let your steadfast love be ready to comfort me according to your promise to your servant.

Have a blessed week ahead and thank you!

Dr. Suelto

Attachments:

*School Counselor Justine Plocher's Schedule for Small Group Support (1st and 2nd Grade)

*DCS Superintendent Paul Escala's email on school reopening

*For Prospective Families - Virtual Open House Vimeo link: <https://vimeo.com/507619343>

References:

Fr. Jim's Message, Ash Wednesday Schedule, Stations of the Cross: Outside Experience

Parish Bulletin

Grade School Website Calendar

HFGS Calendar

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Their Mission, and Core Values

BVM Sisters' Website