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October 2018

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we embrace these autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet remind us of the brevity of this earthly life. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who gives us your breath of life. May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds remind us that you call us to follow your will. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.

-Author Unknown

Dear Titan Family,

Welcome Fall! October has arrived but the warm summer breeze continues to blow through the hallways. Students have settled into their routines and are now balancing schoolwork and after school activities. Tutoring is underway in the Library each afternoon and our Freshman Mentoring Program has begun. Students are enjoying the new cafeteria, their forty-minute lunch and seniors have settled into their lounge space in the Lobby. The Science Center will be completed by mid-month.

Our Campus Ministry Office has been very busy. The senior LIGHTS have begun their work in the community. They attended Catholic Underground and distributed care packages to the homeless in NYC. September was spent preparing for their mission work with Catholic Charities. This month they will visit homes for veterans and a group home for adults with developmental disabilities. Many attended the Quo Vadis Holy Hour at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception on a Friday evening in September.

We continue to provide opportunities for your child to flourish in God's light but social media and other harmful activities make their teenage years a challenging time. Holy Trinity, like all schools on Long Island and throughout the country, continues to focus on the vaping/e-cigarette problem. We continue to build awareness regarding the health risks associated with juuling, another word for vaping. A 2015 Harvard study on vaping found the following:

"The number of young people using e-cigarettes tripled last year, according to data the CDC published in April. Roughly 2 million high schoolers — about 13% — reported they had used an e-cigarette in the last 30 days, findings from the 2014 National Youth Tobacco Survey show."

The entire article can be found at:

http://archive.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/harvard-study-confirms-dangers-of-vaping-b99631238z1-361343541.html

A more recent report from CNN states that vaping is now an epidemic among U.S. high schoolers.

This report can be found at:

https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/06/health/high-schools-vaping-epidemic/index.html.

Any student found using or possessing vaping/e-cigarette materials will risk the privilege of attending Holy Trinity. I encourage you to have a conversation with your child and be sure that he/she is not involved in any destructive behavior. We will continue to hold seminars and assemblies on this topic in order to enlighten and to protect our children from this serious health risk.

The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Working in partnership with you, we will continue to develop young men and women who choose to respect their bodies and not treat them in harmful ways. As we remind our students each Friday:

"The choices you make, the good ones and the bad ones, will affect you for the rest of your life. Make good choices!"

We will continue to nurture and support our children and help them to develop those skills needed to be critical thinkers that use their God given gift of free will to make wise decisions.

Let us commit to working together during these challenging times, in this special place, with a determined spirit praying for the blessings of the most Holy Trinity.

## Coming in October:

10/10 PSAT Day / Freshman Faith Day

10/11 Operation Andrew

10/20 Open House 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

10/23 Bishop Barres' Visit

10/26 School Closed for Students. DRVC Professional Day

10/27 Catholic High School Entrance Exam

10/28 Titan Communion Breakfast Keynote Speaker Patrick Fanning

NYPD, HT '08

I thank you for the trust that you have placed in us to partner with you on your child's spiritual and educational journey.

Warmest regards.

Kathleen Moran