

# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1940 S. 77TH ST, LINCOLN, NE 68506

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# WEEKLY WATCH

## Hard Work

Hard work is something most of us value.

As Midwesterners, we are often known for having a solid work ethic. But where does that come from? Not everyone grew up on a farm and had to do chores in order to keep the animals alive – the animals who were your livelihood. Yet, there still is a pervasive sense of accomplishment and pride in a job well done for many of us.



But if you ask employers, especially of young people, in the last 20, 15, 10, 5 years, you might find that they are telling us a different story – even in Nebraska. We can blame it on COVID, which certainly has had its impact, but I wonder if there are other underlying factors. It reminds me of a question that a priest asked me shortly after I had entered the convent. I was still “wet behind the ears” and he came to visit me and the other postulants at the time, both to encourage and to challenge us. The question he asked was, “When do you start to finish a job?”

We gave all kinds of answers, “When you complete it?” “When you get everything done?” “When you have thought of everything you need to do and take care of all the details?” It didn’t matter our response. He persisted in repeating the same question. We were befuddled. What else could we say? What did he mean?

Finally, with a glint in his eye and a slight turn to the corner of his mouth, he finally ended our suspense: “When you’re young!” He went on to explain. We don’t learn how to finish what we’ve started after we’ve grown up. ***The habits we form when we’re young are the habits we carry into adulthood.*** Did we want to persevere in our vocation? Then form the habits as a postulant that we want to have as a professed Sister. Did we want to be known for staying true to our word and carrying through on what we have promised? Then live that way now, while we were young.

I’ve often considered this for our students. How old do they have to be before we expect them to carry through on responsibilities and grow in virtues? – within reason, of course! But really, what do we expect, and how do we reinforce and support them in growing in this? Some small examples (real ones) I have seen over the years to contrast:

- The grandparent who carried his Kindergarten granddaughter into school each day vs. the preschooler who gets out of the car on his own with his backpack and is proud of himself that he can shut the car door on his own.
- The parent who is holding a baby carrier and then holds the door for her older children vs. the parent who encourages her youngster to hold the door for adults and siblings.
- The teacher who carries a tissue box to Mass and passes out tissues daily when students give the signal of tapping their noses vs. the teacher who reminds students as they as they head out the door in the morning past the tissue box to grab one or two to keep in their pockets.
- The child on the phone whose parent was delayed picking him up whose voice tone demands, “Hey, where are you?” vs. the child on the phone who calmly asks, “Hey Mom, were you coming to pick me up?”

These are very small examples, but they make a point. At the same time, I don't want to be misunderstood as going to the opposite extreme and expecting more than a child can actually handle. It's definitely a balancing act. I also know from my own experience that children often need adults to help break down tasks into manageable chunks and give them support in completing them. But it still is a question worth pondering. When do our children start to finish a job? What do we expect of them and how do we help them to get there? Are there any habits we are reinforcing that lead to a sense of entitlement and lethargy? Over the years, I've seen parents and teachers be both too lenient and too strict. Once again, balance is the key. Nonetheless, I thought it was a question worth posing for all of us to consider, "When do we start to finish a job...When do we help our children to start to finish a job?" I wonder what Jesus would say...

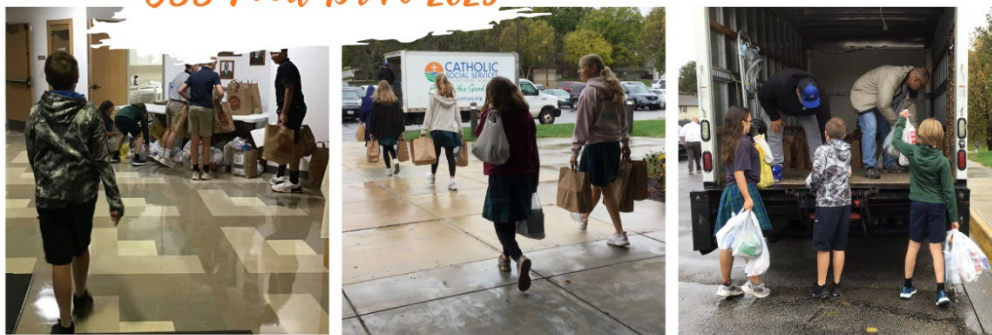
In the Heart of the King,

*Sister Mary Angela, C.K.*

Sr. Mary Angela, C.K.



***Thanks to all who contributed to our Fall Food Drive for CSS! Several students braved the cold and rain last Tuesday morning to help load the CSS truck.***



## **BIST Tip: "ICE" Language**

No, this is not the same as a cold shoulder! Rather, it stands for, "I see...Can you...Even though..." For children who find it difficult to follow directions, or follow directions the first time, this language helps to avoid a power struggle. Instead of saying, "Start on your homework," or "Clean your room," you can say, "I see you're not started yet. Can you get started, Even though you don't feel like it?" By turning the situation into a question, children often feel more empowered rather than belligerent. Try this the next time you need to remind your children to do something they are avoiding and see how they respond.

## Dismissal Safety

It has been brought to our attention that there is frequent congestion of cars along 77th St. at dismissal that are picking up on the church side. We are examining this issue and may be needing to move some families to the school side in order to facilitate a smoother and safer pick up. Please be extra careful of walkers and bikers as we examine this issue. We will keep you updated before implementing any changes.

## Raising Saints Video!

If you were not able to attend the SFA parent meeting in October, or would like to review what you heard from Fr. Matthew Rolling and Jacquie Winbolt, you can access the recording [HERE](#). If you would like a copy of the handouts, you can also find those [HERE](#). We hope the conversations continue in your homes!



## A Note from Our Nurses

We are in need of several updated student immunization records, dental records, and physicals (for new students, Kindergarten students, and seventh grade students) before the annual state report is due. Please send vaccination records to the school office, send an email attachment to [JHEL-schoolnurse@cdolinc.net](mailto:JHEL-schoolnurse@cdolinc.net), or fax records to 402-489-3260. **Individual email reminders will be sent out in the coming weeks if your child(ren) have missing records.** Thank you for your help in keeping our student health files up-to-date.

Barnes & Noble Book Fair Coming Up!!

*Barnes & Noble*

# BOOK FAIR

Nov.  
19

2910 PINE LAKE RD, LINCOLN  
SOUTHPOINTE SHOPPING CENTER

*Evening activities begin at 5:00 pm!*

COOKIE DECORATING  
STORY TIME WITH A SPECIAL GUEST  
AND MORE!

## **Book Fair Support? Use SCRIP!**

The Barnes and Noble Book Fair is coming right up! Support your school by using SCRIP to shop! We sell \$10 and \$25 gift cards. Fill out an order form and send it to school with your child. We will fill your order the same day and send it home with your child. Simple! Text Kate with any questions: 402-314-1416. [DOWNLOAD THE ORDER FORM!](#)



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