

September 9, 2016



Dear Parents,

As so we have had another great start, this time for Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4! All the other children have quickly adapted to the routine of "back to the books"! It is the hope of every Principal that the children are happy and enjoy coming to school. Please know that I am here to listen to the parents and help in any way possible to see that your children succeed. If your child feels comfortable here they will meet with success! I have heard back from some parents that the children have enjoyed these first few days. If you work with us to see that your children complete their homework and stay on top of the activities required of them, we will be in good shape. We need your cooperation and involvement, it is really helpful.



This Sunday, our Country reflects on the events of Sept. 11th. In the Gospel we hear that Jesus wants his followers to know that everyone is welcome in the Kingdom of God. We pray for all those affected by that tragic day. May all those who lost their lives in this tragedy, be blessed in God's kingdom now. We know so many families still grieve today. We also remember and pray for them.

We welcome our new Pre-k 4 assistant, Mrs. Janice Cunningham. We are fortunate to have her at this time for an additional hand in Pre-k 4 as well as in the future, as our permanent sub for Mrs. Heidtman, when she takes her maternity leave. Mrs. Cunningham has been a teacher at St. James in Manchester for ten years. We are blessed to have her join the school family this year bringing with her all the background she has had with the Archdiocese and the Catholic School educational system.



Our first week for hot lunch went very well. Just a small reminder to all; this year all lunches are \$3.50 per day, even **Friday pizza**. Please note: if your child wants two pieces it will be an additional \$2.00. Remember, **NO CASH PLEASE, ONLY CHECKS**. Thank you for your cooperation.

A final reminder to send in the **Parent Partnership** forms. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help with all the upcoming activities. I am completing the room parent list and the moms and dads who have volunteered this year to be a room parent, will be notified next week. I was hoping for two parents for the larger classes, so there is still room for a few more parents. It doesn't take too much of your time, and hardly any of it is during the week day. Most of the room parent jobs require phone calls or e-mails and helping with the Silent Auction. Please consider returning your forms for this partnership if you haven't already done so.

For anyone interested in volunteering this year, there are two upcoming **VIRTUS** workshops being held at the Parish Center: Thursday Sept. 15th @6:00pm, and Sunday, Sept. 18th @ 1:15. Please try to attend one of these if you haven't yet received Virtus training.

VIRTUS



A great opportunity for families is being offered by the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. The event is free to all families and students from K-12. It is Thursday, Sept. 29th at 7:30pm. It is taking place at Woolsey Hall. This is a wonderful cultural opportunity that the whole family can take advantage of and it is totally **FREE**. **The deadline to register is Friday Sept. 23rd**. You can call, or go online to NHSO register.

This week our church will change its Mass times. There will be the 4:00pm vigil on Saturday, and Sunday Masses will change to 7:00 am, 9:00 am and 11:00 am.



The sign-up for children's choir will be out soon. All students who attend St. Mary School and Parish from Grades 3-8 are welcome to join. Rehearsals will begin Sept. 19th. The children's choir rehearses on **Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30pm**. Please consider saving that block of time to have your child join the choir. Please make a note that the Family Mass on the first Sunday of the month, at 11:00 am is the one at which the choir will sing.

Don't forget the Parish picnic this Sunday. The flyer went home last week.



Another program I would like to bring to your attention is the **ALPHA TUTORING AND MENTORING SERVICE PROJECT**. It is a program for girls in Grades 4 through 8. It is given by students from Yale on select Saturdays at St. Thomas More Catholic Center at Yale. The program promotes character building and academic excellence. More information : call 203-393-3396 or e-mail dohofilena@aol.com



I will be asking for **volunteers** from Grades **6, 7, and 8** to help with the blessing of animals on Sunday, Oct.2, on the Green in Branford. Our school is being asked by Mrs. Sue (Cosgrove) Barnes. We have had a long-standing relationship with the family as Mr. Dan Cosgrove, (her dad) was the one who donated our entire computer lab. Through his generosity, this year, upon his passing, we were left another generous donation which we used to upgrade our lab with the latest PC's and Mac computers. I would like to "give back" as she is requesting our help. If your son or daughter (Gr.6,7,or8) is able to give up some time, she is asking for them to report at 11:00 to the bake table on the Green. She knows it will be our first Family Mass and understands if any of the students are in choir, they will be there as soon as Mass ends. It would be great if we could give her some of our students to help. We are teaching and encouraging the children to give back and do for others. This would be a terrific opportunity. I will send home a form so you can give permission and we will then give her the list of names. Parents are able to stay and help as well.

So now that next week will be our first full week, we are ready to roll. Our after-school clubs and other activities will soon begin. Please remind the children that they must keep up their grades to participate in all extra-curricular activities. We need to help them develop the responsibility factor in their educational experience while enjoying all that our program provides. Math Club for Grades 6, 7, and 8 will begin on Monday, Sept. 19th, from 2:30 to 3:30. Our Taekwondo Club will begin in October on Tuesdays. Fife and Drum will also be starting up on Wed and Thursdays. More information will follow on all our clubs as the time draws closer, and final details are worked out. We have many ways to get the children involved in activities in addition to sports. We hope you will take advantage of at least one of them throughout the school year. Have a great weekend! **Sr. Annette**