

UUAA 11.10.19

Up Up And Away - Notes from the Upper School Director

November 10, 2019

Many of you have likely heard the sad news that Alan Schultz passed away last week. Simply labeling Mr. Schultz a retired English teacher would badly misstate his profound influence on St. Michael's—both school and parish—over the last half century. Alan understood a fundamental truth: that young people are capable of much more than they themselves even realize. In more than four decades as a teacher, he laid the foundation for our English program, from our emphasis on formal writing and research to our tradition of Declamation Day and public speaking.

Beyond the classroom he introduced the majestic beauty of the organ during Mass services and the thrill of tightly wrought plots in his Read 2 U elective, which he continued offering every term for twelve years after his unconvincing “retirement.” As a colleague Alan served as the conscience of the faculty. Despite his mastery of language he was a man of few words in meetings, but when he spoke, he delivered wisdom and wit, sometimes simultaneously.

It is a delicious irony (a literary device he would no doubt appreciate) that Alan was an admitted Luddite—never yielding to the temptations of electronic documents and online grading—yet the post on the St. Michael's Facebook page announcing his passing was more widely read and commented on than anything we've ever posted to social media before. One alumna recalled in a post a classic saying of his: “Don't just sit there like a wart on a pickle!” I found myself just this morning in Madera Canyon reminiscing about Alan with a former parent I happened to run into there.

Services for Mr. Schultz are scheduled for Saturday, November 23, at 1:00 p.m. We will miss you, Alan.

In Other News

Field Day took over campus this past Friday. If you haven't had a chance, check out the collection of photos of the event on our Facebook page. What I didn't

fully appreciate until I uploaded those images and had a chance to see them in their totality is the sheer joy—our value of the month—on the faces of so many students. And it was shared joy as students, mixed across the grade levels, came together to overcome obstacles and enjoy a beautiful day. I am especially proud of the Upper School students for encouraging and guiding the younger students. They demonstrated both leadership and grace.

With similar joyfulness I can announce our new slate of electives for the second trimester, which are attached here as a PDF. Upper School students will have a chance to designate their top three options during Advisory time this week, and the electives will commence Friday afternoon. There is a terrific variety, from the artistic to the athletic to the environmental!

Events This Week:

- Our **Coed Soccer** season is now in full swing. Practices are held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. in the park behind the school. Our first games of the season are set for next week: the A team plays at home (Sewell Elementary) on Tuesday, November 19, at 4:00 p.m.; the B team plays away at Academy of Tucson (elementary campus) on Thursday, November 21, at 4:00 p.m.

New intramural rotations (volleyball and basketball) begin this week for students in grades 4-5.

- The annual **Canned Food Drive** runs through Monday, November 25. Cash donations will support the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, and non-perishable items collected will supply the church's food pantry program. Please support the drive in any way you "can"!

- As always, please encourage your child to bring mass donations on Thursdays. Student Council has voted to donate our October and November mass collections to **Meals on Wheels**.

- The next group to miss school time for eighth grade community service is **Team Four**, who will be spending the morning of Tuesday, November 12, at Casa Maria. I have sent out a separate email to those families.

Then **Team One** will be preparing and serving a meal at Primavera Men's Shelter on Saturday, November 16.

Team Six will follow up with their rotation at the Community Food Bank on the morning of Thursday, November 21.

● The next “**fee dress**” (\$2) day is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13. Proceeds support the eighth grade community service program, specifically meal preparation for Primavera Men's Shelter.

● Speaking of attire, **eighth graders**, this is a reminder to please turn in your **purple T-shirt order forms** with payment to the office by November 15th.

● We have made some changes to the formatting of the **report cards**. They should be ready to go home with students this Friday. Families get to keep the report cards themselves, but please send the envelopes back (signed) so we can re-use them.

Events Beyond This Week:

● Our **fall sports assembly** is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, at 2:30 p.m. The assembly will take place in the Student Center, and everyone is welcome to attend as we recognize all of our athletes for their hard work.

● Our annual **Career Day** (for grades 6-8 only) is scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, November 20, which is also a **noon dismissal** day. The Fifth Grade will participate in another art session with former St. Michael's parent Audra Scovil that morning.

That's all for now...

Best wishes,

Alex Hawes

Upper School Division Director

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Links of Note:

[Main School Website](#)
[School Facebook page](#)
[School Instagram page](#)
[St. Michael and All Angels Church](#)

[PlusPortals](#)
[Eagle Express Blog](#)
[Google Classroom](#)

[McGraw-Hill ConnectEd Textbook Login](#)
[School Uniforms](#)
[Hot Lunch Ordering](#)
[Student-Parent Handbook](#)
[SMA Volunteer Page](#)

[Main School Calendar](#)
[5th Grade Test Calendar](#)
[6th Grade Test Calendar](#)
[7th Grade Test Calendar](#)
[8th Grade Test Calendar](#)