March 10, 2016

Dear St. Joseph School Parents,

Thank you for your support over the last few days. We are grateful for the many who called or emailed us to express their appreciation of our decision. Some had already been anticipating the difficulty with a planned vacation they would have if their children became ill just before next week or after Easter. The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department and the Director (Superintendent) of Catholic Schools added their support as well as we made our decision.

In spite of the fact that the decision we made to close school for three days put children and their health first, we did not forget the impact closing school would have on parents and arranging child care. We will continue to closely monitor attendance until the first of May. In my letter to you, I shared that on Thursday, March 10, we had about 20 children absent. We expect to return next week to a number that aligns with what we normally experience in mid to late March.

I hope the children of our school who are ill are starting to feel better. Please use extra care in allowing them access to places that have large congregations of children and adults. We received information from the CDC (Center for Disease Control in Atlanta) that influenza and influenza like illnesses have a 1-4 day incubation period during which time the virus is infectious.

**Jazz:** On Monday, March 21, from 7-8 pm, Central Catholic High School will present an Inaugural Jazz Concert in the Family Center of the middle school. The band is under the direction of Mr. Eric O’Brien, Band Director at Central and also at St. Joseph. Mr. O’Brien is a former St. Joseph student! Dessert and coffee will be provided. The concert is free though donations in support of the jazz band will be gratefully accepted.

**An Old Irish Blessing**

“May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face…
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.”

**Happy St. Patrick’s Day!**

Sally A. Koppinger

Principal