

Pride - A feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of those with whom one is closely associated, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired.

I sign all of my correspondences, "**Proud Principal.**" It is a simple signature, but one that has deep, sincere and sentimental meaning to me.

I am proud of so many, however, as an educator for more than 30 years, I think I am most proud when our students, these beautiful young Catholic children, take the knowledge that they have acquired, and utilize it for the greater human good.

For example, many years ago, one of my second-grade students, **Isabella Grana**, collected and donated all of her birthday money so that she could send it to the children in our sister parish in Nicaragua. Fr. Aurelian O'Dowd used this money to purchase math textbooks for his school and had an inscription in each saying, "These textbooks were lovingly donated by Miss Isabella Grana from St. James the Apostle School." Every year, for as many years as I can remember, Isabella sent money to the children in Nicaragua. She made a connection and a difference.

Alexandra Clarke, at the tender age of 7, became an entrepreneur, making and selling horse and pony treats to benefit equine charities which provide assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs, at-risk youth, veterans and active service members. Alexandra is entering our 4th grade class this year and her business, **Little Pony Treats**, continues to thrive!

One of our newest students, **Lucy Poniatowski** has become the proud proprietor of a charitable Cotton Candy business. Lucy's 501-C-3 nonprofit organization, **Sweetest Little Charity**, has already begun its charitable giving. After commissioning several of her classmates to serve as volunteers, Lucy and her crew sold cotton candy at our Spring Craft Fair event and then wrote a check to St. James the Apostle School in the amount of \$200. Lucy plans to continue to raise and donate money to other organizations that serve children in need.

Most recently, the Long Family shared with us, a heart-warming story of their "Faith in Action." I am so proud of our students, **Avery (2nd grade) and Riley (1st grade)**, and their parents Joseph and Julia, for recognizing a need and doing something about it! As Christians, this is what we are called to do! As a teacher, I used to have my students research "Real Life Religion in Action". They would report on stories from the headlines that demonstrated every day people putting the needs of others before their own. True love of neighbor, as God intends. Now, my students ARE those stories! Please flip to our school page to read more about this incredible experience that will impact these boys and so many others for years to come.

These are just a few examples of how our school and our students live their faith every day. A friendly smile, a helping hand, an open heart, we are called to service and to respect all human life and we ARE making a difference in the world.

Is there any wonder why I am, "Maura Crawford, Proud Principal?"

James 2:17 *So too, faith by itself, if it does not result in action, is dead. In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. So, you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.*