



March 7, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Lately, I have been thinking a lot again about my grandmother Elsa who lived to be 100 years old. (She is the one who made the *lemon bisque* that I mentioned at Christmas.) In her later years, she continued to live on her own in a little house at the bottom of a hill in my hometown. She tended to move a little bit slower and walked into the village less than she had in her earlier years. She was still graceful, though, and her posture was always erect, like a tiny Degas ballerina, as she wrapped her arm in yours to move from place to place.

She would have loved visiting Saint Catherine of Siena School. She would have smiled at the children and loved how their laughter echoes through the hallways; she always found peace and beauty in many of the world's little gifts. She appreciated a good cup of tea, the last 20 pages of a book, praying the rosary, just looking outside at the birds and flowers and making tiny quarter size pancakes for her great grandchildren on Sundays (just like the ones that so many of you made for Catholic Schools Week *pancake* Sunday!) Whenever I spent time with her, sooner or later, regardless of how substantively you had filled her in, she would ask, *but, how are you? ~Really?* She would pause and wait and then *really* listen as you breathed out everything that you carried on your heart. She lived what it is to *See Christ in Others, Be Christ for Others*; always there, like Christ, to listen ~ really!

Last week, our parent/teacher conferences were an opportunity to check in with you about your child's school experience. *How are you experiencing our school? ~ Really?* What can the teachers, staff and I do, together with you, to help your child meet his/her learning goals and be and feel as successful as possible between now and the end of the year. In the coming weeks, Steve Keating from Keating and Associates who is helping us to create our new SCS Strategic Plan will send a survey to you. Thank you in advance for the possibility of completing it. By doing so, you will be letting the teachers, Mrs. Noah and I know how you are (formally) experiencing our learning community. What can the teachers and I do, collectively, in the next three months to help you and your child to have the best possible ending to our school year? What would be helpful for us to consider for the future of SCS as we contemplate our plan for the next five years.

As always, thank you for giving the teachers and I the opportunity to spend this unique year with your amazing student. Thank you also, and especially, for your candor as we work together with you for the last three months of this unusual school year in order for us to



plan how to best support your child and all of our students. On behalf of the faculty and staff, I promise that we will do our very best to *really* listen (*like my grandmother*) and work with intention to honor your student's experience, while working to help you realize your dreams for your child and unlock all their God-given potential.

In Christ's Light,

Beth Tanner, MS Ed