

Dear Parents,

Dates:

Saturday, Feb. 8th- Father/Daughter Dance
 Friday, Feb. 14- Principal application deadline
 Monday, Feb. 17- Presidents' Holiday
 Tuesday, Feb. 18- Feb. 25- Scholastic Book Fair at School
 Friday, Feb. 21- Mardi Gras- 5:00 to 8:00 PM
 Sunday, Feb. 23- Books and Donuts- after the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses
 Monday, Feb. 24- PTO meeting in the Emmaus Center (date change)
 Friday, Feb. 28- End of 2nd Trimester

Important News:

- Please note the PTO meeting has been changed from Feb. 10th to Feb. 24th.
- Message from Colleen Kandel in regards to the Father/Daughter Dance- *"I just need to get information out to the families that JSpivey Photography will be there again this year for pictures and that order forms did not come home from school but will instead be available at the dance."*
- It is with much pride that I am announcing that 3 St. Chris graduates from the Class of 2005 are being inducted into the Chaminade- Julianne Athletic Hall of Fame this weekend. They are Katie Pleiman Grabosky (Tennis), Lisa Treadway Marino (Volleyball & Swimming) and Taylor Beyerle Mackell (Cross Country, Track & Swimming) . Profiles on each of the three St. Chris alums can be found on the Chaminade- Julianne High School Facebook page and Website.
- In two weeks the initial interviews for a new principal will be taking place. Please pray for our committee that we have the wisdom, foresight and guidance to select the best candidate.
- The 2020/2021 School Calendar is being finalized at this time. The final calendar will be shared with our parents before the year's Spring Break.
- In the next week or two a parent survey will be sent home in regards to your thoughts on a new uniform policy. It would be nice to form a committee of PTO representatives and faculty to come up with an agreed upon plan to present to the principal before Spring Break.
- To date we have not been overwhelmed with illness (knock on wood). We are part of the Healthy Schools Program sponsored by Kimberly- Clark and they have supplied the school with hand sanitizers throughout the building. Washing hands is the best deterrent for controlling the spread of germs. As a faculty, we stress to our students to use the sanitizers on a regular basis. I ask that you also continually remind your child about washing hands.
- The EdChoice Voucher program is in disarray at this time in Columbus. A proposal was passed by the House of Reps. on Thursday making the EdChoice Scholarships only available on a financial needs basis for next year and eliminating scholarships for those families that live in a failing school district. The Senate will not support this plan, so things will be going to a conference committee to try to iron out a compromise. The Superintendent of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Schools has asked us to contact our representatives and senators. Information will be attached. Please reach out to your representative to voice your concerns.
- Please notice the Book Fair activities and dates that will be taking place in a couple of weeks. Mrs. Hartley, our librarian, does a superb job in promoting outside reading to our students. I feel lucky to have such a strong advocate of reading here at St. Chris.

- I apologize for the confusion that transpired Thursday night and Friday morning in regards to the delay/cancelled situation. Here is how it played out. My wife and I had gotten home around 9:30 pm after having dinner out and viewing the movie, "The Last Full Measure". (An outstanding movie going into the lives of Vietnam veterans who push to get Piqua native and Vietnam War hero, Airman William Pitsenbarger, an upgrade to the Medal of Honor. This is a true story of character and value and gives one a great sense of the scars men of war endure throughout their lives.) Getting home I check my phone and there is a text stating VB schools are closed (9:39 PM). Shortly afterwards, I receive a phone call from Rob O'Leary, the Superintendent of Vandalia School (9:47 PM) and he expresses to me that due to the potential of early morning weather problems and illness factors at his schools they would be cancelled. I told Rob, that we were going to continue with school and if the weather became a problem, notification would be made to our families in the morning. I told him we have been fortunate with the health of our students. An unauthorized notification was put out on Facebook indicating St. Chris School was closed along with VB. I believe this posting was between 9:30 and 9:45 PM. I submitted a One Call notification a bit after 10:00 PM stating school at St. Chris was still on, and also made a Facebook retraction. I got up this morning at 5:00 AM to check out the status of other schools. There were minimal delays and cancellations at this time. Around 5:30 AM delays were beginning to come up around the area. My first One Call/Facebook notification message was to make for a two hour delay. Around 5:45 AM, Northridge, Huber Heights, Milton, Tipp City and Troy were indicated as closing with Northmont and Trotwood still on a two hour delay. At this time, I sent another One Call/Facebook message stating St. Chris School was closed. This all occurred before 6:00 AM. I thought all was well, but when I arrived at school around 7:30 AM, Rob the Head Maintenance Man, asked if we were on a two hour delay or closed. He asked because, unbeknownst to me a third One Call message went out saying we were on a one hour delay. I apologize for the confusion and will take responsibility. I am unsure why a third One Call message was transmitted.

Highlights of the Week:

- I was overwhelmed by the support shown Ms. Bryan at our Wednesday Mass. There must have been at least 60 recent St. Chris graduates that were present to pray for and with her as she faces a major health battle. The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was given to her by Fr. John at the Mass. Christ's spiritual presence was felt.
- Had the good fortune to be a gym teacher on Wednesday due to Mrs. Schmeising's absence. It was fun setting up an obstacle course with bear crawls, single leg hops, double leg hops, hurdling, long jumping, sprinting and using the scooter boards to give them some exercise and competition against the clock and each other. Physical education is important as we try to improve on another aspect of our students- fitness. Providing our students physical activity, formal exercise and conditioning is a critical piece in developing healthy habits. Healthy habits need to start now, hopefully, we are developing these habits in our students. I do have to say I am impressed with the coordination and conditioning of our first graders.

"Life's biggest tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late"

— Benjamin Franklin