

# Mary, Queen of Peace

Mary, Queen of Peace Families and Friends:

Blessings! Yesterday, we honored the feast day of Saint Elizabeth Seton. As she faced life's trials and everyday challenges, Mother Seton became a cornerstone of the Catholic Church in America. Due to her vision, the Sisters of Charity was founded. Elizabeth Seton also started the first parish school and Catholic orphanage in America. We can follow her example by putting God's will before our own as we bear our cross.

Please join the school community as we come together at 9:15 am on Wednesday, January 10 for Mass. The seventh graders will serve as ministers at the celebration of the Eucharist.

I appreciate everyone's cooperation with Thursday's unexpected day off. Moving forward, we will continue to use "Quik Contact" (phone blast) to notify the community of unscheduled days off. The following stations: AM 1120 (KMOX Radio), KTVI (channel 2), KMOV (channel 4), and KSDK (channel 5) will also be used in case of inclement weather. I am currently monitoring the forecast for Monday morning's rush hour.

We are excitedly preparing for Catholic School's Week. Several surprises will be sprinkled in within the week, which will begin with the celebration of the liturgy on Sunday, January 28. A few of our wonderful eighth graders will read essays at Saturday's Vigil Mass at 5:00 pm and Sunday's Masses at 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 am. Student-created posters will also be on display. The theme of the essays and posters will focus on learn, serve, lead and succeed. On Sunday, please take time to stop by the school from 11:30 – 1:00 to see the children's work and affirm our terrific faculty.

On Monday, January 29, the students may wear their Mary, Queen of Peace spirit wear. Mrs. Sue Oberkirsch will monitor the school Geography Bee in the afternoon. Parents, you are welcome to attend the bee at 1:00 pm.

The De Smet band will entertain the students in the afternoon on Tuesday, January 30. The children may wear their pajamas or out of school apparel on that day.

Parents, please join us for Mass on Wednesday, January 31 at 9:15 am as Mrs. Rachel Gilligan's fourth graders serve as ministers. After Mass, I will start a new annual tradition by naming a current teacher as Teacher of the Year. I will also name a former teacher to our Hall of Fame of Catholic educators. Those measures are meant to honor all of our educators, especially those who view their role as a true ministry. The festivities will continue with a teacher luncheon and the eighth grade taking over the school at the end of the day. That will

involve the students applying for any ministry or job in the school. In the end, they will dress for the part as a team teacher or serve as an administrator.

On Thursday, February 1, the students will create a rainbow of sorts. Each class will be assigned a color to wear. On this colorful day, the children may wear their assigned color as a shirt. The following are each grade's assigned colors: preschool and kindergarten – yellow, first grade – red or pink, second grade – white, third grade – green, fourth grade – orange, fifth grade – blue, sixth grade – purple, seventh grade – gray, and the eighth graders can choose any color. Students will need to wear their uniform bottoms. The day will end with the traditional eighth grade verses teacher volleyball game. In the spirit of service, we are asking for each student to bring in a can food to serve as admission to the game.

The family luncheon, another great Catholic School's Week tradition, will take place on Friday, February 2. The day will end with a new tradition, Linc's Big Game Show. The show will have a "Let's Make a Deal" flavor with several "minute to win" games. Students may wear crazy hats and socks to the show.

A professional opportunity for the teachers related to intruder training has presented itself. If acceptable, it would require the cancellation of the Spring Conferences. Currently, they are scheduled by appointment on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. I would like to use that time to allow our teachers to partake in professional training. Therefore, Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> will still be a half-day with a noon dismissal. If the parent, teacher, or student would like a spring conference, they can schedule one by appointment. Please email me with any concerns or questions. Thank you.

Over the Christmas break, I met a gentleman by the name of Bob Henrikson. Mr. Henrikson is passionate about aviation. He currently volunteers at the Creve Coeur Aviation Museum as is willing to give private tours. If you are interested in a private tour, please contact me.

Please remember that students who are running a fever or experiencing vomiting need to stay home for twenty-four hours after being fever free. Being fever free means without the administration of Tylenol or Ibuprofen. Also, remember to call the school to report any absence. We appreciate your cooperation and diligence.

Currently, all the afterschool programs will proceed as scheduled with the exception of Palmer music on Thursday. I am working with Mr. Fred Palmer to see if there is a way to move forward with only three students. He prefers to have at least six students. Checks made to Palmer music will be returned if the class is definitely cancelled.

Next week, the following classes will be offered; COCA Theater for grades 1-3 and Bricks 4 Kidz for grades 1-4 on Mondays, Master Kim Ty Kwon Do for grades 1-8 on Tuesdays, and Chess on Wednesday afternoons.

The Y-Club, through the YMCA, will also still be an option. If needed, a family may register with the YMCA to take advantage of their drop-in service. This is especially a good remedy for parents who may need extra time before they pick up their children from the above-mentioned classes. More information about Y-Club is available in the school office.

Our beloved kindergarten teacher and former preschool teacher, Mrs. Kelley Breihan, is offering enrichment classes for our preschoolers – kindergarteners. Her theme-centered classes will begin on Monday, January 8. The classes will begin after school each day and end at 4:30. For more information on any of the above after school opportunities, please contact Mr. Michael Nieman.

Through tremendous prayer and thought, I need to announce the following staff change. Nikki Patterson, preschool teacher assistant, is no longer an employee at Mary, Queen of Peace. I realize this marks another change in the faculty. However, these decisions are not taken lightly and truly have the best interest of the growth of our community. I appreciate your understanding and support.

Finally, remember to consider purchasing SHOP Scrip cards as you address your everyday needs like grocery shopping or tackling the sale racks at your favorite department store. Annie Finke and Jo Wingbermuehle will be happy to assist you if you need SHOP Scrip cards.

The faculty and I truly appreciate your prayers and trust.

Prayerful,

Michael Nieman  
Mary, Queen of Peace – Principal

“God, You raised up Saint Elizabeth in Your Church so that she might instruct others in the way of salvation. Grant us to follow Christ after her example that we may reach You in the company of our brothers. Amen.”