



Christmas, 2021

Dear Parent,

At Christmas, I can't help but think about my grandmother. My grandmother loved cozy sheets warmed with hot water bottles. Whenever any of us kids stayed over, especially at Christmas, she would go upstairs early and warm the sheets with not only a hot water bottle but a heating pad as well. There was nothing like sliding cold feet into the toasty sheets and feeling her love in their warmth. As an adult, I think of all of the time it must have taken her to prepare our beds in the midst of all she was doing for my family and feel tremendous gratitude for the inspiration of her simple gestures. It makes me think a lot about our SCS families and the Christmas preparations amidst the rise in the number of Covid cases and balancing it with the activities we have had at school. I am truly grateful and inspired by our school community and especially you, who continue to navigate this unusual time with patience, understanding, and above all a faith in God who comes to us as *Baby Jesus* in a few short days.

My grandmother's loving, thoughtful preparation also makes me think of our Strategic Plan and all that is going on behind the scenes. In the last six months dedicated parents, faculty, staff, and I have been working with Keating and Associates to help us to create a new draft of a Strategic Plan which we are excited to message out after the New Year. The plan will guide our next 3-5 years at SCS. We look forward to sharing it with you in the New Year and the next phase of implementation. If you were not able to join us during the planning phase, we look forward to joy with the possibility of your help as we begin to implement the plan and help SCS to grow into the future with our foundation of faith.

It is so exciting to think about our goals under the pillars of:

- Catholic Faith and Character
- Student Learning, Program Development and Innovation
- Student Life
- Campus and Infrastructure and
- Institutional Stewardship and Governance

I especially love that the plan is rooted in our faith in Christ as the Cornerstone. I think that my grandmother would have loved that. As I have shared with you before, she was an inspiration to me in the way that she prayed so fiercely and with such grace and devotion after marrying my grandfather so long ago the day after Christmas. As together we look towards the next SCS journey beginning in 2022, the faculty, staff and I wish you not only peace in your heart and health for your family but also the possibility of warm toes toasted by hot water bottles. Certainly, you will be in our ever present prayers! Merry Christmas!

In Christ's Light,

*Beth*