

*Under the guidance of Saint Joseph, Patron Saint of the Universal church, Saint Joseph School endeavors to achieve academic excellence in a faith-filled and safe environment. The school staff and parents collaborate to develop students' intellectual, spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being in a traditional Catholic setting.*

February 16, 2022

Dear Parents,

The month of February certainly has given us a variety of weather. While we have had some very warm days, we still have to remind ourselves that we are still in the winter season.

I am sure that everyone is concerned and awaiting the decision regarding mask mandates. As you know, with regard to health and safety, we normally abide by the policies of the district, and in this case, that of Sprague. On Monday evening, the Sprague Board of Education voted to make masks for students and staff optional, pending legislation. However, any student using bus transportation, the mask mandate is still required. We are still waiting for guidance from the Connecticut Department of Education and the Connecticut Department of Health regarding other COVID policies. **Starting on February 28<sup>th</sup>, the wearing of masks for students and staff is optional.** We have spoken to all of our students regarding the latest change and have made it very clear that no one is to question another student or staff member why he/she is still wearing a face mask or not wearing one. We at Saint Joseph School respect whatever decision that you, as parents make for your child/ren.

This week is "Kindness Week" in our school. As part of this celebration, tomorrow, February 17<sup>th</sup>, it is "Random Acts of Kindness Day." So we are giving our students a "dress down" day. In order to participate on this day, students may dress down, but must wear an Amber Smith Shirt or a purple shirt. This is in remembrance of Amber Grace Smith, a former student and beautiful little girl who passed away from a malignant brain tumor on December 17, 2018.

Many thanks to the parents who attended our St. Joseph School Parent meeting last night. The following students may have a "dress down" day on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>: Benjamin May, Noah Slowik, Stephen and Andrew Landolphi, Brendan McMahon, Aubrey Kunkle, Sophia Sheridan, Laura LaCasse, Clairra Tropiano, Amelia and Colton Fournier, Dakota Perkins, Thomas, Mary, Matthew, and Christopher FitzGerald, Maya Wilson, Genevieve Nash, Rad and Zane Tanksley, Natalie Lopez-Hernandez, Hannah Sypher, Genevieve Garganese, Patricia Kumelski, Leon Theroux, and Freya Blanco. For our next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will be focusing on new leadership for our parent group. In the next Wednesday letter, you will receive updates on our school activities.

Enclosed you will find a parent survey. Any written comments that you would like to make should be written on the back of the questionnaire. Please return the questionnaire in the envelope provided. Also enclosed are the results of your child's hearing screenings.

I will not be in school on February 23<sup>rd</sup> ,24<sup>th</sup> , and 25<sup>th</sup> as I will be making my annual retreat. Sister M. Loreto will be in charge.

May I remind you that there will be **NO AFERCARE PROGRAM ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>, THE BEGINNING OF OUR WINTER BREAK.** Also, there will be **gym class on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.**

I would like to wish everyone a very relaxing and wonderful winter break. Your next Wednesday letter will be on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

**Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>                      Dress Down with either Amber shirt or purple shirt**

**Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>                      12:30 p.m. dismissal with NO AFTERCARE PROGRAM**

**February 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>                      NO SCHOOL – WINTER BREAK**

**Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>              Classes resume**

**Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>              Dress Down for students whose parents attended the February 15<sup>th</sup> Saint Joseph School Parent meeting.**

**Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>                      Gym day for all students**

God bless you and have a wonderful week.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Mary Patrick, SCMC  
Principal

