



Jesuit, Independent, Coeducational

July 2009

Dear Nancy,

I am happy to write telling you that I have been hearing nothing short of wonderful comments after our evening with you this past spring! When you came to talk about our teens with us at Loyola School, parents were so very engaged that one could hear a pin drop. In fact, what reminded me that I wanted to write and Thank you for a wonderful, insightful, informative and fun evening was bumping into another parent over the summer, who came up to me asking if Nancy was coming back.

You offered everyone tools for working with our teenage kids, not just coping mechanisms, but proven, effective, useful tips to be used in those everyday situations that arise when we least expect them to. It is then that we need to reach for our 'Nancy Toolbox' of thoughtful methods for keeping communication going with our kids, making the best use of 'the moment' and enjoying the limited time that we are actually living under the same roofs, elusive as it is.

However, I would like to add a personal note here and that is that I have been so glad to be attending your workshops. I believe it's been about four years since I began. It could be longer although, it feels like it was only yesterday, and almost immediately I became a better parent, really! Not because I didn't already love my kids more than anything else under the sun, but because I invested the time necessary learning how to build on that love.

We are not born knowing how to parent, yet I believe it is one of the most important jobs in the world. It is a learned skill; like driving, cooking, math, you name it. We are taught how and then cautiously, we use what we've learned as we proceed. Hopefully, we don't hit any other cars, burn the food, miscalculate our finances, or raise dysfunctional adults along the way.

My family at home and the families at Loyola School thank you, Nancy, for your wisdom as a parent and educator, your humor and your guidance. All of our families are truly blessed to have you. We welcome you back to Loyola any time.

Sincerely,

Kathleen S. McAlinden

President, Loyola School Parents Association