

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

December 2, 2009

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers:

Greetings! Christmas is right around the corner. The season of Advent began Sunday, November 29th. Each morning the students will prepare themselves for Christmas by participating in our Advent prayer and the lighting of the Advent wreath. What a wonderful way to start the day and to prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

Mrs. Connors has been hard at work rehearsing with the students for the Christmas presentation. Mark your calendar for December 16th at 6:00 for our Christmas show. The students must arrive by 5:30. As with previous years, the Christmas presentation will take place in the church and each grade will participate in the presentation. Parents are asked to ensure that their children are properly attired in their "Sunday Best." This means that students are not allowed to wear jeans of any kind, sweatpants or athletic pants, revealing or tightly fitting clothes, tee shirts, sweatshirts, or sneakers. Participation in the Christmas Show is mandatory. All students must participate or receive a Failing grade in Music for the 2nd marking period.

We are starting to get cold, windy days and I'm sure that we will be getting snow throughout the upcoming winter. Please remember to check the local stations for information regarding school cancellations. If you haven't already done so, please complete the Early Dismissal Plan that went home at the beginning of November. It is important that we know where your child should go if we have to close early due to unexpected weather developments. As a reminder, there is no After Care when we have an early dismissal. Students need to be picked up by a parent or designated adult, or sent home on the bus.

Teachers have been having a difficult time ensuring that the students are following their dismissal plan. Parents that are signing their children out in Assumption Hall must wait for their children in the Hall, not outside. Parents must pick up their children in Assumption Hall. If your child is not going to be following their normal dismissal routine, i.e. getting off at a different bus stop or taking the bus when they are usually picked up by a parent, **please send in a note or notify the school by calling the office.**

We will not allow a child to change their usual form of dismissal without a note or phone call. As always, any child that is not picked up will be brought to After Care.

Reminders

The Parents' Guild meets on the first Tuesday of each month. The Parents' Guild needs your help! Join the Parents' Guild! We want every parent to become a member of the Guild. The Guild sponsors all the fundraising events for the school. Your children enjoy enrichment programs because the efforts of the Guild. We want to have 100% parent participation.

As noted in the Parent/Student Handbook, every family is required to volunteer 10 hours during the school year. In addition, every family is required to raise a minimum of \$100 in net proceeds from fundraisers. If you have not begun to fulfill your obligation, now is a good time to start! The Parent Guild will be sponsoring several fundraisers during the year.

Tuition is due the first of the month. For those families paying monthly, 50% of your tuition should be paid by December 1st. It is essential that your tuition be paid on time because tuition is the primary source of funds for St. Mary's. Families that are not current in paying their tuition will not be allowed back to school after the Christmas break.

Girls may wear uniform pants to school beginning December 1st.

Some important dates to remember:

- December 2nd – Early Dismissal at 12:30; Parent/Teacher Conferences; After Care until 3:30.
- December 3rd – Early Dismissal at 12:30; Parent/Teacher Conferences; After Care until 3:30.
- December 4th – 1st Friday, early dismissal at 12:30. After Care until 3:30.
- After Care until 3:30.
- December 16th – Christmas Presentation at 6:00.
- December 20th – School Mass at 9:30, followed by a Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.
- December 23rd – Early Dismissal at 12:30, \$1 Dress Down Day, no After Care
- December 24th through January 4th – Christmas Vacation

On behalf of the faculty and staff at St Mary's, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Have wonderful and blessed Christmas!

God bless you,

Regina Ferrante
Principal