



Sunday February 2, 2020
Groundhog Day

Dear Shelton Academy families,

Punxsutawney is a small town in Pennsylvania of about six thousand people, where every year – on February 2 – twenty thousand visitors arrive to watch a groundhog prognosticate if we are having an early spring or six more weeks of winter. The 1993 film “Groundhog Day” gave international popularity to this celebration; in the movie, a weatherman is caught in a time loop repeatedly reliving the same day – Groundhog Day – until he finds the true meaning of love. Other than for the anecdote, people in Miami don’t pay much attention at all to Punxsutawney Phil or whether winter is going to be longer this year. But my wife and I come from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we have boxes in our garage filled with coats, gloves, and winter hats, and we thank God every day for living here having this wonderful weather. At Shelton Academy we frequently need to remind the students, specially our teenagers, to look at all the positive they have going for them; but they not always get it the first time. In education repetition is very important, not every student understand the concept or acquires the skill at the first attempt; it takes multiple repetitions of trial and error, just like the weatherman in the movie. We are in the thick of winter (even though is not noticeable in Miami ☺), when things sometimes get uphill or difficult, but we still have a long way to go. We need to continue our good work, teachers and parents, with patience, encouraging, redirecting, commending, disciplining, even when it seems that we don’t get any results, patience, repetition, with love, always with love. The results come, and your children arrive at the truth, they grow, they improve, they learn. Here are the notes for the next two weeks.

- **Classroom Activity for Parents:** by now you should have received an invitation to participate in a classroom activity with your child this week. On Tuesday for Upper Academy, Wednesday for kindergarten to 2nd grade, and Thursday for 3rd through 5th grade, there will be a presentation for parents at 8:15 in the Conference Room followed by an activity in the classroom for parents and students together. If you did not receive your invitation, please contact your homeroom teacher to receive the information on this great opportunity.

- **Presentation on Parental Authority:** if you could not attend the previously mentioned activity there is another chance to listen to Joseángel Domínguez’s talk “Language and Empathy: How to Regain Parental Authority” this Wednesday at 3:00pm. Our faculty is attending this presentation and parents are invited to join us as well to hear about such a relevant topic. See the included flyer for all the details.
- **Early Release Wednesday:** this Wednesday February 5 is an early release day.; 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 this day.
- **Hearty Party Dance:** another tradition at Shelton for students in 5th through 8th grade is the Hearty Party Dance the Friday before Valentine’s Day. This year’s theme is “Red Carpet” and the dinner & dance will be from 7:00 to 10:00pm; we have moved the “swimming” part of this event to a different day later in the spring. The letter with information and registration form are included alongside these notes.
- **School Mass and P.E. Changes:** our February school Mass is on Friday 14, in two weeks; and we are making a few adjustments in the P.E. schedule to help the younger students not having to change into gym clothes after Mass. If your son or daughter has P.E. class regularly on Fridays, the weeks that we have school Mass the P.E. class takes place on a different day of the week. This way they don’t miss the P.E. class due to the school Mass, and they don’t need to change uniforms on that Friday. Those weeks when we have Mass on Friday, the P.E. class moves to these days and times:

Kindergarten A Tuesday at 10:15

Second Grade Tuesday at 2:00

Third Grade A Thursday at 1:15

- **Honor Roll:** alongside these notes you will find several documents with the Honor Roll and Honorable Mention lists for the first quarter, the second quarter, and the first semester. Additionally, students in the first semester honor roll will receive a certificate of achievement. Congratulations to all the students that made the lists!
- **Faculty Changes:** we are saying farewell to Mr. Eliú Ramos, our Ethics teacher, and his family as they move to Chicago this week; we will miss seeing him at drop off every morning greeting the students, and we will definitely miss his cheerful stories and personal kindness warming up our hallways every day. At the same time, we give a big welcome to Mr. Javier Martín, who starts on Monday at Shelton Academy. Javier just graduated with a major in elementary education and a minor in P.E. He will be taking some Ethics classes, helping Coach Mauro in P.E., and adding extra help monitoring the recess area for 3rd through 5th grade.

- **Novel Coronavirus:** our school is a very diverse community, with parents that travel all over the world. Some of you shared with me how you have canceled future travel plans due to the spread of the Novel Coronavirus, wise decision, and we are grateful for it. With these notes we are including a factsheet document from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) that could be helpful in learning about the virus. Please find the time to read it, and exercise caution accordingly.
- **Admissions Open House:** we have scheduled three additional open houses to help prospective families get to know about Shelton Academy. These are the dates and times:

Friday February 21 9:00 to 2:00

Friday March 13 9:00 to 2:00

Friday April 24 9:00 to 2:00

If you know of a family that could be interested in learning more about our school please invite them to visit us on an open house, or to call us to schedule a tour. Thank you!

- **Reenrollment for School Year 2020-21:** reenrollment for next school year 2020-21 is now open; along with these notes there is copy of the message you received earlier this week with directions to reenroll. Please be sure to complete your reenrollment promptly so we can better prepare next school year in terms of faculty and classroom space; thank you for your help with this process. Please know that we are always available should you have any questions about next year; you can contact me or Ms. Eliana Bigai, our Director of Admissions, to schedule a good time to have a conversation.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Monday February 3: Marketing Video Shoot.
 - Wednesday February 5: Early Release Day.
 - o Shelton Talk: Regaining Parental Authority
 - Friday February 7: Teacher Planning Day, no school.
 - o Hearty Party Dance 7:00-10:00pm.
 - Monday February 10: Class photos and Yearbook Make-Ups.
 - Friday February 14: School Mass.

Happy Groundhog Day,

Juan Mata
Headmaster