**The Cookie Thief**

by Valerie Cox in “A Matter of Perspective”

A woman was waiting at an airport one night, with several long hours before her flight. She hunted for a book in the airport shops, bought a bag of cookies and found a place to drop.

She was engrossed in her book but happened to see, that the man sitting beside her, as bold as could be... grabbed a cookie or two from the bag in between, which she tried to ignore to avoid a scene.

So she munched the cookies and watched the clock, as the gutsy cookie thief diminished her stock. She was getting more irritated as the minutes ticked by, thinking, “If I wasn’t so nice, I would blacken his eye.”

With each cookie she took, he took one too, when only one was left, she wondered what he would do. With a smile on his face, and a nervous laugh, he took the last cookie and broke it in half.

He offered her half, as he ate the other, she snatched it from him and thought... oooh, brother. This guy has some nerve and he’s also rude, why he didn’t even show any gratitude!

She had never known when she had been so galled, and sighed with relief when her flight was called. She gathered her belongings and headed to the gate, refusing to look back at the thieving ingrate.

She boarded the plane, and sank in her seat, then she sought her book, which was almost complete. As she reached in her baggage, she gasped with surprise, there was her bag of cookies, in front of her eyes.

If mine are here, she moaned in despair, the others were his, and he tried to share. Too late to apologize, she realized with grief, that she was the rude one, the ingrate, the thief.
Dear Parents,

February 19, 2017

As I looked for a reflection, I found this one quite interesting. It is easy to read a poem. It is also easy to race to judgment about someone’s actions. At times, we rash judge each other if we feel he/she is not acting fast enough or in the way we think that he/she should. Perhaps our Gospel reading this week (Turn the other cheek, love your enemies, and be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect…) can be understood through this poem about the Cookie Thief. The one who was thought to be the cookie thief was really our Heavenly Father…turning the other cheek by sharing cookies, loving the one who “stole” the cookies, and showing us how our Heavenly Father would act. So, when we have a cookie this week, perhaps we can take the opportunity to say a prayer for one whom we rash judged or for the one who was quick to judge us.

On a practical note, I hope you received the email last week with the information about how to re-enroll your children for next year. I also hope that you read about our New Student Referral Program. So far, we have received three forms from families who referred friends or neighbors to St. Joseph School. This form will be posted on the Principal’s Page but you can find it under the Admissions tab on our school website, too. The link is here: [http://stjosephrc.org/school/admissions/registration/](http://stjosephrc.org/school/admissions/registration/)

I hope that you were able to enjoy this beautiful weekend! As I begin to write the Weekly Word, I can see the blue ocean off of Brigantine’s coast! I am trying to balance work and relaxation so that I can enjoy these nice days! I hope that the extra day off was what the doctor ordered for those who were sick or who needed a little extra rest!

I hope you have a great week!

God bless you!
Sister Catherine Irene, IHM

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**Looking Ahead:**

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<td>February 22</td>
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| February 25| Grade 8 Parents will meet with teachers about Grade 8 activities and fees
| March 1    | Ash Wednesday: School Liturgy at 10:15 a.m.                  |
| March 2    | Home and School Board Meeting and Uniform Exchange, 7:00 p.m.|
| March 3    | Invite a Friend Day, #1. DASD schools are closed this day    |
| March 7    | Stations of the Cross begins at 2:00 p.m. with Grades 5 to 8 |
| March 10   | Second Trimester Ends                                        |
| March 15   | Invite a Friend Day, #2: CASD schools are closed this day    |
| March 17   | Talent Show: More details to follow                          |
| March 19 – 21 | Forty Hours                                                |
| March 20 – 27 | TERRA NOVA STANDARDIZED TESTING: Please do not schedule trips or doctor appointments during these days. |
| March 20 – 24 | Scholastic Book Fair                                         |
| March 29   | Grade 7 visits BSHS for Universal High School Visitation Day |
| March 29 – 30 | Confirmation Practice Days                                 |
| April 1    | Confirmation                                                 |
**Health Reminders: Sick Children:** A few of our teachers have been questioned about children who are sick in their classrooms. Every teacher has been encouraged to clean their desks every day. Many of you have assisted in this matter by sending in Lysol or Clorox wipes, and we are grateful! The children are asked to wash their hands regularly and they may do so in the Cafeteria. We ask them to check with Sister Diane and the lunch monitors just to avoid overcrowding in the rest room. I think that when we have a lot sickness at one time it is due students coming to school sick. Often, the students will tell their teachers or the nurses that they were sick all night or that Mom or Dad gave me medicine before they came to school. We also hear, “Well, see how you feel. If you feel sick, then go to the nurse and she’ll call me.” It is important for children to stay home when they are sick. I encourage that with our faculty and staff as well. First, we want to make sure everyone has the proper rest in order to get better. Second, we want to reduce the amount of sickness that is passed around. You know that when your resistance is down, you can be more likely to get sick again. It takes even longer for you to get over your colds. Finally, everyone should be **FEVER FREE for 24 HOURS** before returning to school. I know that the doctors have told some of you that it is okay for your children to return to school, but please adhere to this requirement. It is best for everyone. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

**Marketing and Recruitment Events:**

**Invite a Friend to School:** The flyer, entitled *Bring a Friend to School Day*, was in last week’s Weekly Word and a copy was sent home with the students. I know that there is a lot of excitement about the event! I would like to clarify a few things since we hope that this could be a good opportunity to recruit new students to St. Joseph School.

- First, we must receive an **RSVP (by February 27 to Jenn Messina at messinas5@verizon.net)** for each student who will come to the Invite a Friend day. If there are too many students who want to come into a class, then we will have to ask them to come on a different day. Also, no student can just arrive on the day without first sending us an RSVP.
- Next, we chose days that the students in DASD or CASD might not have school. This was to make it easier for students to attend. We know that private schools or Collegium might not be closed on those days. If you invite a friend from a school that is not closed on one of these days, then they will have to notify their schools. Our homeschool families may surely be invited as well.
- Finally, the purpose of students bringing their friends to school is to perhaps recruit or encourage them to come to St. Joseph School. It will give the friends a chance to have a shadow day and experience a typical day at St. Joseph School. Therefore, the friends need to be in or close to the same grade. A Kindergartener would not be able to bring his/her 8th Grade cousin to spend the day in Kindergarten. It might be fun but it would not be practical! 😊

We hope that this could become a successful and regular event at St. Joseph School! Thank you for all of your support for St. Joseph School!

**SHADOW DAYS:** If you do have a relative or friend that wants to come and spend the day at St. Joseph School to see what happens during a typical school day, we do encourage children to come for a SHADOW DAY. The student will spend a day in his/her current grade and meet the students and teachers. Please have your families or friends call the school office to schedule a Shadow Day!
2017-2018 Tuition Information: The tuition rates and Monsignor McLoone’s letter were sent home last week. The re-enrollment information and directions were emailed to you on Sunday and should be sent home on Monday. The link to the Re-Enrollment Information can be found here as well: http://stjosephrc.org/school/admissions/registration/
Please review all materials carefully. All re-enrollment must be completed through SMART TUITION. Only credit card and auto pay from your bank accounts will be accepted as payment for your deposit. Once you pay your deposit, your child or children will be re-enrolled for the next school year. I strongly encourage you to submit the application for SMART AID if you think you might need financial assistance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email. Thank you!

It is not too late to submit your financial aid application! Please complete the process through SMART AID. The information is posted on both the Principal’s Page and in the Financial Aid section of the website (under Admissions). Please review all directions carefully and don’t hesitate if you have any questions. Even if you think you do not qualify, please consider completing the application. With the institution of the Sponsor-A-Student Program, we might be able to assist additional families. It will not hurt to apply but it could help you, if needed. Here are the key points to remember:

Those families who applied in 16-17 will only need to:
1. Login in (using the username and password from 16-17) www.smartaidforparents.com
2. Update their information
3. Submit and pay the $25 application fee
4. Return to the site and upload their 2016 taxes when completed but no later than 3/31/2017.
   It is so important that you return and upload your taxes. This can hold up the awarding of financial aid.
Although the priority application deadline has passed, you can still submit your financial aid application. If you have not done do, please complete the first three steps of the application process as soon as possible. (Applications will remain open but the sooner the family completes the application, the sooner we can review your need.)
Please note: The income guidelines for 2017-2018 are as follows (No change from 2016-2017)
Families with:
1 dependent: Household income of $91,620
2 dependents: Household income of $106,890
3 dependents: Household income of $122,160
4 dependents: Household income of $137,430
5 dependents: Household income of $152,700*
*Add $15,270 for each additional dependent.
More information can be found at AOP Schools

Newspaper Meeting: There will be a meeting on after school on Thursday, February 23, in the library for the spring edition of the Hawk’s Eye View. Editors are asked to start collecting ideas for this edition.

Archdiocesan Honors Band Concert: We wish our students the best of luck as they perform in the Archdiocesan Honors Band Concert on Wednesday, February 22 at Archbishop Wood High School. We congratulate Mrs. O’Leary and the following students for this honor: Kennedy Carlin, Cecilia Wible, Michael Loughlin, Sam Tatum, Matthew Waterman, Kiera Walsh, and Jack Porter.