



Sunday February 16, 2020

Dear Shelton Academy families,

Every morning my wife and I start the day having breakfast together; besides fruit, yogurt, and a toast or two, we both have a nice cup of coffee. However, while I take mine black, my wife pours on hers the contents of a tiny yellow bag, something called “Splenda”. I know, “Splenda”, sounds like the Good Witch of the South, the beloved character in the upcoming Spring Musical. Anyway, just recently I started to pay more attention to those yellow packages because, in addition to sweetening your coffee, they also make your day brighter with little inspirational messages; things like “Let’s do this!”, “Every day brings a new opportunity”, or “Schedule time for yourself today”, little silly cheers for the day. But there is one that catches my attention every time it comes up, one which is not that silly at all: “Small steps add up to big results”. This is key in education, small steps. It is the subject of a book I am reading: “Atomic Habits; Tiny Changes, Remarkable Results”. At Shelton we believe that it is the little things that matter, and that attention to detail is important. A small change in the way a kindergarten student holds the pencil leads to great results down the road; a little daily effort in looking in the eye and smile to say “good morning” develops character and personal demeanor; details that may seem insignificant, when practiced over a long period of time, indeed lead to remarkable results. Both at home and at school, there are numerous opportunities throughout the day to help our students grow by doing little things well; let’s look for those educational opportunities daily. Here are the notes for the next two weeks.

- **Reenrollment for School Year 2020-21:** reenrollment for next school year 2020-21 is now open; if you didn’t do so yet, please complete your child’s reenrollment for next school year. Included with these notes is a copy of the message you received earlier this month 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.

- **Ash Wednesday:** coming up in two weeks, Wednesday February 26 is Ash Wednesday; a particularly busy day for priests and parishes. Unfortunately, this year we are not able to offer an Ash Wednesday service at Shelton Academy; please plan to attend one at your parish before or after school. You may also pick up your child at school during the day if you would like to attend as a family at that time.
- **DIVE Family Field Trip:** Saturday March 7 is the date of our second DIVE family field trip, which will take place at Oleta River State Park. Included with these notes is a PDF version of the flyer with the information. The space is limited. Each participant will need to register through Nature Postings' website. This is the second trip for all families, the first one back on November 2 was a big success and a lot of fun for parents and students.
- **Shelton Academy Chapel to Our Lady of Guadalupe:** if you haven't been there lately, be sure to stop at our chapel next time you visit the school. New furniture and ornaments were added during the Christmas break, and this past week we received the new altar, our chapel is almost finished at this point. You are always welcome to visit the chapel (and pray for our school); it is not uncommon to see students, faculty, or visitors praying in our chapel at different times during our school day.
- **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!

- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Monday February 17: Presidents Day, no school.
 - Friday February 21: Admissions Open House 9:00 to 2:00.
 - Monday February 24: Dive Field Trip for 3rd and 4th grade.
 - Wednesday February 26: Ash Wednesday; regular school day.

Sincerely,

Juan Mata
Headmaster