February 26, 2015

Dear Parents,

WEATHER continues to be on all of our minds as February draws to a close. Though we have not experienced the snow levels that caused over 93 hours of closure last school year, we have had 52.5 hours of closure this school year caused by both snow and more recently by temperatures well below zero. Students and teachers alike are eager for the return of warmer weather that will allow outside recess. We are able to resume outside recess when the temperature (and/or wind chill) is 20 degrees and above. Please watch local forecasts for warming conditions. However, twenty degrees is still cold and students need warm jackets, hats, scarves, and gloves. Without these items we will not send them out and that is distressing to them as they watch their friends play and run off some of the morning’s pent up energy.

SERVICE. Thank you for helping your children participate in three recent service projects.

Mom's House. Kindergarten through fifth grade students celebrated the 100th day of school with many creative activities. Part of that event included the annual collection of jars of baby food (over 1700 jars) and baby items for Mom's House. It took four cars to transport the donations! Administration from Mom's House tell us that our outreach to them supplies the house with enough baby food for a year and that they happily join with us in celebrating the 100th day of school!

Spare a Square. The second service project was sponsored by the Sylvania Franciscan Village. They engage in an annual event that assists local pantries in restocking their shelves. This year they sponsored a "Spare a Square" collection of toilet paper. They invited us to again join with them in this outreach and with a resounding "Yes" from our community-wide goal was to collect 1000 rolls. Though we did not do a final count of how many rolls we collected, it was huge! A thank you note from Sr. Janet Doyle of the Franciscan community said that with our help they gratefully exceeded their goal and had collected over 1700 rolls!
Letters from Sixth Grade. The following notes were sent to Mrs. Kulka's sixth grade students from some of our home bound parishioners. The students write notes to them all during the school year. Following is a sampling from the file folder full of letters the students are receiving. This is a wonderful ministry between some of our youngest and oldest parishioners.

"We wanted to write to thank you for your weekly notes to our father. His health prevented him from writing back but we can tell you that he read every one of your notes and he always had a big smile on his face while reading them! You make his day when he receives your notes."

"Thank you for your nice little notes to me. I would like to feel much better, so please say a little prayer for me. With all of your activities keeping you busy, keep up the good work and keep going."

"I would like to thank you for the many cards you have sent me the last year and also to wish you a Blessed Christmas. I am 90 years old and a World War II veteran. Please pray for peace. This will be the only way we will ever avoid a war that may fall on you and your friends."

Students and parents offer support by providing stamps for this weekly service project.

In my many years at St. Joseph, I have each year asked you for help with local and sometimes global service projects. I cannot recall even a single time when you said no. Your yes, your generosity, not only assists those in need but sends a message to your children, our students, that you do truly believe in the solidarity that our faith calls us to...that we are indeed keepers of our brothers and sisters in our own community and in communities thousands of miles away! I truly thank you.

Sincerely,

Sally A. Koppinger
Principal