

I am so happy to have this opportunity to thank all of the parishioners of St. James the Apostle and Our Lady of the Lake, Mount Carmel for your outpouring of love and support of our Catholic Elementary School. St. James parents, students and faculty rely on the generosity of donors such as yourselves, Catholics, who share our love and belief in Catholic Education.

Over the past four months, we have tried to brainstorm fun, community-building fundraising events, such as our Car Wash, Bingo Night, Card Party, as well as raffle prizes, etc. which have proven to be great ways to help raise money and awareness of how wonderful our school and its students truly are. However, none of these events would have been successful without you, the generous parishioners, who know that your giving is not just about making a donation; it's about making a difference! Every donation, no matter how small or large, helps to ensure our future and the future of Catholic Education in Putnam County.

Since becoming Principal, I have met so many wonderful people who inspire me, encourage me and challenge me to stay positive and focused on our future. I love to hear their stories and I learn from their example of kindness and charity. Many, I would guess, are modern day saints, seeking to bring about God's Kingdom on earth. For example, I met a beloved parishioner, who for years, has been sending a check for \$50 each month to support our school. I met an incredible couple, who volunteer their time to counsel children who have suffered the loss of a loved one. I have come to know a Veteran, who attended our Veteran's Breakfast, who sent a generous donation and then a Christmas card providing a Christmas treat for our entire school! I have the Knights of Columbus who have chosen this year to donate all of the proceeds from their annual Beefsteak Dinner to our school. I have people, who come up to me after mass and just hand me small donations because they know every little thought counts, not to mention several extremely generous parishioners who have, to date, sponsored 13 of our students by donating to our Tuition Scholarship fund!

*It's not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing.
It's not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving.
-Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

The generous will prosper, and those who refresh others, will themselves be refreshed.
Proverbs 11:25

We, at St. James the Apostle School, are abundantly blessed and I just wanted to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and assure you all of our love and prayers. May God continue to bless us all and keep us precious in His sight. May you all be blessed by the Lord with the same warmth and joy you have given to us!

St. James the Apostle School wishes you all a Blessed Christmas Season
and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!