

A word from the Guidance

Department

Welcome to the month of February. We are moving at a rapid pace through this school year. I hope you all are having a good year so far. The month of February has some exciting things ahead for your sons and daughters. Mrs. Zatechka has launched a new program where the middle school students can sign up and have lunch with the Administrators. Once a week, the students will have the opportunity to have lunch and a special treat with our Counselors, Deans, Secondary Principal, and our Head of School. Each member of the Administration will go once a month. This way your sons and daughters can get to know them better along with letting their voices be heard. As a Counseling department, we are really excited about the connections that will come as a result.

Thank you for all you do as parents. I know it's not easy keeping up with homework, sports, and other extra-curricular activities. Also, thank you for your continued support. None of this would be possible if it weren't for you all. God bless you all and have a great month.

Upcoming Events

- **Feb. 12th:** *Hot Chocolate with the Head Master*
- **Feb. 19th:** *Donuts with Deans*
- **Feb. 26th:** *Cookies with the Counselors*

Helpful Resources

- www.loveandrespect.com
- www.focusonthefamily.com
- www.loveandlogic.com

The Strength of a Home

Our culture today is riddled with mixed messages and confusing ideas about how families should look. The result has been an increased amount of anxiety, depression, and all out confusion about personal identity. As Christians, our enemy has done everything he can to destroy the strength of the family. One strategy is to create division between the parents. He knows if he can bring division between the Husband and Wife, he will have a much easier time reaching the children. While the world may look at Valentine's Day as a time to fall in love, I see it as an opportunity for Husbands and Wives to strengthen the gift God has given them; their marriage. Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said something that really caught my attention. He said "It is not your love that sustains the marriage, but from now on, the marriage that sustains your love." It took me a while to fully get what he was talking about. Then it dawned on me. Feelings are fickle and can change with the wind, but commitment is stronger than just about any force we will encounter in this world. When we commit to one another in marriage, we are embarking on a journey that will lead us to a deeper kind of love than we ever thought was possible. Marriage is a greater gift than most people

realize. It is a force to be reckoned with when done right and, along with prayer, is our greatest weapon against the enemy in the fight for our children. Our marriage is a testimony to our children of *who God is*. When they see us loving one another it increases the chances of their having higher self-esteem, hope, endurance, and resilience. It is my hope and prayer that you all, as our Middle School parents, will enjoy this Valentine's Day and take time to strengthen your marriage. It truly is a gift from God. Let's remember to cultivate it and nourish it. God bless you all and have a great month of February.

Clay Meadows, Junior High Counselor