



## Building The Kingdom of God

February 2, 2017

This past week while traveling with members from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class and Miss Gondeck on a pilgrimage to Washington, DC for the Right to Life March, I had the awesome opportunity to see our students grow as young adults and witness the virtues in action.

We left January 24 for five days of adventure. The life lessons begin from the moment we get on the bus to go to the airport. The students learn how to manage money, time management, independence, courage, respect and many more needed life skills. We tour many historical sites, learn how to use public transportation, and most importantly join with thousands of other youth and adults to take a stand and pronounce our belief that every human has a right to life.

The virtue of assertiveness was very much alive in every step of our journey. Being assertive means being positive and confident. When you are assertive you think for yourself and ask for what you need. You share your true feelings tactfully. You make a difference in the world in your own special way. Our students had life opportunities to see positive assertiveness whether it was boarding a subway or holding a Right to Life sign.

On the way home, I was asked: What was your greatest memory of the trip? I have yet to be able to answer that question because every moment is filled with such inspiration from our students. From the first night when a student looked at me on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and said "This is bigger than what we see on TV to the movement of the group nudging their way onto a subway, the young man who said to me in the middle of the March "This is incredible", or the parent who pulled me to the side to share how blessed he was to be a part of our journey, I would have a hard time picking just one moment.

I am very blessed to be able to lead with Miss Gondeck our students on a pilgrimage. It comes with challenges but the reward far outweighs any of them. It brings me closer to the journey that Jesus took to save us all. My faith is deepened and I thank all of the parents for allowing us the opportunity to travel on this pilgrimage with your children.

Yours In Christ,

Mrs. Kim Gondeck

Vice Principal

**FRENCH STUDENTS:**

Two French students will be joining QAS School community. Cassandra will be staying with the Neary family. Antoine will be staying with the Oleksiuk family. Both students arrive in the USA today and will spend four weeks at Queen of All Saints School!

**INDIANA 21st CENTURY SCHOLARS:**

21st Century Scholars offers income-eligible Hoosier students up to four years of paid tuition at eligible IN colleges or universities after they graduate from high school. Parents of middle school students can read more and enroll here:

<http://scholars.in.gov/about-us/>

**CPR:**

Students in grades 6, 7 & 8 will participate in CPR: Creating Positive Relationships from Feb. 21 to 24. This unique class offers students the great opportunity to learn about the other gender and think and practice positive relationships. It is imperative that our students grow to be the person God intends them to be, and this is one stepping stone along that journey.

**ANGEL AWARD:**

Students, parents, colleagues and others are requested to nominate teachers for the Angel Award. This award is to recognize outstanding, creative, and innovative accomplishments of teachers in the Diocese of Gary. See office for an application.

**UPCOMING DATES:**

Feb. 3—Fun Fair from 5—7 PM

Feb. 9—Midterms will be sent home

Feb. 14—Candy Grams & Valentine Parties

Feb. 17—Jeans Day & Pizza Sale

**PTO MEETING:**

PTO Meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 7 from 6 to 7 PM. Books, for each child attending QAS School, will be given to parents in attendance. The goal of the meeting is to talk about upcoming standardized tests and prepare a small bags of encouragement for those students taking ISTEP.

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

Rob Neary, John Espar and Deb Varnak for visiting our classrooms during CSW.

**USDA CORNER:**

Why is QAS participating in Smart Snacks in School Program?

We are participating because as a school that offers Free and Reduced Lunches to students, it is a requirement. We think the positives of helping students eat more healthfully far outweigh the negatives. Did you know that:

More than a quarter of kids' daily calories may come from snacks.

Kids who have healthy eating patterns are more likely to perform better academically.