



Thursday Notes Message Archive

March 26, 2020

A Message from Dr. Ann Marie Krejcarek, President of Convent & Stuart Hall

Dear Convent & Stuart Hall Community,

I hope our students have begun to find a rhythm to their days in virtual school. I know they miss each other, but I am encouraged by the resilience and adaptability they have shown. I hope you also have found a pattern in your day that helps hold the dynamic situation we all find ourselves in these days.

As we shared when we entered this remote environment, we envisioned and prepared for distance learning to last several weeks. With Governor Newsom's announcement yesterday that the shelter-in-place will be in effect in California through the end of April, we do not anticipate that school will physically be in session until **May 4th at the earliest**. It is our hope that we will be able to be together again as a community before the end of the school year, but we will be watchful of the emerging situation. In the spirit of the school's continuing to be virtual, I invite your feedback and look forward to our continued learning and iteration to make this virtual experience the best it can be for our students. We've created a [simple form](#) on [SFCorConnect](#) to capture your feedback.

ASP support for on-campus supervision of kindergarten age and above

Since distance learning is an essential function, we have the ability to support this essential function by providing supervision for faculty and staff children. Andrew Hoffer has studied the CDC requirements and is prepared to put the protocols in place that make for the safe supervision of children. Faculty and Staff can take advantage of this for a half day, a full day, a week, or whatever supports them in their work. If you work in what the City has deemed an essential field or are struggling with balancing your work with children at home, this might be an option for your family. If you are interested, please connect with Andrew Hoffer directly.

A way of holding our community in our hearts everyday

Our faculty and staff received the sad news yesterday that a dear colleague whom we have been supporting and championing for a year as he struggled to beat cancer has entered hospice. At times like this, we feel the distance from one another even more keenly. In our Sacred Heart community, the practices of *espacio*, prayer, silence and other forms of calling forward that connection with something bigger than ourselves is a common practice. I invite each of you to join us in this practice, and to be together in spirit through the practice of daily collective prayer. In the midst of our routine morning and evening tasks, I invite us to stop at 7:30 in the morning and ask for grace at the day's beginning, and again at 5:30 for thanksgiving at the conclusion of the work day.

Please let us know any special intentions you have that we can hold by emailing grace@sacredsfs.org, and that intention will be held and shared by members of our Chapel faculty and by me.

I hope several of you will be able to enjoy our virtual [Lenten Family Prayer Service](#) this Sunday, anytime after 10 a.m.

I'm supported in this work by a dedicated Board of Trustees and in partnership with its Chair, Holden Spaht. His leadership and faith in our team has been a critical element of our success. Please take a moment to read his message to our community below.

Sincerely,
Ann Marie

A Message from Holden Spaht, Chair of our Board of Trustees

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the administration and faculty at the Schools of the Sacred Heart during this unprecedented time. Their tireless dedication to our children was evidenced with a virtually seamless transition to an online learning platform in a matter of days. We commend the leadership and agility shown by our President, Division Heads and every faculty and staff member that made this possible. We are deeply grateful for your efforts.

I would also like to acknowledge our parent and student body for the significant readjustments they have made during this period, a time that I know presents new and unforeseen challenges for many.

I hope to see our families continue to do all they can to support the school. I feel blessed to be part of this community and hope you do as well. I look forward to being back at school with you soon but until then, please be safe and healthy.

Sincerely,
Holden Spaht

A Message from Kevin Brenner, Head of Stuart Hall for Boys

Dear Stuart Hall for Boys Families,

As we near the end of our second week of distance learning I stand in awe of our students, faculty and parents. I am also deeply grateful for the administrative team with whom I have the pleasure of working each day. In an email I received this week, one parent called what we've accomplished as a community "a herculean task." I think that it is a fitting description! One of our faculty members commented to me in a meeting this morning that he is most grateful that we have provided our students with some sense of normalcy and consistency as they have been able to continue their learning and come together as a learning community each day, even if in a very different environment during a truly unprecedented time.

Thank you for all you are doing to support our distance learning program. We are drafting guidelines that we hope to share next week in order to further inform and equip you as you work with your child(ren) at

home. Additionally, stay tuned for “parent coffee” invitations in the next week as Angela and I seek to provide an open forum to hear what is going well and what we can improve, and provide social and emotional information and ideas.

I would like to thank you for the numerous kind notes and helpful feedback you’ve provided the last two weeks. Dr. Krejcarek’s visionary leadership and long-term planning brilliance are evident in the fact we were able to build what we did in a short time and in a way that allows for ongoing iteration. Our faculty are talented, dedicated and nimble, and have responded to the call. Your feedback plays an important role in the iterating we’ve done to best meet students’ needs on a daily basis. My heart is filled with gratitude for this community.

Kind regards,
Kevin

A Message from Rachel Simpson, Head of Convent High School

Remote Week 2 is ticking along thanks to the continued wonderful work of our faculty and the outstanding participation of our students. I know everyone is working hard to make sense of this time and situation, and I continue to think of everyone and wish you strength and good health.

We hope to continue to cultivate a sense of membership in the community. Sparked by hearing from a teacher that some students reflected that “sheltering in place” felt like “Groundhog Day,” I am offering my first Thursday Notes movie recommendation: the fabulous and funny *Groundhog Day* with Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell. I hope you take me up on the recommendation and enjoy watching it again, or perhaps discovering it for the first time! We are also working to build into the days a sense of community time, so Mr. P-L opened up his first lunch Zoom room today. We hope to simulate the vibrancy of the Main Hall or Center with a “drop-by and see who’s there” format. As mentioned in last week’s Notes, I would like to invite parents to drop in and visit my “shelter-in-place” book club. I’m offering two Zoom times depending on your schedule -- next Tuesday, March 31 at 9 a.m. and again at 5:45 p.m. Drop in for a conversation about the books you would love to be stranded with! As a starter idea, I highly recommend A.S. Byatt’s *Possession*. Please let me know if you plan to attend, and I will send you the Zoom link.

In usual business, we are posting Quarter 3 grade reports tomorrow. A reminder that these reports are progress reports and the grades are not final grades of record, but an indicator of how students are performing at this time. Please reach out to your class instructor or your grade chair if you have a question about a grade or comment.

Please continue to refer to [SFCorConnect](#) for updates and additionally you may call Jeanne Asdourian between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. (415-292-3122) with a question that isn’t housed on SFCorConnect. Jeanne will help locate the best person to answer.

Another way to stay informed is via our students in *The Broadview*: broadview.sacredsfs.org. Our student journalists have been working hard to publish their news of how COVID-19 is affecting the community. And many congratulations to the Broadview staff who received a [Gold Crown for Converged Media](#) from Columbia Scholastic Press Association last Friday for its print and online coverage!

A Message from Tony Farrell, Head of Stuart Hall High School

As is the case with many of you and with many of our students, my workplace can be found ... wherever I can get a strong WiFi signal in my home. With two children doing their distance learning at Convent Elementary and Stuart Hall for Boys, and my spouse also working from home, I'm a bit toward the bottom of the totem pole. Or in the shower (fully clothed and not bathing!).

My own Grade 12 English class is settling into the uncertainty, and while discussion takes some getting used to over Zoom and FlipGrid, I think we are making strides. Where we still need to develop is with those elements of community that are so important to school. Mr. Pryor Lorentz, one of our Chairs of Community Life, opened up a lunch Zoom room today, with the hope of simulating the vibrancy of the Courtyard with a "drop-by and see who's there" format.

As for usual business, we are posting Quarter 3 grade reports tomorrow. These reports are progress reports and the grades are not final grades of record; rather, they are an indicator of how students are performing at this time. Please reach out to your class instructor or your grade chair if you have a question about a grade or comment.

Please continue to refer to [SFCorConnect](#) for updates and additionally you may call Laura Maupin between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. (415-345-5811) with a question that isn't housed on SFCorConnect. Laura will help locate the best person to answer.