

# News from the Bears' Den



**February 10, 2021**

## **From the Principal . . .**

Well we survived another CSW with only one snow day! :) It was a fun week and I'm glad we were able to get most of the activities in.

Couple reminders: There is a virtual Booster Club meeting this Thursday-please see below for details and the link. We are also having our classroom Valentine's parties this Friday-feel free to reach out to your child's teacher with questions or to inquire about donations.

Ash Wednesday is next week and is also the beginning of Lent. Rice bowls are going home today. Students will also receive ashes from Fr. Jim on Wed. Due to the half day and restricted church seating, we have had to make a couple changes to the Mass schedule-please see details below.

Blessings,

Camille DeLano



## Upcoming Events . . .

- Thursday, Feb 11 - Virtual Boosters Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75163668639?pwd=VDIBWFFySmZQeW1MeDdjbnVnkWktoZz09>

- Friday, Feb 12 - Valentine's Day Color Day
- Friday, Feb 12 - Classroom Valentine's Day Celebrations
- Wednesday, Feb 17 - Half Day 11:30 Dismissal - No After-Care -
- Wednesday, Feb 17 - Ash Wednesday

## Valentine's Day Celebration

We still plan to hold a Valentine's Day Celebration (instead of a party) on Friday, Feb. 12. This day will be like the Halloween & Christmas celebration day, with no definite party time but lots of fun Valentine's Day activities taking place in the classrooms. Teachers may reach out for prepackaged goodie donations, craft items, etc. Students may still bring cards to exchange but any "goodies" attached to the cards (or given with the cards) need to be prepackaged.

## Ash Wednesday

The 7th & 8th grade will attend the Ash Wednesday 9 am Mass next week-they will NOT go to Mass on Monday (their usual day). Fr. Jim will also be holding brief services for the rest of the school throughout the morning in order to distribute ashes to our preschool through grade 6 students. All students will have the opportunity to receive ashes on Wednesday.

Due to 7th & 8th attending Mass on Wednesday, grades 1 & 2 will attend Mass on Monday instead. This is the only switch for next week.

## Michigan Child Protection Registry

The state of Michigan is offering a free program to stop adult-oriented advertisements from reaching e-mails and mobile phones (text messaging ads). The Michigan Child Protection Registry allows Michigan schools and families to protect their students from receiving adult-themed content. Simply enter your child's cell phone number, email address, and Instant Messenger ID to prevent inappropriate ads from reaching your child. You can access more information at: <https://www.protectmichild.com/>



## Half Day on Wed. Feb. 17

Next Wednesday (Ash Wed.), Feb. 17, is a half day. Dismissal will be at 11:30 a.m. There will be no after care.

## 24th Annual Ribs-n-Raffle

We invite you to become a sponsor for the 24th Annual Ribs-n-Raffle event. An envelope with information about the event was sent home a couple weeks ago.

## Sick Children

***This has not changed!!*** 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 a runny nose, cough, the stomach flu, fever, diarrhea, sore throat/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!

## Snow Days

Due to SHPS having to shift, at times, to remote learning, this impacts their 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.



## Online **VIRTUS** training

You can still do the VIRTUS training online if interested! Even though we are not using many volunteers this year, that will hopefully change next fall. All volunteers must complete this training and you only have to do it once. To register:

1. Go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) to create an account, where you will select “first-time registrant”.
2. Select the first option “begin the registration process”.
3. Select the Diocese of Kalamazoo as a location from the drop down menu.
4. Set up a username and password for an account.
5. Email [mhentz@diokzoo.org](mailto:mhentz@diokzoo.org) for the instructions to complete the online training module.

## A few notes from the office . . .

**BOTTLED WATER** Also, we could use some more “cases” of bottled water to have on hand for those who forget to bring their own. If anyone wouldn't mind donating to the cause, we would greatly appreciate it.