

MR. KELLY'S FRIDAY NEWSLETTER September 6, 2024



Greetings QCA Families:

What a picture-perfect first week of school! I recall we were sweating through the heat and humidity last year... It's a good sign that this is destined to be a great year!

And although we reluctantly bid farewell to the laid-back, easy style of the summer, there is a part of us that welcomes the structure of the school year. The children may resist putting away their summer clothes and bathing suits, and yet, deep down, there is an excitement, even a comfort, in putting on their school uniforms. Thus is the rhythm of life. We rest in that which is comfortable and familiar while we, at least on some level, are energized by the idea of change. Ultimately, change leads to growth. And constant growth is both necessary and life-giving.

God willing, this will be a positive year of growth for all of us. With our top-notch, veteran staff and an enthusiastic group of new faculty members, we will be inspired by their gifts of expertise and dedication. I pray that each child will grow academically and socially this year as they learn more about themselves and each other and more about the world in which we live. I hope, too, that each family grows this year, always learning to be compassionate and supportive of one another. Strong families provide a solid foundation for a community. Be sure to make good choices for you and your family; to spend more time together, to prioritize your demands, to grow as a team with common goals.

And, finally, I pray for all of us to grow spiritually this year. I hope that our efforts here at school will reinforce your efforts at home to further embrace the Gospel truths and to come to know Jesus Christ in a more personal and life-giving way. On the contrary, the journey continues as we strive to know, follow and praise the One who gives our lives purpose, meaning and direction...the God of today, tomorrow and forever.

Welcome back and God bless you all!

Paul Kelly
Principal



Welcome New Teachers and Staff:

We are thrilled to introduce four new amazing members to the QCA Faculty. I know you join me in extending a warm QCA welcome to:

- ◆ Mrs. Amy Marchesano – New School Counselor for all Pre-K-8 students
- ◆ Mrs. Diane Freeborn – Middle School Math teacher
- ◆ Ms. Hannah Doherty – grade 2 teacher
- ◆ Ms. Emily O'Malley – grade 1 teacher

Friday Newsletters:

I will continue to send a weekly Newsletter to QCA Families every Friday afternoon. I hope that this correspondence will be helpful to keep us connected throughout the year, as we share good news that has happened during the week and look ahead to the activities and events that are coming up soon. I thank you, in advance, for taking the time to read these Newsletters, so that we remain connected and so that everyone is “in the loop”! I will be as succinct as possible, although some weeks, like this first one, will be heavy with information. Again, thank you for taking the time to read and digest the information. Here are some timely updates:

NEXT WEEK:

Monday, September 9	FULL DAY of SCHOOL for ALL Students (PreK-8)
Monday, September 9	First day of Extended Day Program (2:15-6:00 pm)
Tuesday, September 10	Opening School Assembly at 8:30 am
Friday, September 13	All-School Liturgy – at 1:00 ~ All are most welcome to join us at church

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ *Thursday, September 19 - Back-To-School Night – from 6:00-7:30 pm*
 - Please join us for a General Meeting beginning at 6:00 in the Gym/Auditorium. This will be an opportunity for me to share some of our goals and plans for the upcoming year.
 - Following the general meeting, parents are invited to visit with their child’s classroom teacher to learn more about the curriculum and academic highlights that are planned for this upcoming year
 - Some of the Specialist teachers will be on hand as well, if you care to have a quick visit (Phys. Ed, Music, Art, Computers)
 - The evening will wrap up no later than 7:30 pm
 - We hope to see you there!

- ◆ *Friday, September 20 –Dress Down Day* ~ \$1.00 to participate. More details to follow!

RENWEB Emergency Alert - Assuming we have your correct cell phone numbers, you should have received an “Instant Alert Testing” text from our Alert System sometime this morning (Friday). If you did not, then we probably do not have your correct cell phone number. If this is the case, please contact me at paul.kelly@quincycatholicacademy.org or call the main office.

MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC - QCA is pleased to continue to offer some exceptional *Music Opportunities*. If your child has an interest in music or a hidden talent waiting to be untapped, please consider any of the following opportunities:

- Piano Lessons – **See attachment** from Piano Playtime for Registration Information
 - *Piano Lessons will begin on Monday and Thursday afternoons.*
- Instrument & BAND Lessons – See attached information from Effman Music Co.
 - *A hard copy Registration Form will be sent home with students*
- School Musical Production in March– More information to come!
- School Liturgy Choir (grade 3-8) – We rehearse every Wednesday afternoon from 2:15-2:50 – ALL ARE WELCOME!



AFTER-SCHOOL/EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM:

Hello QCA Families! We are looking forward to a great year at **Extended Day!** The program will begin on Monday, September 9, 2024. The hours are 2:00-6:00 for preschool and K1 and 2:15-6:00 for K2 through Grade 8. On half days the program ends at 2:30.

Important: If you have NOT registered yet the 2024-2025 school year, you must do so asap! Even if you participated last year, you MUST re-register to participate this year! It's simple... just go on the school website (www.quincycatholicacademy.org) and click on the Program Tab for Extended Day.

Extended Day is a great way for your child to have some time with friends in a relaxed environment after school. The typical schedule for the students is as follows: snack and free time, homework (staff can provide assistance), activity time (gym, playground, school yard, etc). We have a strict No Electronics policy at Extended Day. Students will not be permitted to use phones, tablets, etc. unless they are for specific homework assignments (this will be monitored). Any questions, please reach out: tracy.rixham@quincycatholicacademy.org

We kindly ask that all families send students with a snack and water. These items will not be provided by the school.

Beginning in October we will be switching to an online timeclock. Each family will receive a student number that will be used to manually clock out your child/children from the program. If you do not clock out, you will be billed for the entire day. The cost is \$8.50 per hour and is billed by the hour. Please plan accordingly. **Any family arriving after 6:00 on full days or 2:30 on half days will be billed one dollar per minute.**

Thank you,
Tracy Rixham
Director, Extended Day

FUNDRAISING:

All families signed a financial commitment paper. If you signed up for fundraising, our first fundraising project begins today. Meadow Farms order forms are going home today. Only families who signed up for the fundraising option will receive a package (1 per family), but any family is welcome to participate. Just let us know if you would like a package!

Please note that **50% of order total from Meadow Farms is credited to a family's fundraising commitment. All orders are due by September 27th**

NUT-FREE SCHOOL:

The students of Quincy Catholic Academy are aware and sensitive to the serious medical conditions of some of their classmates with allergies. NO nut products or by-products are allowed at QCA. Thank you!

DROP OFF AND PICKUP:

We are so grateful to all our families for cooperating so effectively with our drop off and pickup procedures. All the planning in the world would not work unless our families cooperate. Your patience and support are vital to our success...thank you so much! Please remember... **NO drop off in front of the school or schoolyard.** Please drive around and drop students off at the drop off area. This is MUCH safer! Anyone crossing Glover Ave MUST cross at the crossing walk. We are blessed to have a crossing guard here for everyone's increased safety.

If you happen to arrive after 7:45 a.m. for K2-Grade 8 or after 8:15 a.m. for the Early Childhood, please go to the front main door for admittance.

BAND & INSTRUMENT LESSONS



We have a fantastic band program here at QCA for all students in grades 1 - 8!

1st & 2nd graders may learn the violin only.

3rd - 8th graders may learn any band instrument (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, drums) or violin.

Group lessons take place on Tuesdays after school under the direction of Mrs. Jennifer Hawes. All students (beginners included) will have an opportunity to perform in a Spring concert and experienced students will have the opportunity to also perform in the Christmas concert, at Faneuil Hall in Boston and may be selected to participate in the Massachusetts Honor Band. No experience is necessary to take lessons - we teach students of all experience levels.

Please see the links below for more information and to register and obtain an instrument. There will be a band demonstration at school on September 10 so that the students may hear and see each instrument in person.

****Band Scholarship - any parent or parents who are available to supervise the band students after school on Tuesdays from 2:20 - 4:40 will receive a full band tuition scholarship for one child. Please contact Jen Hawes if interested:**

HAWES2006@COMCAST.NET

Link to hear all band instruments played individually and as a group -
BE SURE TO WATCH THE LAST 5 MIN. OF THIS VIDEO (start at 11min. 50 sec.) to hear all instruments playing together- it's the best part!:

<https://vimeo.com/580337515/03219818a5>

Link To Register for Band Online: **Pemusic.com/join**

Attachments:

- Piano Playtime/Piano Lessons Registration Form
- QCA Choir Participation Form
- Instrument & BAND Information Sheet
- Instrument Lessons and BAND Registration Form
- Renweb Parent Access Instructions