



Sunday September 22, 2019

Dear Shelton Academy families,

School teachers find different ways to keep their sanity; for some is gardening, some others do crafts, or long walks, or some form of exercising. I am among the latter, and this weekend I tried tennis. I had played the game on occasion growing up, but I did not touch a racket for the last thirty-some years. So, to put it mildly, I was not exactly on top of my game yesterday morning; although I got a good workout collecting balls from far distances, I spent the entire time apologizing to the players in other courts. It was a morning filled with “I am sorry!”, “oh thank you!”, “ay perdón!”, and “thank you for the ball again, it’s so kind of you”. It was an excellent practice of good manners, one that reminded me of Shelton Academy Preschool.

Good manners are very important and the basics of a good education; they show respect, require discipline, and lead to better behavior. Good manners are to be cultivated and groomed slowly, starting from early childhood; our preschool director, Ms. Monica, knows this well. This week in preschool the students learned about manners, practiced them, and collected stickers every time they greeted or thanked someone properly. Service to others is at the core of Shelton’s mission statement, and it all starts with good manners. Please continue to remind your kids to always be polite and mindful to those around them, just as we do the same when they are at school. I keep thinking ... if one of our preschool teachers had seen me yesterday playing tennis... oh how many stickers I would have collected!

Please find the time to read the following notes; some of them address important issues, and some others are just to keep you informed of what is happening at Shelton Academy:

- **D.I.V.E Field Trip:** tomorrow is the first DIVE Program field trip; students in grades 3rd to 5th will spend the day at Coral Reef Park. Parents were invited to join them on a day filled with activities including kayaking and snorkeling. Students that ordered lunch from the school will receive a field trip packed lunch in the morning upon arriving to school. The next trip is on October 21st for students in kindergarten to 2nd grade.
- **Exiting the School:** thank you one more time for your patience and cooperation while navigating our parking lot. Just one important warning: please always leave the school using the exit; we noticed a few instances where cars left the school using the entrance which created a dangerous situation. Please do not use the entrance to depart from the school parking lot. As always, we request that you move slowly and continue to be patient upon entering the school parking lot until you exit on the other side.

- **Shelton Academy High School:** plans for our high school continue to move forward as we establish academic offerings and plan for the extracurricular activities. Our Upper Academy students participated in a school assembly this week where they heard about our future high school and asked many questions about it. We are preparing a formal high school presentation in the first week of November; an event open to all families interested, please spread the word. As soon as we complete the planning you will receive all the details about this event.
- **Friday Faculty In-Service Day:** a few Fridays in the school year are devoted to faculty development and preparation; your teachers participate in workshops or training sessions always aimed at better serve you and the students. This coming Friday is our first Faculty In-Service day; there is no school for the students.
- **First School Mass on October 2:** in just a few days we will celebrate our first school Mass for all students and families at Shelton Academy. On October 2nd, the feast of the Holy Guardian Angels, the Most Reverent Enrique Delgado, auxiliary bishop of Miami, will celebrate Mass at 10:00am in our Piazza. Fr. Israel Mago, the pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, is also concelebrating the Mass. All families are invited. Students not taking Religion class will have the option of a guided study hall if they wish not to participate in the school Mass. On that day students come to school wearing their formal uniforms. A formal invitation to families is coming to your inbox this week.
- **Early Release Wednesday:** Wednesday October 2nd is also an early release day. Every first Wednesday of the month, all students in Preschool to 8th grade are dismissed at 2:00pm. After School Care begins promptly at 2:30pm. Please be mindful of the change in dismissal times on these days.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Monday September 23: DIVE Field Trip grades 3rd to 5th.
 - Friday September 27: Faculty In-Service Day, no school for students.
 - Wednesday October 2: School Mass at 10:00. Formal Uniform.
 - Wednesday October 2: Early Release.
 - Friday October 11: Back to Our Roots Celebration.

Grateful for your continuous support,

Juan Mata
Headmaster