

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

March 2009

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers:

Greetings! It is with much anticipation that we await the coming of spring. The weather this winter has been brutal, so cold and wet. Please remember to send your children to school with a warm coat, gloves, and a hat.

Stations of the Cross Service for families will be held at 6:30 in English and 7:15 in Spanish every Friday during Lent beginning on February 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Parish Penance Service on March 26 at 7 pm. Holy Thursday is on April 9<sup>th</sup>. St Mary's has a 12:30 dismissal on that day and on Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, there is no school. Easter vacation is from April 13<sup>th</sup> through April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Registration for the 2009-2010 School Year**

You will be receiving a registration packet the in next week's folder. Parents will be required to re-register their children for the next school year. In order to register your child, you must fill out the forms in the registration packet and return them to the office by April 3<sup>rd</sup>, along with the registration fee and book fee. Parents that are registering their children as parishioners must have the Parish Affiliation form completed and signed by your pastor. Families will not receive the parishioner rate for tuition unless their pastor completes the Parish Affiliation form. Students will not be considered registered unless all past due tuition is paid and all fees for the new school year are paid. Compass Commitment forms cannot be signed unless your child is registered for the 2009-2010 school year.

**School Accreditation**

The staff and faculty of St Mary Star of the Sea School have been working on re-accreditation of the school for the past two years. It has been a very long and tiring process, which has been spear-headed by Shannon Lougee, our Kindergarten teacher. This process has also been a learning experience for all of us. The last phase of the accreditation process is a visit by the Accreditation Committee. They will visit St Mary's from March 29<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Committee member will be meeting with teachers, and talking with some parents and students. We will keep you posted.

### **Reminders**

Please, please, please make sure that the office has a telephone number where you can be reached in case of an emergency. It is shocking how often parents cannot be reached when there is an emergency, such as a sick child or an injury. It does not help your child if our phone calls go directly to your voice mail and our call is not returned, or the telephone number is disconnected, or the emergency contacts refuse to come get your child.

Each family must meet their fundraising obligation of \$100 per child or \$150 per family, and their 10 hours of volunteer service by the end of May. Families that do not fulfill BOTH of these requirements by the end of May will be assessed an additional \$100, which will need to be paid before the end of the school year. Please call the office to sign up to help at the following upcoming events:

- Book Fair
- Diversity Night and Art Show
- Field Day
- Class Field Trips

Tuition is due the first of the month. For those families paying monthly, 80% of your tuition should be paid by March 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is essential that your tuition be paid on time because the majority of St. Mary's funding is from tuition from our families.

### **Important dates**

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Pajama Day to celebrate “Read Across America”
- March 4<sup>th</sup> – Spring pictures
- March 6<sup>th</sup> – Professional Development Day, no school
- March 13<sup>th</sup> – Dress Down Day for Jump Rope for Heart
- March 15<sup>th</sup> – School Mass at 9:45 followed by a Pancake Breakfast
- March 16<sup>th</sup> – Bishop Cote will visit our school
- March 27<sup>th</sup> – Dress Down Day for Pennies for Patients
- March 29<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> – Accreditation Committee visits our school

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me 443-7758.  
God bless you,

Regina Ferrante  
Principal