Message from the Head of School

One of the things that I love about being in a school every day is that I have the privilege of working with teachers and students who see all things as possible. They are dreamers. Our grade eight students are beginning to think deeply about their futures, as they are fully engrossed in the high school application process. They are consumed by the notion of justice. They will often tell us when they believe something is not fair. Our curriculum in grade eight is designed to leverage this innate calling for justice.

This week, Ms. O’Brien’s grade eight students completed projects to create their own utopian society after reading a number of Ray Bradbury’s short stories and a story by Shirley Jackson called The Lottery. These stories are set in the future where citizens are oppressed, and human rights are abandoned. Soon, the students will begin reading The Crucible, a play that recounts the Salem witch trials. And then, they will dig into one of my favorite books, To Kill a Mockingbird, a powerful story about racial injustice.

I was extremely impressed with the commitment to and quality of the work our students did on their utopian city projects. Students were asked to create a futuristic society, complete a 3-D rendering, write a brochure and their own short story, and develop a value system. The students told me they loved doing the project, because they were allowed to use their creativity. There were no restrictions as to what kind of society they had to create. One young man created a society called Snoozetopia where people were able to relax and sleep more. This society is very appealing to me! Another created a society where schooling was tailored to the particular interest of the student. There were a lot of societies that had hovering cars and all kinds of inventions to make life easier. Celebrating differences and taking care of the environment were values present in most all of their projects. After listening to the students explain their work to our younger students and read the stories they had produced, it was easy for me to see that our students have what it takes to fight for justice when they get older.

When I visited the classrooms to congratulate them on their work, I asked each student to complete the following sentence. “I want to live in a world where….” And they said: “where fewer trees are cut down; where cures have been found for diseases; where all peoples are treated equally; where there is no violence; where there is an end to gun violence; where I don’t have to worry about global warming; where I can live in a safe and welcoming community and not be afraid; where technology is used for the good of people.”

Thank you, Ms. O’Brien, for giving a voice to these students and for helping them to understand that they have a responsibility to make our world a better place.

Sincerely,

Dr. William Gartside
Head of School
Music teacher Cara Campanelli blends music and technology for Loyola Academy students.

Learn more

STCPS will participate in Operation Gratitude to collect candy for care packages for troops overseas.

Learn more

STCPS hosted Grandparents and Special Elders on Friday, October 11 for a fun morning at school.

Learn more

Loyola students learned about BC graduate Welles Crowther and his heroic efforts on 9/11.

Learn more

Looking for information from the Weekly Reminders email sent out on Fridays?

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