



February 25, 2021

Dear Families,

I'm sure, just like things at home, it seems every time we take a step forward here at school toward what we remember as "normal," a new twist diverts us back to reality.

Since well before Christmas, a growing rupture of our main water line has sent our utility bills through the roof. Of course, the repair wasn't going to be an easy fix and required multiple city permits. Without any pre-warning to our office, those repairs began Monday. The short story: After some unexpected equipment issues and a great deal of negotiation back and forth, we've been able to limit the time needed for the final water shut off down to just a half day and not longer, as was feared.

Next Friday, March 5, we will dismiss school at 12:00pm Noon, so the crews can complete and test the final connections. This should mark the end of this crazy chapter. (Jinx.)

I know well the hassle these calendar changes play on home life and schedules. And I also know that the following Friday, March 12, we already do not have school due to an archdiocesan-scheduled teacher professional development day. (Believe me, we tried hard to have the crews complete their work that day instead.) Please know how much your patience and understanding mean to us here. It is greatly appreciated!

- For nearly twenty years, many of us working in this Archdiocese have been trying to find ways to open the doors of our schools to families with students who need targeted specialized assistance to reach their academic goals. Finally, we are on the brink of attracting the resources that would enable more of our programs to do just that.
- The survey linked [HERE](#) is a huge step toward that goal. We really need your insight, as parents, to move it forward. Please consider completing it this week, even if your child typically does not need those services. We need a full range of responses. If you would also be interested in a follow-up focus group, that link is included [HERE](#) as well.
- This last Monday, Kristin Moore, our archdiocesan contact to help you find a transfer location for next year, sent out an email to all families who have contacted her inquiring about placement. If you did not receive her email, or if you have lost the link, you can find that information [HERE](#). Remember there are deadlines fast approaching.

Also remember that we are working directly with her and with the accepting schools to transfer all records. Once they tell us you have applied, we will send them in bulk. No need to keep calling Kathy in our office. Rest assured, all records needed by the schools – as long as your financial accounts are up to date – will be sent in time for any of their deadlines.

- The end of our second trimester is only two weeks away. Report cards should be arriving shortly thereafter. The teachers and I are feeling like the routine of being back on campus is beginning to bear fruit and the kids are making strides back toward success. Make sure you continue to dialog with your child regarding their progress and if you have any questions, our teachers are here to help.
- From the FYI – Rumor Department... The police cruiser sitting on our playground Tuesday was just an officer parked, doing his paperwork. No issues here. Officers tend to do that in the neighborhood periodically. Kind of odd he wound his way down the driveway to that spot, but we are always glad to have the added presence. The little ones love it and it helps keep the middle schoolers on their toes!

Though we missed Ash Wednesday during our Winter Break week, I hope you found time as a family to recognize the transition into the solemn season of Lent. Traditionally in the Church, Lent has been a time for intentionally “denying” ourselves from more worldly inclinations in order to focus inwardly and prepare for the celebration of salvation at Easter. Often, Christians have focused on “giving up” something as a form of penance. This year, many are choosing to turn their attention more toward acknowledging the gifts we DO have and to give thanks for the many things that have become much more obvious and appreciated during these strange times. Doing so might just refresh one’s outlook into what the season could really be about.

And we’ll be doing just the same here at school. As the weeks move forward, you’ll hear more from your child’s teacher about our observance of the season, our service projects, and the culminating Holy Week observances. In the meantime, don’t forget to check out family opportunities offered in [our four-parish cluster](#), including a weekly evening Mass and Stations of the Cross, scheduled right here at St. Paul’s every Tuesday evening, beginning at 6:00pm.

Please have the best of weekends with your family!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the name 'Dan'.

Dan