



Sunday November 17, 2019

Dear Shelton Academy families,

The newly redesigned school's website launched a few weeks ago with great reception and it is helping many new families getting to know about Shelton Academy. Besides other useful information, the "About Us" tab states the school's Mission: "Families and teachers working together to prepare responsible adults who strive for human excellence and service to others". Together – families and school – we have been working to make this a reality. In addition to the efforts of students and faculty in the classroom, communication between parents and teachers is constant, your attendance at school events is phenomenal, and our meeting rooms continue to burst with daily activity. However, none of these would be possible without making the school a safe environment; we are well aware of that. The unfortunate recent events in southern California may have you thinking about the safety of your children while at school; so let us please share an overview of our ongoing efforts.

Over the summer we worked in collaboration with the City of Doral Police Department to review and improve the safety of the school; we had several meetings and we conducted a very comprehensive walk-through the entire campus identifying possible security issues and weak spots. During our Teacher Training Week in August we dedicated a day to safety and security, including a workshop led by a police officer. As improvements were made in our site, we fixed our current security cameras and added a few more in strategic spots. We made revisions to the Emergency Procedures in our Faculty and Staff Handbook; in addition to the existing procedures for Electrical Storms, Hurricane, Tornado, and Fire, we added two more: Shelter-In-Place Procedures, and Lockdown Procedures. Earlier in the year, after redoing exit routes for each classroom, we had a very successful fire drill. And just this past week, after preparing for it in our last two faculty meetings, we had our very first lockdown drill; which went fairly well and provided us with valid points to improve and prepare as we move forward.

We will certainly spend some time considering additional safeguards on our campus and ways that we can tighten things up, and we will continue to devote parts of our teacher planning time to talk through scenarios to increase preparedness. Know that it is our aim to create the safest environment possible for your children. I appreciate the concern that our families have expressed, and we will continue to be sure that we have taken all reasonable measures to be as aware and safe as possible on campus. If you see situations that could so easily be rectified to keep the campus safe, please do not hesitate to call it to my attention or to the attention of the nearest staff member.

Here are the notes for the next two weeks:

- **Christmas Photos:** this Tuesday November 19 our school photographer is coming for a Christmas Portrait Session. Students who wish to participate in this special session are invited to dress in their Christmas best. In order to be photographed you must turn in the order form or place the order online at <http://www.barquinphotography.com/order/> . If you would like sibling photos you must send in a separate order form and note that your order is for siblings.
- **Talk for Parents:** this Wednesday November 20 at 7:00pm in our Piazza we have a great talk for all our parents. Our speaker, Dr. Charo Sádaba, is an expert in the area of technology, video games, social networks, and their impact in the lives of children and teens. She will speak about electronics, social media, and the education of our children. This is a presentation you cannot miss; every family deals with all sort of issues related to how their children make use of smartphones and tablets. We are looking forward to her insights on this important topic for everyone with school age children.
- **Open House:** we had a very successful Open House this past Friday, thank you for spreading a good word about Shelton Academy. Of interest it was that we had a good number of families looking at our 9th grade for next year. We continue to give tours on a daily basis if needed, please refer to us any family that could benefit of a Shelton education.
- **Thanksgiving Food Drive:** the week of Thanksgiving there will be a food drive at school in collaboration with the St. Vincent of Paul Society in order to provide food items to families in need at this time of the year. Please look for more information and details about what to bring on a dedicated email coming this week.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Monday November 18: DIVE Field Trip for 6th and 7th grade.
 - Tuesday November 19: Christmas Portrait Sessions.
 - Wednesday November 20: Talk to all families at 7:00pm: The Challenges of Raising Digital Smart Users.
 - Wednesday November 27: Thanksgiving Feast Day. Noon Release.
 - Wednesday December 4: Early Release Wednesday.
 - Friday December 6: School Mass at Shelton Academy Piazza, 9:00am.

Yours,

Juan Mata
Headmaster