

From the Desk of Principal D'Amico

September 2017

Welcome back to a new school year. As always, the new school year brings lots of excitement and happy first day memories. The weather unfortunately did not cooperate, but the teachers and students came ready with their warm smiles and positive energy. Thankfully, everyone came to school safe and on time.

The summer always brings new changes to the building and more tools for learning. Recently, a new social studies program had been purchased called *World Civilizations and United States History* which will be incorporated in the 6th-8th grades. Chromebooks have also been purchased, and they will be utilized by the eighth grade students along with their teachers. The goal is to prepare these fine young women and men for high school. I am proud to share that they are off to a great start. Please pray for them to make good decisions as they begin the process in selecting their high schools. Due to an added 5th grade class, modules have been purchased. These modules will be placed on the small parking lot located next to the school. Our first grade classes will soon be located there. A special thank you is in order to the PalloTTines for funding yet again another project. The estimated arrival time for the modules will be October 1st. As soon as they arrive, I will be happy to tour parents who wish to see the completed project.

The teachers have already completed eight hours of professional training in the areas of first aid, writing strategies, technology and yoga. Yes, yoga, which had been incorporated into the preschool program last year and will be used this year in the K-8 classes. The faculty learned basic poses and breathing exercises which will enable the students to be more relaxed in the classroom environment.

Writing will be the focus for this school year. The teachers have been planning and strategizing for creating stronger writers at AOLG. The goal will be to assess their writing in September and measure their progress in June. Grades 5-8 will now have their subject of ELA broken down to about a 100 minute block daily with three different teachers. Ms. Williams will teach the language arts component, Ms. Pisciotta will instruct reading comprehension and Mr. Feliciano will teach reading skills. I invite you to learn about this on Thursday evening at Meet the Teacher Night. In grades K-4, teachers will have a writing coach to guide them in the writing process and how to differentiate instruction within the classroom.

The *TerraNova* tests have been mailed home for grades 2-8. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher who will be able to explain the scores in depth. I am still awaiting the kindergarten and grade one *TerraNova* scores which should be arriving shortly. I apologize for the delay as you are aware the company has encountered difficulty dispersing the scores from their end. Please rest assured that the scores have been and will be reviewed thoroughly.

This past Friday was a success thanks to the SCC for hosting a wonderful night to kick off the new school year. It was a great opportunity to sign up for the various activities, sports and programs that are offered at AOLG.

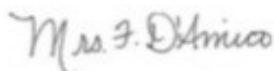
Grandparents Day is a wonderful event at the end of the month. Please make sure someone can be there for your child. You can invite a guest such as a senior friend or elderly great aunt or uncle.

I am looking forward to starting a preschool board. The board will consist of a few parents, Ms. Maria, a SCC member, Father Peter and me. If you are interested, please contact me. We will be meeting on several late mornings throughout the school year. The objective is to incorporate activities and extend learning outside of the classroom for the preschool youngsters.

you will have many opportunities this school year to enjoy yourself and be part of such a wonderful place. I hope to see you at all of the events at AOLG.

Let's make this school year a great one!

Respectfully,



Mrs. F. D'Amico