

*From The Principal's Desk*

*December 17, 2021*

Dear Parents/ Guardians/ Students,

It gives me great joy once again, to thank you for your great support over the past term, September 24 to December 10, 2021, and to wish you a grace filled Advent and Christmas season. I trust you are keeping well and safe and adapting to the new norm during this pandemic. Yes, we are all facing many challenges, but we continue to wake up and show up and do the best we can, so let us count our blessings. Many of us have experienced sadness with the loss of a loved one, be it our immediate family, a colleague, a neighbour. Our school community was not spared these losses. Our dear Mrs. Portia Swain Swain is not with us and quite a few parents and grandparents. May they enjoy eternal rest with our dear Lord. A few teachers also moved on and others came. We wish those who are somewhere else a bright future and to those who joined us, great success and joy at Marian Academy.

Every Principal in Guyana and I imagine elsewhere worried in late August, as they prepared classrooms for the return of students, but we relied on your support to make it all work, as we had to continue on the Microsoft Teams platform for the most part. Thank you for working with us throughout these months, without the traditional events like Marian Academy Run, physical parents' meetings, Family Fund Day or even our End of Term Christmas concert and Nativity scenes. In some ways, it felt harder than ever to be together as a school community, but in other ways, there was growth during this period of change.

Pope Francis emphasized that at a time when people are worried by the COVID-19 pandemic, "we run the risk of falling into pessimism, closure and apathy." The antidote to this, he said, was to await the Lord because he "is our help and our shield."

"Confidently waiting for the Lord allows us to find comfort and courage in the dark moments of our lives," he said.

I take this opportunity to thank you and your family for your generosity for the gifts you sent, of non-perishable food item, household items and toys. I know you made sacrifices and may you be blessed. Be assured that they will be sent to the less fortunate. On December 11, 2021 we had some volunteers from Form 6, who did a great job in packing items for the many beneficiaries.

I wish to let you know that after consultation with staff, the Board of Directors, and feedback from some parents the decision was made to open school physically in January for Forms 6, 5 and 4 and Grade 6. The physical holding of classes will be done on a phased basis and reviewed as we go along. We look forward to the day when we will all be back in school physically.

Again, on behalf of the Staff and Board of Directors we wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year.



