

"My codes may seem like a fantasy that can never be reached, but test them for yourself, and see the kind of effect they have in the lives of people around you. You just may start a chain reaction." Rachel Joy Scott

Dear Parents,

At Back to School Night we introduced you to our new school initiative, **Rachel's Challenge**, and invited you to embrace it with us. The Queen of Angels Catholic School HSA is bringing this program to our school.

Rachel's Challenge is designed to inspire, equip and empower every person to create a positive change in our school, home, and community. Rachel Scott is the motivation behind **Rachel's Challenge**, because of the person she was before she died in the Columbine shooting. Rachel believed in "kindness and compassion" towards all people, and her motto is the underlying theme of this program. Our program will not focus on the nature of Rachel Scott's death, but instead will focus on how she lived her life and the challenges she set forth for us all: influence, goal setting, journaling, acceptance and kindness.

On September 28th, there will be three assemblies introducing Rachel's Challenge; two for the students and one in the evening for parents only. This program will inspire all of us to make a difference with the words and actions we engage in every day. All assemblies are age appropriate in conveying the message of kindness and compassion.

As teachers and parents, we collaborate to provide continued opportunities for our children to grow both in faith and character. While reminding them to be kind and compassionate, it is important for us to offer examples and role models to help them understand the expectations. It is equally important to affirm their generous actions and loving hearts. **Rachel's Challenge** offers the opportunity to witness the profound spirit of a child and to affirm faith in action.

I look forward to seeing you all at our Parent assembly (parents only) on Wednesday, September 28th at 7:00 p.m. in our gym. Student assemblies will take place during that day as follows: K-5 at 10:30 and Middle School at 12:00 with a peer training session at 1:15.

For ongoing information, visit www.gaschool.org/GuidanceCounselingRachelsChallenge. You may also check out the web site at www.rachelschallenge.org.

Peace and blessings,

Rhetta Ascari
Religion Coordinator