

Dear Parents,

Having faith does not mean having no difficulties, but having the strength to face them, knowing we are not alone. Pope Francis

These words of Pope Francis say so much in our world today with the pandemic and the violence seen in our nation. We are not alone. Our loving and ever present Lord is with us in every step because He loves us individually and as a group. Let us pray for a peaceful transition to power on the 20th so that our nation can heal and do all that it needs to do for our country and its members.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding and for the many emails expressing your gratitude for having two weeks of Distance Learning after the holidays. This hopefully will give us that cushion of time between when people may have been exposed at Christmas. We know we are not out of the woods, not by far, and our hospitals are still overwhelmed, but the vaccine is just around the corner for the most vulnerable. Even one dose can help a person not become infected by 60%. This is such good news.

We are therefore returning to **IN PERSON LEARNING on January 19th**. You have the choice, of course, of choosing Distance Learning for your children throughout January. Just email us or call us if you want your children to continue with Distance Learning for this month. Next month you can redecide.

Mrs. Gonzalez will be emailing some additional information about how we will welcome your students on campus each morning. We are being asked to ask a few questions after taking your children's temperatures.

We also ask that if your children have been exposed or you think they may have been exposed to the virus, not to send them to school, but just inform us that they will be in Distance Learning for a few days. Your child could carry the virus without having any symptoms of the disease. We do not want your child to pass on the virus to another student who then carries it home with them. This is my biggest concern.

The week that we come back we will be announcing the Student of the Month for December and the Marge's Reading Awards for the highest number of points received in the AR Reading Tests taken after reading the books.

The Jog-A-Thon will be extended until January 31st. Remember to either send your \$100 per family amount to the office or sign up online for a page and have your friends and family help you raise that amount. This is part of your FAMILY COMMITMENT FUNDRAISING. Here is the link to sign up online to create your family page: <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/JOGATHON>

Have a wonderful weekend and we shall see you and your children on the 19th. God bless and stay well! Sr. Teresa

Here are the Dates to Remember:

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| January 18, Monday: | Martin Luther King, Jr Day, NO SCHOOL |
| January 19, Tuesday: | School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm via ZOOM |
| February 5, Friday | NOON Dismissal |
| February 17, Wednesday | NOON Dismissal, Ash Wednesday, NO DAYCARE |

Band will continue with after school meetings as scheduled as well as Academic Decathlon each day.