

From the Desk and Heart of Mrs. Furmanick
In Deo Speramus-In God We Trust



August, 2010

Dear Parent,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is our blessing to be granted the opportunity to share another year of educating the mind, heart, spirit and soul of our students. We look forward to the challenge of ministering to the students of our school because we believe in what we do. As a Catholic school, our mission is to bring our children to God and God to our children. Catholic identity is in our hearts. It is precisely in the teaching and living of our faith and then seeing that faith live on in our students that makes the difference. We strive to enable students to learn, love, and grow as so beautifully demonstrated to us by the Master Teacher, Jesus Christ.

What a marvelous summer it was for me. From riding a horse in the mountains of the Dominican Republic to the hills and valleys of Virginia with my family. Scene One: I want you to picture me on the mountain in Punta Cana (small, but still a mountain) going up and down in the pouring rain. The horse and rider in front of me stumbles in the mud and goes down (not hurt). I'm yelling for the guide to get me off my horse until my daughter reminds me, ever so in command, to relax so the horse will not get nervous. I calm down and eventually start laughing at the scene. All of the people on this adventure are soaking wet, riding in line on a trail of horses, in the mud. Once back and safe at the lodge, I thought it was great fun!

Scene Two: Back home, my eldest granddaughter spends a week at Ft. Lauderdale beach with us. That in itself was a memory in the making. Morgan just turned 13 and woke up every day half-way through the morning/day, loved to be at the beach and go shopping, and was just generally a typical young teenager. It seems like yesterday my own daughters were doing the same. Thank you Generous God, giver of all gifts.

And how was your summer? I pray that you had a wonderful time with your family and that those memories you made are filled with smiles and laughter. It's really true isn't it? It's not what we have, but the time we have to spend with family and friends that counts. Time goes so quickly – let us make the most of the time we have with family whenever we can. Gracious God, keep us attuned to what is important.

We are so proud and excited about our improving and continuing programs that offer the best educational experience for your child. Our school's outstanding family involvement is such a vital

component of the academic, spiritual, and social growth of our students and overall most instrumental in the creation of this school – the GEM of Westchester. We look forward to your continued involvement as Board members and delegates of Home & School, homeroom parents, volunteer classroom aides, and as members of the many various committees that serve our school/parish community in all capacities.

Our summer programs were filled with new and adventurous experiences – from Summer Camp to Summer School, Summer Enrichment to Cheerleading Camp. There was a whole lot going on here. That's part of what makes a school great and a place where children want to be. I had the opportunity to see many of the students (both new and old) and they always looked happy. God is so good! Thank you to our Summer Coordinators: Patty Garcia, Summer School – Patty Chirino, Summer Enrichment, - Jenny Blanco & Gloria Rauseo, Cheerleading Camp - and last but not least, Lauren Aleman, Summer Camp. Kudos to all the teachers and faculty members who worked in these programs and gave all they could possibly give to make them successful. We are blessed with a faculty that creates a supportive and challenging climate, and which affirms the dignity of all persons within the school community.

Thank you to the new parents who have chosen to place their precious child in our care and are willing to make the sacrifice for a Catholic Education. Thank you to the majority of you who have been with us for years and continue to sacrifice to provide the gift of a Catholic education. It is a gift given (word, worship, community, service) and shared, a blessing to the whole church and to the nation. As a school community, in partnership with you, we promise to uphold the teachings of Catholicism by knowing our faith, living our faith, and spreading our faith by observing all that Jesus commanded, believing in all he taught, and following him through his church.

The new Parent/Student Handbook is available to you and is posted on our website as well as in booklet form. Please read it in its entirety and sign the Acknowledgement form at the end. This handbook is considered an agreement between the school and the parent/student. Both the parent and the student signing the acknowledgement form will demonstrate acknowledgement and acceptance of these rules and regulations. This form is due to your homeroom teacher by August 31st. Additionally, please check the calendar on our website for important dates throughout the school year.

In closing, please be assured of my prayers as I look forward to ministering with you in the building of His Kingdom here at St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School. We are a school with an Open Door Policy, so please know that we are available to sit and discuss any and all of your concerns.

Until we speak again, may our Loving and Almighty God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Blessings and Welcome,

*Elizabeth Furmanick
Principal*