**St Mary School**

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August 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is hard to believe the summer is almost over and school is just around the corner. I hope that you have had a wonderful summer filled with lots of rest and relaxation. On behalf of the faculty & staff, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back our returning students and families and extend a warm welcome to our new students and their families. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Walter Beauchamp (Physical Education & Health), John Pare (Music), Carmen Conte-Parente (Italian), Amy Pierson (Middle School Math), and Cassie Giarrusso (Aftercare worker) to our school community! Ashley Nasser will take over the lead in After Care this year.

We are looking forward to seeing all of our Pre & Kindergarten students as well as any new family to the school on Tuesday, August 28 at 6:00 PM for Orientation.

There has been much being done in the building over the summer! The entire building has a new sprinkler system installed, we have new lockers for students in Grades 5-7, Grades 3-5 have been newly painted and look great and a new bubbler is being installed outside the gym area.

Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Warner for redoing our play yard area for our little ones! It looks fantastic! Thank you to all of you who were so generous in your donations.

**The first day of school for all students will be Thursday, August 30th. All children are to be in full uniform (summer uniform is fine) for the first day of school.**

Drop off is in the circle in front of the school. Please pull into the circle as far down as you can go – we will be outside to greet you and take the students out of the car. **If you would like to walk your child to the door, please park in the back-parking lot and walk around the school to the front door. Please do not walk your child to the classroom.**

All buses will be available starting the first day of school. Bus stops will be listed in the Providence Journal, the Cranston Herald and on cpsed.net website in late August. Please check the listing for the closest stop for you.

**Again, this year we will be offering Morning Care from 6:50 – 7:50 for $8.00. Drop off for Morning Care is at the front door until Monday, September 17 – then drop off will be at the Parish Center because we will begin the breakfast program. (Please see below) Please let us know if you are planning to use our Morning Care. Students who are dropped off before 7:50 will go to our Morning Care and you will be charged accordingly.**

Aftercare will be available from 2:20-5:30 PM beginning the first day of school. The cost for aftercare is $8.00 per hour. Aftercare is held in the Cafeteria and the Gymnasium therefore pick up will be at the Parish Center Entrance on Vallone Drive. **Students who are not picked up at dismissal will be sent to Aftercare and you will be charged accordingly. For planning purposes, please let us know what days your child will be attending After Care**

**We have been working on securing a new lunch vendor (Aramark) for this school year as Nicky’s Kitchen will not be available this year. We will have everything secured within the next few weeks but the students will need to BRING A BAG LUNCH until Monday, September 17th. No peanut/tree nut items will be served as we are a Peanut/Tree Nut Free School. Please be sure your child’s lunch is peanut/tree nut free.** The students will have a choice of 5 entrees daily – the cost of the lunch is $2.50 per day. We will have applications for reduced lunch as well. With the new lunch program comes free breakfast for all students. What we will be offering is – if you would like your child to take advantage of the free breakfast they will need to go to morning care at 7:30 – 7:50 (as that will be when it is served). There will be a charge for morning care. (Bus students are excluded from Morning Care charge)

Students in Grades 3-8 will need to bring in $5.00 for their school planners.

Several forms will come home with the students on the first day of school – please fill them out and send them back as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

We are working on providing many new after school activities this year. (More info to follow) We will also be offering the Instrument Program for all students in K-8. We are having the musicians come in in early September to introduce the students to the types of instruments. (More info to follow).

Thank you to Paula Massemino who will be coaching our Tennis Team this year! (Anyone in Grades 6-8 can still join). Unfortunately, we will not have a Cross Country Team this year as we have no coach.

As in the past, we will not allow food to be brought in for birthday celebrations. With the many children who suffer from a variety of allergies, we are trying to be as careful as possible. Thank you for your cooperation with this. Again this school year – students may come out of uniform on their birthday. If the student’s birthday falls on a weekend or holiday or school vacation he/she may dress down on the previous Friday.

Look for the return of our “Weekly Memo” which will be sent to you via email and will be available on our website (www.stmaryschoolri.org). Typically, it will be posted on a Thursday.

The Parent/Student Handbook will be available on our website during the first full week of school. Please review it with your child, print the signature page, sign it and return it to school. If you do not have a computer, please call the office and we will be happy to send you a hard copy of the handbook.

Hair accessories for the girls can only be those purchased through Donnelly’s Uniform. No bracelets may be worn, small stud earrings for the girls are the only ones that may be worn – boys may not wear earrings. The only jewelry allowed will be a watch, a small cross, and a ring. No jewelry will be allowed on **gym days** for safety reasons. Only clear nail polish may be worn. For safety reasons, artificial nails are not permitted! Just a reminder, leggings or yoga pants and spandex pants are not allowed on non-uniform days. Thank you for your help in enforcing this at home with your child.

Sneakers must be as plain as possible – black or white – no colored sneakers, please. Please remember that open toed shoes are not allowed even on dress down days!

Dismissal lines will be as follows: PreK- Grade 2 will exit via the front door, Grade 3 will exit the side door on Vallone Drive and Grades 4-8 will exit the back door into the parking lot. Again, this year if you have siblings – the older child will be dismissed via the door with the younger child.

Students who carry cell phones must keep them in their backpack or locker and they must be turned off. We cannot be responsible for damaged or lost cell phones.

Students should have their summer reading projects finished by the first day of school. I would like to thank you for being a learning partner with your child this summer. Please encourage your child to bring their summer reading assignments to school on the first day.

A reminder that backpacks for students in Grades K-4 must not have wheels.

Our Opening of School Mass is September 5 at 9:00 AM. Please join us if you can.

Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12 at 6:00 PM. (More info to follow) This a mandatory meeting for all parents!

The parking situation is still a source of concern as there is no easy solution. Please be respectful of our neighbors and do not block their driveways.

**Speed is also a concern – please be mindful that this is a school area and there are many little children walking around.**

There have been changes to our PTG Board this year. I would like to extend a huge thank you to our board members who did so much last year to help us provide wonderful opportunities for our families. A special thank you to Dawn Cappalli who has led our PTG for the past several years! Your hours of dedication and support is deeply appreciated!

**Our new PTG Board is:**

President Paul Berardis

Vice - Presidents of Fundraising Jessica Karten and Tania Rosa

Committee Members of Fundraising Suzanne Chase and Tracy Sherman

Vice-Presidents of Social Events Jennifer Buttaro and Judy Paplauskas

Committee Members of Social Events Beth Berardis, Maria Corriveau, Marissa Hughes, Daina May

Secretary Gina Di Ruzzo – Beeley

Corresponding Secretary Maria Corriveau

I look forward to the beginning of a successful and enriching school year.

Respectfully,

Ms. Lepore

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**St. Mary’s School lives the Gospel Values of Faith, Hope and Love through our kind thoughts, words and deeds.**