

# October 2020



The Feast of the Most Holy Rosary  
October 7, 2020

Dear Parents,

As I write this letter we have been in school for 19 days with no positive cases of Covid-19. Though the third grade did quarantine for two weeks no child in our building was exposed to this severe illness. Several of the Catholic schools in our area have been forced to close due to two active cases in different cohorts. Your seriousness of purpose, parents, and our planning, not to mention intensive prayer have all played a role in our success. The school has made a huge effort and sizeable investment in technology, aides in classroom and safety precautions such as sneeze guards, plexi-glass partitions, daily cleaning, water bottle filling fountains and Hepa filters. We cannot express our gratitude to the parents and friends of SFA who have made many of these purchases possible.

I know it is a difficult task to supervise distance learning for your children. It is certainly not the optimal choice particularly for our youngest learners but this is the world which we inhabit. I must thoroughly compliment the children on their seriousness in wearing the mask for up to seven hours a day. They are truly models of social distancing and mask wearing. Sad to say we did experience a refusal to wear the mask properly inside the school by a parent. This is very discouraging and certainly gives a mixed message to our children. Please parents when you are on SFA property all should be wearing a mask to reinforce our safety protocol.

Our dear children have been forced to give up so many of the traditions and activities they usually experience every school year: the Early Childhood trip to Turtle Back Zoo, the petting zoo, planting of the bulbs, blessing of the animals, visit from the firemen, Radio City Christmas trip. So many beautiful memories have been torn from our grasp. We have decided to be a bit radical and celebrate Halloween! Grades PK3 through Grade 4 may wear appropriate costumes with MASKS! No formal Halloween pictures will be taken but we will have pictures on our website. Children will be given the opportunity to Trick –or-Treat safely. Please send your child with a bag to carry their candy. The Parents' Guild will be sending an email soon with more information about Trick-or-Treating. Cohort A will be in costume on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> and Cohort B on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Pre-K3 through Grade 2 will be dress up on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Our virtual children may dress up on both days if they so desire. Grades 5 through 8 will wear a Halloween bow, socks, or an appropriate T-shirt with their gym suit. Upper grades parents should also provide a Halloween bag for our older children as they will be Trick –or-Treating also.

On this Feast of the Most Holy Rosary please know that you will be in my prayers, parents, children and extended family. Pope Pius X is quoted as saying, "The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary.

God bless you,

Ms. Savage