

MOSS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2020

A Message from Mrs. Szmed



Dear MOSS Families,

I hope that you and your child(ren) are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. It is with great pleasure that I officially welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year. Additionally, I would like to welcome our new students, faculty, and staff to the MOSS family.

As this school year presents a new normal, MOSS's highly qualified and devoted educators are extensively working to ensure students will be presented with learning opportunities that will allow students to thrive and grow. During these unprecedented times, I am committed to maintaining the highest standards so that there will be no shortage of opportunities for your child(ren) to feel challenged on a daily basis with high quality instruction, and a wide variety of options to stay connected to their school community and peers.

Student success is attributed to the partnership and the relationships we build within our community and this is MOST important now more than ever. It truly does take a village and at MOSS we value teamwork and collaboration! Education is a joint venture and we greatly appreciate the support you provide for your children at home and at school to help them meet their learning goals.

Our first fundraiser, "The Fall Meat Raffle", kicks off on the first day of school. Thanks to Jennifer Farberow for organizing this fundraiser and preparing the tickets for distribution. I know that I can count on all MOSS families to help make this fundraiser a huge success. Thank you in advance for your support.

Our school has an excellent future. Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education. Please be a positive Mother of Sorrows School supporter so we can educate many children for years to come.

Faithfully yours,

Theresa A. Szmed

Theresa A. Szmed
Principal

Important Dates:

September 8th:

1st Day of School

September 10th:

Mass Day
Dress Uniforms Required

September 17th:

Mass Day
Dress Uniforms Required

September 21st:

Star Reading Tests Begin

September 24th:

Mass Day
Dress Uniforms Required

September 28th:

Star Math Tests Begin

October 1st:

Mass Day
Dress Uniforms Required

October 8th:

Mass Day
Dress Uniforms Required



Mother of Sorrows School: 3264 Evergreen Drive, Murrysville, PA 15668

Phone: 724-733-8840 Website: www.mossschool.org



Welcome to MOSS

Karen Kolenik



Hi! I am Karen Kolenik and I am the new Assistant Principal at MOSS! I earned my bachelor's degree in Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and I am currently in the master's program for K-12 Education Administration at Duquesne University. I have taught in Catholic education for 32 years, teaching Social Studies and Math in three local K-8 schools. I have also spent the last 12 years teaching Social Studies and Math at Serra Catholic High School in McKeesport. I

love to travel, coach volleyball and spend time with my family and our new black lab puppy. I grew up in Johnstown and now live in Plum with my husband. We have two daughters, Shannon and Lauren. Shannon is an English teacher at State College High School and Lauren is a senior volleyball player at Robert Morris University. I am so excited to be at MOSS! It has been a pleasure getting to know everyone in this amazing school community.

Molly Denslinger



My name is Molly Denslinger and I am the new second grade teacher at MOSS. I graduated from Gannon University with my bachelor's degree in Elementary/Early Childhood Education. I taught fifth and sixth grade English, sixth grade Reading and sixth grade Religion at St. Luke School in Erie for five years. I also taught third grade, all inclusive, at St. Luke School for three years. For the past two years, I have been a substitute teacher at Mother of Sorrows School. Last year, I became a Preschool aide for both the three-year-old and four-year-old Preschool classrooms. I live in Harrison City with my husband and two daughters,

Krista and Chelsea. Both of my children attend Mother of Sorrows School. I am so excited to be teaching second grade at MOSS and I am looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Welcome to MOSS

Barb Soles



Hello, my name is Barb Soles and I will be the new fourth grade teacher this year. I am so excited to be a member of the MOSS family. I have a bachelor's degree in Elementary/Early Childhood Education and have taught for many years. I most recently taught for Catapult Learning as a Title 1 Math and Reading teacher. I may look familiar because I have been at MOSS for the past three years teaching Math to students in 1st through 8th grade. I truly enjoyed helping all of my students improve their Math skills during this time. I live in the New Stanton area with my husband of 29 years and my twin daughter and son who are now 25 years old. I enjoy every moment I get to spend with my family. I also like to go to the beach and spend time at our camp. You can say, I am a huge fan of the Pittsburgh Penguins and

really enjoy going to hockey games. I love animals and enjoy hearing stories my students tell me about their pets. I am looking forward to making a difference in the lives of my students and helping them succeed in fourth grade!

Francene Tucker



Hello, my name is Francene Tucker and I am new to MOSS this year! I will be teaching sixth grade. I received my bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the University of Notre Dame and a Secondary Teaching Certificate from St. Mary's College. I also completed my Master of Education in Science and Math for Teachers at the University of Charleston. I taught secondary Mathematics for 8 years in Ford City, PA, Chesapeake VA and Ashburn, VA before transitioning to a stay at home mom. My husband of 21 years, Brett, served in the United States Navy for 6 years. When his job afforded us the

opportunity to come back to Pennsylvania, we returned 12 years ago. We now have four children. Angela is 15, Alec and Justin are 13 and Jacob is 11. We have two dogs, Rey and Finn, as well. When our youngest started kindergarten, I began substituting at Kiski Area Intermediate/High School. I have been volunteering at St. James Church as a youth minister and leading our worship band for several years. I am extremely excited to return to teaching, full time, this year at MOSS!

Welcome to MOSS

Elizabeth Vita



My name is Elizabeth Vita and I am the new 7th & 8th grade religion teacher. I graduated from Seton Hill University with a bachelor's degree in Music Education. I continued my education at IUP where I received a master's degree in Education and a certificate in Administration. I previously worked at Saint Elizabeth Elementary School where I taught for 8 years (K-8 Music all 8 years and Middle School Religion for 5 years). I live with my husband Michael of 8 years and our bunny Scratch. I am passionate about my faith and music. I love to sing, play instruments, read, cook/bake, play video games and watch TV/movies. I am very excited to be a part of the MOSS family and I look forward to having a great year!

Technology News

We are thrilled to announce that every student at Mother of Sorrows School will receive their own computer device this school year! Each preschool student will be given an iPad and students, in kindergarten through 8th grade, will receive a Dell laptop computer. Please note, students will be required to transport their laptop to and from school every day.

In addition to purchasing computers for each student, Mother of Sorrows School is excited to utilize the Schoology platform this year. Using this web-based communication tool, educators can post assignments, quizzes, homework and additional educational resources/links all in one location. More importantly, Schoology provides our students with a safe, secure online learning environment. We are so excited to provide our students with this new and improved technology they can use both in school and at home.

More information on Schoology can be found in this newsletter.



School Year Calendar

MOTHER OF SORROWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2020 - 2021 School Calendar (Updated 8/19/20)

August '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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27	28	29	30			

October '20						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November '20						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December '20						
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27	28	29	30	31		

January '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28						

March '21						
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28	29	30	31			

April '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

May '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



No School for students
Act 80 for Teachers
Aug. 20, 21
Feb. 15
June 2, 3



End of the Quarter



First and Last Day of School

School Fundraiser

MOSS 2020 Fall Meat Raffle

Our first major fundraiser will be here before you know it and we need **YOUR HELP** to make it a **HUGE SUCCESS!** Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Spring Fundraiser and, as you know, fundraising is an extremely vital part of Catholic education. In fact, did you know that all of the money raised from our fundraisers keeps the cost of tuition down by 5%? Our fundraisers also help us expand and improve our cutting-edge academic programs. So, please help us make this first fundraiser a **HUGE SUCCESS!**

Ways You Can Help:

- **We are asking each family to sell 15 raffle tickets.**
- You will receive your tickets in an envelope within the first week of school.
- Keep this envelope and use it to return your **COMPLETED** ticket stubs and the collected **\$150 cash or one check payable to MOSS.**
- Please feel free to sell more than 15 tickets. The more tickets we sell, the more money we raise.
- To receive additional tickets, please stop by the school office before 2:30 p.m.
- 4 Winners will be drawn, during school hours, on October 16, 2020.
- **1st and 2nd Place Prizes** will be awarded for the **MOST TICKETS SOLD.**
- If you have any questions, please email: mossraffle2020@gmail.com.
- See the flyer on the following page for additional details.



Thank you in advance for your support of this important fall fundraiser!

Proceeds Benefit Mother of Sorrows School



\$10
PER
TICKET

**WINNER
NEED
NOT BE
PRESENT
TO WIN**

MEAT RAFFLE

Drawing will take place on October 16, 2020
Call 724-733-8840 for more details!

**GRAND PRIZE: \$1,000
BARDINE'S COUNTRY SMOKEHOUSE INC GIFT CARD**

**2ND PRIZE:
\$500 GIANT EAGLE GIFT CARD**

**3RD PRIZE:
\$250 GAS GIFT CARD**

**4TH PRIZE:
\$200 CASH**

Schoology

What is Schoology?

Mother of Sorrows School, in partnership with the Diocese of Greensburg, uses the Schoology learning management system to assist in the education of our students both in school and at home. This cloud-based platform allows teachers to post daily reminders, new assignments, homework and so much more.

Schoology Student Directions:

Recent Activity:

- “Recent Activity” shows all comments and updates pertaining to your school, courses and groups.
- To filter your feed to view only updates, polls, or blog posts, click the “Most Recent” link in the top corner and select a filtering option.

Course Dashboard:

- The “Course Dashboard” enables you to view all your courses as a titled list.
- From the “Course Dashboard”, click any one of your courses to go directly to its main landing page.
- You can also click and drag course tiles to rearrange them.

Upcoming:

- The “Upcoming” area on the right side of your homepage displays events, assignments, tests/quizzes, and discussions with a due date. When you hover over each item, it will display the course or group associated with the item.
- While Schoology has a “Grades” feature, students and parents should still use PowerSchool to access grades.

Search:

- Use the “Search” tool (magnifier icon) to search for your teachers, courses and groups.

App Center:

- Schoology’s “App Center” allows your teachers to provide you with access to content and software developed by other companies from directly within the Schoology website.

Calendar:

- The Schoology “Calendar” keeps events and due dates organized and easily accessible.
- By clicking the “Calendar” icon at the top of Schoology, you can view events and due dates by month, week or day.
- Due dates for assignments, assessments and important course related events are automatically added to your calendar and managed by you instructor.

Schoology

Schoology Student Directions:

Notifications:

- Depending on the settings in place, you may be able to receive messages from teachers and send messages to teachers at your school.
- Navigate to your “Messages” area by clicking the envelope icon on the top menu.
- Click “New Message”.
- Enter the recipient’s name in the “To” field. A list of users automatically populates as you type.
- Select the user from the list.
- Enter a subject and message.
- Add optional files, links or resources.
- Click “Send” to complete.

Conferences:

- Students who are distance learning will use the “Conferences” feature to “Zoom” into the classroom.
- Students are expected to log in to the “Conference” at 8:30 a.m.
- When a student is not required to be online during the day (lunch, recess...), the student should mute themselves and turn off their video (PLEASE DO NOT LOG OFF).
- The daily “Conference” will be set up by the homeroom teacher. It will appear in the title menu.
- Students should click on the “Microphone” on the next screen.
- The next screen will be the welcome screen.
- At the bottom of the welcome screen, click the “Camera” to start your video.
- Allow the program to access your camera.
- Your name should be included under the user menu.

Creating a Parent Account:

Setting Up Your Parent Account:

- To access Schoology, please go to Schoology.com.
- In the top right, click “Sign Up” and then select “Parent”.
- Enter your “Parent Access Code” and fill in your personal information.
- Check the box to agree to the terms and conditions.
- Once in your account, click on “Your Name” in the top right.
- You will see your student’s name listed underneath.
- You can select your student for a “View Only” look at their Schoology activity.
- If you need to add more than one student, click on “Your Name” in the top right and select “Add Child” from the dropdown menu to enter the “Access Code” provided to you for the other student.
- Please keep your account information confidential.

PowerSchool

The PowerSchool Parent Portal is Accessible in 2 ways:

1. **Website URL:**

- <https://powerschool.dioceseofgreensburg.org>
- Located on our school website

2. **Mobile APP:**

- PowerSchool Mobile APP for iOS and Android Devices
- Using the APP requires the user to enter a district code, located on the Parent Portal Homepage, when a user is logged in via the website URL

Important PowerSchool Information:

Students:

- Each student has his or her own login for the portal.
- In order to generate the report for student logins, select the students in PowerSchool, and then choose “Print Report” from the “Functions” dropdown menu.
- Select the report titled “Parent Portal Student Access Letter” and then click “Submit”.

Parents without a Parent Portal Account:

- These individuals will need to create an account on the Parent Portal login screen.
- The following file, “Creating a Parent or Guardian Account for the PowerSchool Parent Portal”, may be downloaded and provided to parents who need to create an account.
- These individuals will also need the Access ID and Access Password for their children in order to link the student records to their portal account.
- The Access ID and Access Password is generated by selecting the respective student(s) in PowerSchool, and printing the report titled “Parent Portal Parent/Guardian Access Letter”.

Parents with an Existing Parent Portal Account:

- These individuals already created an account for the Parent Portal.
- The login information remains unchanged.
- The students that were linked to their account previously will remain intact as well, as long as they are still active in PowerSchool.
- These individuals may have a new child attending our school. In this case, the “Parent Portal Parent/Guardian Access Letter” will need to be generated for the new student and then provided to the parent(s) in order to add the record to their account.
- The following file, “Adding a New Student Record to an Existing Parent Portal Account”, may be downloaded and provided to parents for instruction on how to add a new student record to their account.

Student Accident Insurance

What is Student Accident Insurance?

One of the benefits for our students and families is Student Accident Insurance which supplements parents' insurance for certain covered expenses related to an accident. This insurance is in effect during the hours and days when school is in session, and while attending school sponsored and supervised activities. This insurance provides payment of covered, medically necessary expenses, incurred for treatment of injury, caused by a covered accident up to a maximum limit of \$6,000,000 incurred with ten (10) years. The coverage is excess over any other collectible insurance plans. Written notice of a claim must be given to the insurance company within 90 days of the accident. The first medical expense must be incurred within 90 days following the accident. We strive to provide a safe environment for our students; but, unfortunately, accidents do occur. If you need to report an injury in order to request reimbursement through this program, please follow the steps listed below:

1. In the event of an accident, notify the school immediately.
2. The school will complete and sign Part 1 of the Loss Reporting form, and then forward this form to the parents of the injured student. The Loss Reporting form provides additional reporting instructions.
3. The parents will complete and sign Part 2 of the Loss Reporting form in full, remembering to include the name and mailing address of both parents' employers, as well as other information regarding the parents' insurance.
4. The claim form must be submitted within 90 days from the date of the injury. It is not necessary to wait for bills to be received in order to send in a claim form on a particular accident.

What is the 24-Hour Accident Plan?

Parents also have the option to purchase 24-Hour Accident coverage to extend the school time accident protection to a full 24 hours a day plan that provides the same benefits against accidents that occur anytime. Parents can enroll students online at www.BollingerSchools.com or complete an enrollment form and mail it along with your payment. The annual cost of enrollment is \$88.00. Under the 24-Hour Plan, benefits are payable for expenses incurred up to \$500,000 maximum. If you would like additional information regarding Student Accident Insurance, please contact the school office.



Daily Covid-19 Screening

Please complete this checklist every morning before your child goes to school.

**If your child is experiencing any of the following symptoms,
please DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL.**

Daily Covid-19 Screening Checklist:

- ✓ CONGESTION
- ✓ RUNNY NOSE
- ✓ MUSCLE PAIN
- ✓ GENERALIZED ACHINESS
- ✓ DIARRHEA
- ✓ NAUSEA
- ✓ VOMITING
- ✓ EXCESSIVE FATIGUE
- ✓ LACK OF TASTE OR SMELL
- ✓ HEADACHE
- ✓ CHILLS
- ✓ COUGH
- ✓ SORE THROAT
- ✓ SHORTNESS OF BREATH
- ✓ DIFFICULTY BREATHING
- ✓ FEVER (measured temperature with a thermometer of 100.4 or higher)
- ✓ **CLOSE CONTACT WITH A PERSON WITH COVID-19**

Additional Reminders:

- Students must be fever free and symptom free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication in order to return to school.
- If symptoms persist for more than 24 hours, please contact your child's healthcare provider for an evaluation and written clearance in order to return to school.
- Parents must notify the school of their child's absence and reason for absence prior to the start of the academic day.
- If your child does not display any of the listed symptoms, please have them wash their hands and apply a face covering prior to leaving for school.
- **Please note: Students must wear a face covering on the bus and in school.**



Spotlight on Sports

Cross Country

The MOS CYO Cross Country team has started the 2020 season with more than 30 kids participating at practices. The team is very diverse with 13 girls and 19 boys split into the following divisions: 10 Novice, 12 Junior Varsity and 10 Varsity runners.

Competitions for the season will start on September 13th at Greensburg Central Catholic High School and will end with a Diocesan Championship meet at Kunkle Park on October 11th. Best of luck to all our MOS runners this season!



Cheerleading

Sign-ups are underway for the MOS CYO Cheerleading team. The program is open to all students in kindergarten through 8th grades. This year, we will have two squads: Grades K-2nd and Grades 3rd-8th. We already have a lot of girls interested so it should be an exciting and fun season!

Cheer practices will be held on Wednesday's starting at the end of September. The time of practice is still TBD. Stay tuned for more details. During the cheer season, students will have fun playing games and learning chants, cheers, and a choreographed dance routine. If your child is interested in joining, or if you have any questions, please email coach Mikala Testa at mikala.testa@gmail.com.



Girls Basketball

The CYO Girls Basketball season will be delayed until the winter. We are required to stay under the maximum of 25 people for indoor events and this will be difficult and even impossible in some situations. We will keep you up to date on this matter as we receive more information in the future. Thank you for your patience as we try to navigate through these unprecedented times.

Student Spotlight



Marielle and Elyse Wilson

The Queen Alliquippa Chapter DAR would like to recognize Marielle Wilson and Elyse Wilson for their winning entries in the Junior American Citizen Contest. Both girls won at the local chapter level, and also won 1st place for their Women's Suffrage Stamp Design for the State of Pennsylvania. Both Marielle and Elyse were also recognized with awards at the Northeast Division level of the competition. Congratulations, Marielle and Elyse! We are so proud of you!

Teacher Spotlight

Carrie Malley



This year, we will be honoring our amazing MOSS teachers in the monthly newsletter. We are incredibly thankful and blessed to have so many wonderful educators in our school and we can't wait to share all of their special gifts with you. The first teacher spotlight will honor one of our 1st grade teachers, Carrie Malley. Carrie lives in the Murrysville area with her husband (Tom), her two sons (Peyton and Nathan), and her two Airedale Terriers (Bentley and Bristol). She graduated from Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in Education. She also holds certifications in Elementary Education and Middle School Math and Science. This year marks her 10-year anniversary at MOSS and her 5th year teaching 1st grade. She has so many wonderful qualities that truly make her an extraordinary teacher. She is creative, kind, patient and goes above and beyond to help her students achieve success in school. On top of all the hard work she displays in her

classroom, she has been actively volunteering in the school Musical for the past three years. She also was the chairperson of the Welcoming Committee (2018 and 2019), coached Cheerleading for three years, organized several Back to School Skate Nights for our MOSS families, and initiated and planned Donuts with Dad and Muffins with Mom. According to Carrie, teaching gives her an opportunity to make a small difference in the world. Her favorite thing about MOSS is her "MOSS Family". She cares about each student (and their family) as if they were her own family. Thank you, Mrs. Malley, for all your hard work and dedication. We can't wait to see all the amazing things you do in 1st grade this year!

New Office and Scrip Procedures

Drop Off and Pick Up Procedure:

During this challenging time, I want to lessen the amount of traffic that usually flows through the school office so that we keep our office staff and students safe. Beginning September 8th, anyone who needs assistance with the following items will proceed to the white canopy and ring the doorbell. Someone from the office will open the window to assist you. Thank you for your patience.

- Tardy Student Arrival
- Early Dismissal Pick Up
- Scrip Purchase
- Dropping Off Items and Paperwork to the Office

Lunch Duty Procedure:

Parents arriving for lunch duty will first go to the white canopy and ring the doorbell. Someone from the office will open the window to take your temperature and then direct you to the front door to enter the building. This process will take a couple of minutes so please try to arrive by 11:10 a.m. so that you can be on time to assist with student lunches.

What is Scrip?

Looking for a way to reduce your tuition bill? The MOSS Scrip Gift Card Program is a way for you to earn "Scrip Tuition Credit" on things you already buy (gas, groceries, school supplies, clothing and so much more). More importantly, your friends and family can sign-up for their own accounts to support your MOSS family.

Fall 2020 Scrip Changes and Instructions:

You must **ORDER/PAY** for all your Scrip Gift Cards **ONLINE BEFORE THEY WILL BE READY** for "Pick Up" or "Sent Home" on Scrip Tuesdays. Directions on how to order Scrip Gift Cards are listed below:

1. **Online Ordering:**

- Order and pay for all your Scrip Gift Cards (E-Cards, reloads and physical gift cards) from your computer using your www.ShopWithScrip.com account or the **RaiseRight App** on your mobile device.

2. **Payment:**

- Choose the **PRESTOPAY** option for the **FASTEST** way to receive your Scrip Gift Cards. E-Cards will be **INSTANTLY** available for use and **RELOADS** may be instant or take up to 24 hours. Physical Scrip Gift Cards will take 2 to 7 days depending on when you place your order. Checks must be dropped off in the school office prior to order placement.

3. **Earn:**

- Your Scrip Gift Card account rebate (split 75/25) will be applied to your family's tuition bill as **SCRIP TUITION CREDIT** every other month beginning around September 10th.

Questions: Please text/email Christine Jordan at 724-681-6163 or cbjordan1@yahoo.com.

Back to School Prayer Guide

*Dear God, with a new school year upon us,
we pray for our...*

Students, that you ease their anxiety about going back to school amidst the current pandemic. We pray for the safety of all students returning to in-person instruction as well as those who will be learning from home. We pray that you ensure that every child has a supportive network of family and friends, along with the perseverance to face every challenge with your strength. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Teachers & School Staff, that you grant them supernatural peace and discernment. We pray for the safety of all our MOSS teachers and staff as they return to school to do what they love best (teaching, guiding and leading our youth). May our school family rally around you and provide you with much needed support, as you educate our children, during these everchanging times. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Parents & Caregivers, that you grant them peace about which schooling option to choose. We pray for your provision physically, spiritually, emotionally and financially. We pray for a support system they can turn to when the challenges of life are overwhelming. May our school families surround one another with love and support more, this year, than ever before. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.