September 11, 2014

Dear Parent:

Our school year is well underway and we have enjoyed watching our students quickly adjust to a new grade level, new friends, and new teachers.

**Camp Storer** was a recent experience for our sixth grade students. Students in sixth grade returned from camp last week with many stories and pictures of the educational and fun-filled activities that filled their days. Camp Storer provides an opportunity for students to study natural resources, pollution, cold-blooded creatures (frogs, snakes, and other reptiles . . .), and pioneer crafts. Group goal setting and challenges are part of the program. A very special thank you is extended to the parents (cabin leaders for the three days at camp) who accompanied our sixth graders.

**Non-Public Schools Low Income Eligibility, 2014 – 2015.** Included in today’s envelope is a Non-Public School Low Income Eligibility Form. It is becoming increasingly important for St. Joseph School to know the number of students who may assist us in qualifying for participation in federally subsidized programs. There are several programs and grants that may be available to our students that are at least in part dependent on the number of enrolled students who meet income eligibility guidelines. Programs include Title I remedial reading and math, telecommunications e-rate discount, free and reduced lunch programs, National Direct Student Loan Reduction, and private foundation grants. The information provided on the form will be held in strict confidence. Qualifying names are not released to anyone, only the total number of eligible students. Please review the enclosed form. If you qualify, complete the form and return it to us. Without your cooperation, St. Joseph School will not be able to access all available resources for our students. (The form should be returned in a sealed envelope, addressed to Mrs. Kopfinger and labeled confidential.) Parents of students eligible for Free Lunch will be notified when the forms are completed and returned. It is unnecessary to return the form if you determine your family does not meet the eligibility requirements.

**Reminders. For the safety of children...**

- **Visitors.** All visitors to our school on either campus must register at the office. No visitor (parent or guest) is allowed to by-pass the office and go directly to any part of the school (Elementary or Middle School). All staff members have been instructed to send “unauthorized visitors” back to the office. I realize that this may feel harsh if you are a parent but, as I am sure you understand, our purpose is to provide a safe environment for your children as well as one that is free from interruption. If your children arrive late, they need to check in at the clinic (elementary school) or middle school office to get a tardy slip before going to their classroom.
• **No Right Turn.** If you use the parking lot across the street from the elementary building, please remember that vehicles may not turn right (north) when they exit this east parking lot at the crossing light. When drivers forget or are unaware of the posted “No Right Turn” signs, they end up driving through the crosswalk as students are being crossed.

• **Pets.** I want to remind all families that pets may not be brought onto the school campus. Children frequently want parents to bring the family dog, especially a new puppy, to school at dismissal. When they ask, please remind children that it is not allowed.

• **Friday, September 19** is a Diocesan Professional Development Day for teachers. There is no school for students.

**Prayers for Peace.** On this day, September 11, our special intention in prayer is world peace. Our hearts ache for all who have suffered because of terrorist attacks. We remember those who gave their lives unselfishly in the service of others. As Catholics, we draw upon our faith to make this anniversary a time to remember, a time to deepen our commitment to discipleship, and a time to strengthen our active participation in an effort to build a more just and peaceful world. True peacemaking can only become a reality in our world today if it is a first-matter in our hearts. September 11 reminds us that our country has been blessed with tremendous resources that we must use wisely, both within our borders and around the world. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” Matthew 5:9

Together we pray for...

...gifts of civility and charity so that we will treat others with respect and love.

...gifts of faith and hope to strengthen our spirits by placing our trust in God rather than in ourselves.

...gifts of courage and compassion that will move us into action to help those in need in the United States as well as throughout the world.

...gifts of humility and kindness so that we may put the needs and interests of others ahead of our own.

...gifts of patience and perseverance to endure the long struggle for justice.

Sincerely,

Sally A. Koppinger

Principal