



January 7, 2016

Dear Parents,

I hope your Christmas was a blessed one and that the new year brings you and your family God's graces and good health upon all of you.

The month of December was a sad one at St. Ursula's touching many of our staff. Ms. Drinkard and Ms. Cusick both lost a grandparent. Mrs. Folio's mother-in-law and Mrs. Lorber's mother-in-law also died. And as many of you already know, Dr. Kasik, a very prominent Parkville physician, died. He was the father of Mrs. Curry and the grandfather of Mrs. Rutledge. Thank you for all your prayers and support during this time.

We welcome Mrs. Jennifer Callinan to the staff of St. Ursula. Mrs. Heidi Hunt, kindergarten teacher, resigned effective December 18<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Callinan is coming to us from St. Francis International School in the Archdiocese of Washington, DC.

On a brighter note, the students and families of St. Ursula School shone brightly during the holiday seasons. In November, a fund drive was held for Juvenile Diabetes. The students donated \$560.20 for research into this disease that affects many, including St. Ursula families. The Student Council oversaw the traditional candy cane sales. The total collected was \$1,145.69!!! All of these funds were used to purchase gift cards to assist St. Ursula families in need during the holidays. The spirit of our students in giving to others models Christ in all of them!

The pastor of St. John's has been in communication with Fr. Steve and me regarding Neifeld Ave. When people are parked or just waiting adjacent to the school and convent during afterschool hours and cars are exiting onto Harford Road there is barely any room for a car to turn into Neifeld. I personally have experienced this situation. Therefore we are asking anyone to kindly park in the St. John's lot or the school lot, if available, and not park adjacent to the school and convent even if you are just waiting for your child to exit from an activity. Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

We noticed that parents are parking on St. John's lot in the morning while waiting for school to begin and allowing your child(ren) to cross Neifeld Avenue unescorted. Please note that the handbook, page 10, states that children should not be crossing Neifeld Avenue from St. John's lot in the morning for the safety of all.

It looks like Mother Nature has finally decided it is now winter. Please make sure your child wears a hat and gloves daily. They go outside, weather permitting, for thirty minutes daily.

As a reminder, St. Ursula follows the Baltimore County school closings notification. If BCPS schools are delayed, St. Ursula is also delayed accordingly (2 hour delay means the school opens at 9:45 am instead of 7:45 am). If BCPS schools close one or two hours early, St. Ursula will close at 1:40 or 12:40 pm, respectfully, and all after school and evening activities are cancelled. For those attending Extended Day, the following procedures are in effect:

*If schools open 1 hour late, Extended Day opens at 8 am.*

*If schools open 2 hours late, Extended Day opens at 9 am.*

*If schools close early, Extended Day closes at 4 pm.*

*If BCPS after school activities are cancelled, Extended Day **closes at 4 pm.***

The first week in February is Catholic Schools' Week. More information will follow. If you know a family who may be considering Catholic schooling, please let them know our Open House will be held on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Look for re-registration papers to come home next week.

Family Game Night scheduled for this Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled due to a conflict.

Unless you opted out, just a gentle reminder that ten service hours need to be completed by the end of January. Please refer to pages 18-19 in the student/parent handbook for more information. Also, if you have not already done so, please return your Lucky 1500 tickets.

Thank you for your patience as we get used to our new phones. For your convenience we now have a feature that allows you to call in after hours to leave a message if your child will be absent.

Please remember that school will be closed Monday, January 18th. We will have an 11:40 am dismissal on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> is Spirit Day and we will have an 11:40 am dismissal and school will be closed on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Blessed New Year,

Debbie Glinowiecki