

***SAINT MARY STAR OF THE SEA SCHOOL
16 HUNTINGTON STREET
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT 06320
(860) 443-7758***

November 2008

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers:

The weather has gotten very chilly the past few weeks and it appears that it is not going to change for a while. Please remember to send your child to school dressed appropriately. The children will continue to go outside for recess and gym as long as the weather permits, so please make sure that they have coats, gloves, and hats.

Winter is coming! St Mary's follows the same schedule as New London Public Schools for weather delays. If the start of school needs to be delayed due to inclement weather, it will be delayed for 60 minutes, 90 minutes, or 2 hours. Supervision of students will begin at the times noted below depending on the start time:

1 hour delay – 9:30 start – supervision at 9:20 – Before Care at 8:00
90 minute delay – 10:00 start – supervision at 9:50 – Before Care at 8:30
2 hour delay – 10:30 start – supervision at 10:20 – Before Care at 9:00

You will find information regarding school delays or cancellations on the following radio and television stations:

WICH, 1310 AM	WTIC, 1080 AM
WCTY, 97.7 FM	WXLM, 102.3 FM
WKNL, 100.9 FM	WNLC, 98.3 FM
WFSB, CBS channel 3	WZMX, 93.7 FM
WVIT, NBC channel 30	

Additionally, weather can change once school has begun and school may need to be dismissed early. You will find information about an early dismissal on the same radio and TV stations.

We understand that your schedule may not allow you to change plans because of an unexpected early dismissal from school. Therefore, we are asking that you complete the attached form and return it to school by November 14th. This will allow us to assist your child in getting to the location you have determined in the event there is an unexpected early dismissal from school. Your plan can be as simple as "Go home on the bus as usual." Your plan should not involve the need for telephone calls, as the school cannot accommodate 113 students making calls or receiving calls. **Do not write, "Call Me"**. For the safety of all students, it is essential that we have a plan on file. After Care **WILL NOT** be open if school is let out early due to inclement weather.

Food Drive

Winter is not the only thing that's on its way. Thanksgiving is coming. St. Mary's will be collecting canned and non-perishable food items beginning November 17th to donate to the Covenant Shelter. Each class will collect donations. You may send your donations in with your child or bring the donation in yourself. The Covenant Shelter needs the following non-perishables: cereal, coffee, creamer, sugar, canned fruit/vegetables, spaghetti sauce, soups, and tuna. The class that has the most items collected will win a pizza party.

Happenings in the Parents' Guild

We all should extend a big "Thank You" to the members of the Parents' Guild and parents who worked so hard to make the Pancake Breakfast and Harvest Supper huge successes. Everyone had a great time. The food at both events was wonderful.

Uniforms

Now that the weather has turned cold, some students are wearing sweatshirts in class. "Outer jackets, sweatshirts, etc., are not to be worn to class." If a student feels cold, then a uniform vest or sweater must be worn. Gym shorts cannot be worn on gym days. This went into effect on November 1st and will continue through April 30th. Students can only wear the navy blue sweatpants with the St. Mary's logo.

Important Dates

Some important dates to remember in the month of November:

November 3 rd	4 th Tuition payment due
November 6 th	Parents' Guild Meeting, Holiday Pie Sale begins
November 7 th	No School, Teachers' Institute
November 11 th	Veteran's Day, 12:30 Dismissal
November 14 th	QSP Fundraiser orders are due
November 16 th	12:00 School Mass. Reception honoring the Archbishop of San Juan, Puerto Rico immediately following the mass.
November 20 th	Holiday Pie orders are due
November 22 nd	Ferney Ramirez will be presenting "Autoridad Padres"
November 25 th	Report Cards are distributed
November 26 th	12:30 Dismissal, NO AFTER CARE
November 27 th , 28 th	Thanksgiving Recess

As always, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns please feel free to call me at 443-7758.

Thanks and God Bless You,

Regina Ferrante
Principal

EARLY DISMISSAL PLAN

Child's Name: _____

Grade: _____

If there is an early dismissal from school the plan for my child is:

Parent Signature: _____