More than eight years ago, I remember Ms. O'Connor brought a student to my office and asked him to show me what he had done in her classroom. He hesitated, but gradually raised his hand with the middle finger extended. His parents were brought in and we had a conversation about the negative power of such a gesture. He was contrite, and his parents assured me that they would work hard to teach him the proper way to express his emotions.

Over the years, I got to know this child well. During his time at our school, he grew to be a leader: he reached out to students who were lonely, and challenged his friends to be better and do the right thing, even when it risked his popularity. His parents held him accountable and he learned from his mistakes. He excelled in his academics and earned a scholarship to, perhaps, the most prestigious independent school in the country. I was so sad to see him leave our school, but happy because I knew his future was secure and that he would grow into an adult who will make a difference.

Just recently, Ms. Capobianco told me that she had been invited by this same student to attend a reception to honor and thank teachers who had a particular influence on their lives. Ms. Capobianco had no idea that she had such an impact on this student. Teachers rarely see the fruits of their labor, so this was a special opportunity. And, when I told Ms. O’Connor, she was proud that she had also played a part in his maturation.

It is, of course, the season of Thanksgiving and we will share our gratitude for others. I am thankful for the mom who shared how thankful she was of her son’s teachers for comforting him during our security drill. I am thankful for the teachers who work hard with students who do not yet fully grasp the gifts they are receiving. I am thankful for the 59 college students who have volunteered at our school this semester. I am thankful for the parents who trust us as partners. And, I am thankful for having had the tremendous opportunity to lead such a beautiful school.

Gratitude is that virtue that has the power to soften our hearts and draw us closer to one another. Let’s remember to take the time to express our gratitude more often.

Sincerely,

Dr. William Gartside
Head of School

STCPS NEWS
Loyola Academy selects Loyola Leaders of the Month for October

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BC’s Emerging Leaders hosted an "Explore the Arts" Day

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Grade 5 students learn about ancient Mesopotamia by reading Gilgamesh

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