

News from the Bears' Den



December 2, 2020

From the Principal . . .

Well hello December! I don't know where November went, but it sure flew by! December has started off rather busy with Advent, our Jesse Tree, St. Nicholas Day, and Bob the Elf, who has once again made an appearance! We also have some fun color days and a Christmas celebration day (in lieu of a party) on the calendar. We are all looking forward to the Christmas fun!

Thank you all for your support and have a great week!

Many Blessings, Camille DeLano



Upcoming Events . . .

- Friday, Dec. 4th - Regular Color Day
- Monday, Dec. 7th - Adoration
- Tuesday, Dec. 8th - Immaculate Conception Mass

(Please see note below regarding attending Immaculate Conception Mass)

Travel Reminder

For those of you planning to do some travel/visiting with others over the Christmas holiday season, regardless of location, we ask that you please monitor your activities and any exposure risk. A travel letter was sent home last week. Thank you!

Winter Weather Attire

Now that old man winter has returned, please make sure your children have the appropriate winter attire for recesses: coats, boots, gloves, hats, and snow pants. Thank you!

Playground After School

One of the ways we work to mitigate the virus threat to our students is to keep them in their cohorts during the day-essentially, they do not mingle with others outside their classrooms, even at recess. This helps us isolate students and classrooms when necessary, as well as keep others from possible exposure. There is one area in which we could really use your help with maintaining cohorts and that is time on the playground after school. Given the current situation in our area, we are asking that parents please consider taking students directly home rather than let them all intermingle on the playground after school. While I completely understand their need (and your desire!) to burn off some energy after a long day in the classroom, we would like to give this a try for a bit until things settle down some. We thank you in advance for your help with this!



Sick Children

We cannot emphasize this enough-PLEASE continue to keep sick children at home; this includes runny nose/cough/sore throat (depending on the severity, we may ask that siblings remain home as well). Should a student have the stomach flu, fever, diarrhea, strep throat, etc., we ask that you also keep all siblings home. We are trying our best to maintain in-person learning and can only do this with your help. Thank you!

Dec. 8 Holy Day Mass

December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and is a Holy Day of obligation. Fr. Jim and I have devised a plan for all students K-8 to attend Mass that day. Due to social distancing requirements, grades 3 & 4 will still go at the scheduled 9 AM Mass. The rest of the school (except Prek-3 and Prek-4) will go at 1 PM that afternoon; Fr. Jim is doing a second Mass just for the students. I know many parents enjoy attending Mass at the same time as their children; however, due to space we ask that parents NOT attend the 1 PM Mass as we're going to need the room for our staff and students. Thank you for your understanding.

Adoration and Confessions

All K-8 students participate in adoration on Mondays during Advent, and those Catholic students in gr. 3-8 who are able will be offered the chance to go to confession before Christmas break.

Christmas Celebration

We still plan to hold a Christmas celebration day (instead of a party) on Thursday, Dec. 17. This day will be like the Halloween celebration day, with no definite party time but lots of fun Christmas activities taking place in the classrooms.



Snow Days

Due to SHPS having to shift, at times, to remote learning, this impacts SHPS's ability to assist us with calling snow days-essentially, they will only call me to cancel school due to weather if they are in-person that day. Therefore, I have reached out to a handful of parents who live in various locations around the area to help me in determining if we need to call school due to weather. Once I get a weather report from them, I will then send out a parent alert and email to all families letting everyone know that we have a snow day. **This will ONLY happen if we are in-person, NOT remote.** I will do my best to get the alert and email out to you as early as possible. I will also post it on the local weather stations (channel 8 and channel 3). We ask for your patience as we try out this new procedure.

Students will still have the 6 designated snow days per the state (when in-person). After the 6 days are used, we will do remote learning per our remote learning plan. In this way, we will not have to make up days at the end of the year.

Remote Learning Jan. 4-Jan. 15

Just a reminder that we plan to engage in remote learning the 2 weeks following Christmas break. Information was sent home via email on Monday. Students will return to in-person learning on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021. **PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO snow days called during remote learning, regardless of what South Haven Public does. Our snow days will be reserved for when we are doing in-person learning.**

A few notes from the office

Please remember to pick up your wreaths & garlands!!! Also, make sure to fill out and return back to school the Keep in Christ in Christmas form asap.