



Sunday October 20, 2019

Dear Shelton Academy families,

A big THANK YOU goes to the SPTO for the excellent organization of the Back to Our Roots celebration. We had many families in attendance and numerous nationalities were recognized and celebrated; it was a very successful day at Shelton. However, it was also a lot of work and preparation and so we are thankful to the SPTO parents that dedicated their time and talent to make this event possible. Thank you. And while the flags are still up in our Piazza the SPTO parents are already working on two events that are quickly approaching: Costume Day, and the Christmas Bazaar. Please find on these notes the particulars on those two and some other events and opportunities at Shelton in the coming weeks:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Grades:** next Thursday October 24<sup>th</sup> is the last day of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Once the grading period is over teachers will work on finalizing grades, writing comments and uploading them into the system. The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report cards shall be available for you to see starting on Wednesday October 30<sup>th</sup>. You will receive an email notification once the new report cards are ready for you to access them.
- **Shelton Academy Houses:** Similar to many traditional English schools, Shelton Academy is divided into four houses; each house representing values and ideals aligned with the mission of our school. Siblings are typically sorted into the same house. The Houses of Shelton serve many important purposes: they communicate and encourage the embodiment of the school's ideals; they strengthen the enthusiasm and spirit for Shelton Academy and give the community a strong sense of belonging to a tradition and family; the house competitions are "rallying points" throughout the year marked by festival days that include competitions and spirited games; the houses encourage leadership and a sense of pride at Shelton Academy. Our Shelton Academy Houses are:
  - House of Valor; representing courage and caring.
  - House of Amicus; representing forgiveness and friendship.
  - House of Fidelis; representing leadership and loyalty.
  - House of Persisto; representing perseverance and patience.

- **Costume Day:** On Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> we have a Costume Day at school, and it is also the inauguration of our new “Houses” program. Students are able to come dressed in their costumes for this fun-filled day planned by the SPTO. Please note that costumes must be school appropriate. The costumes should not be too short or too long that students fall over. Absolutely NO masks, toy weapons, scary make-up (blood, wounds, scars), or inappropriate themes permitted. In the morning the students will have a celebration with activities planned by the SPTO and an exchange of treats. Parents are welcome to contact the SPTO to volunteer to be present during the morning activities. If you wish to send treats for your child’s classmates, please remember: NO NUTS and NO GUM. In the afternoon they will all attend the inauguration of the Shelton Academy Houses. We look forward to an eventful day!
- **Holy Mass on November 1st:** Friday November 1<sup>st</sup> is All Saints Day, a holy day of obligation for Catholics. To celebrate the day and fulfill the obligation we are organizing an outing to attend the 12:15 Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe church. Buses will depart from the school at 11:30am and return shortly after Mass, at around 1:45pm. Please look for a permission slip coming home with your child tomorrow; make sure you complete it and send it back quickly so we can better plan for this trip. Those students not wishing to attend will remain at school and participate in a study period; please let us know your preference by stating it on the permission slip. Parents are welcome to join the students at church and you can even take the kids with you after Mass; if you wish to do so please notify the teachers and our Welcome Center.
- **Family DIVE trip:** Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> is our first DIVE trip at John Pennekamp in Key Largo for all families at school. Attached on this email are PDF and JPEG versions of the flyer with the information. The space is limited to 50 participants. Each participant will need to register through Nature Postings’ website. Each participant is an individual; it is not one registration per family. This is the first trip of this kind and we hope it will be well received.
- **New Reading Club for Shelton Moms:** We invite you to join CanaVox, a wonderful way to grow in the depth and understanding of the magnificence of family and marriage. Canavox is a unique reading club where mothers get together to dialogue on articles about issues on marriage and family. Groups read a few short essays, personal stories, and view videos that are carefully selected to spark interesting discussions. The articles are selected by a group of scholars from Princeton University who keep the content updated with new research and stories from the front lines of real life. The club will meet the third Wednesday of every month from 8:30 am to 9:30 am and RSVP is required. For more details and information please contact Ms Maria Sepulveda, our Director of Formation.

- **ESOL for Parents:** we are offering two different classes for parents interested in learning English; one in the morning and one in the afternoon.
  - Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 to 9:00 in the morning.
  - Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 in the afternoon.

Lessons are free to any families with children at school. To register for class send me an email ([headmaster@sheltonacademyschools.com](mailto:headmaster@sheltonacademyschools.com)) stating the group of your preference.

- **Shelton Academy High School Presentation:** We invite all of our families, but specially those with children in middle school, to attend a presentation on Thursday November 7<sup>th</sup> in our Piazza; you will hear about our new high school including academic programs and extracurricular activities. A talk from educational consultant Belinda Leon will follow the high school presentation; she is a well known speaker that will illustrate the audience on how to plan for college during the high school years. Attached on this email you can find an invitation to the event; please share it with anyone that may be interested. You can RSVP by following this link: <https://forms.gle/kwkRuvy55KfF9opa6>
- **Christmas Bazaar:** on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Bazaar; this is an SPTO fundraising event very well known and attended by many in our community. But the key to its success is the collaboration of many families; this is a big undertaking that requires volunteers in many different areas including relations with vendors, decorations, supplies, food court, set up, clean up, monitoring, registration, logistics, and many others. Please contact Mina of the SPTO if you could help with the running of the Holiday Bazaar; she has been quite busy lately with this event. Additionally, please find attached a form for all vendors interested in participating; you could get a table for your business or pass the information to someone you know. You will be hearing more about the Holiday Bazaar in upcoming communications from the school directly related to this event.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - Monday October 21: DIVE field trip for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.
  - Thursday October 24: last day of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.
  - Friday October 25: Teacher Planning Day, no school.
  - Thursday October 31: Costume Day.
  - Friday November 1: All Saints Day.
  - Saturday November 2: DIVE field trip for families.

Great things continue to happen at Shelton every day. Sincerely,

Juan Mata  
Headmaster