



September 15, 2019

Dear Parents,

It has reached the stage of the school year where it feels like that we never left for summer vacation! Your children have been wonderful in getting acclimated and situated and we are one big ball of happiness within the walls of 26 Green Village Road. We hope that our experience is in sync with your children's experience. We consider ourselves very lucky and it can be seen in the faces of the new children that SVMS is the place to be. (Anyone remember when Green Acres was the place to be?)!

We had our first school Rosary on Friday. Once a month members of The Rosary Altar Society join us in leading the Rosary. We placed the school under the protection of Our lady of Fatima. It is important that we teach our students to pray and to come to know God as a forever friend. The Rosary is a very calming prayer and one that has brought miracles through the ages. We pray that we will continue to experience miracles through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother this coming school year.

Both Back to School Nights highlighted for me how blessed we are to have Father George at the helm of our parish. His heart and soul are in giving to the students a high quality spiritual injection of all that is good in life and he practices what he preaches. Our teachers work very hard to provide the students with a holistic education that challenges them to give of their very best in all that they do. By now you should have met most of your children's teachers and if circumstances prevented you from doing that please set up an appointment to meet them. We are in a sacred partnership with you to bring out the best in your children and we need your help and support each and every day. With God in our midst miracles can happen!

You have met the presidents of the HSA, Marianne Klein and Nicole Van Slyck and I am sure that you have dived right into their invitations to serve on many committees that

provide lots of fun activities. If you are new to us, this organization is a great community builder and you will make friendships that will last a life time. Be on the lookout for regular communications from these very hard workers. I have been very impressed so far with the number of new moms who have volunteered at the front desk and in the lunch room. I appreciate everyone's willingness to chip in to make this a well-oiled machine. And.....if you really want to dive in at the deep end there are many high-ranking HSA positions still available. Two co-presidents are needed and two ready, willing and able volunteers are needed to head up our annual fundraiser.

The Education Council under the leadership of Nina Lagios, President, and Libby Sims, Vice-President, provides valuable services and support to our school. I am grateful to all of the members who give of their time and talents for the good of the school. We have many parents who are experts in so many fields and we are blessed that they are willing to devote so much time and talent to our school. A special shout out to the Technology Committee who worked many hours in the production of a new three year technology plan that will propel us into the future. Our Development Committee secured a grant from Hyde and Watson that provided us with a very neat Smart Table that will be used in the PreK. With these funds we were also able to purchase a new Epson Bright Link that will replace a Smart Board. The HSA and government funds from a technology initiative helped us to begin the upgrading of our computer lab. So far 20 of the 27 desktops have been replaced. How blessed we are!

The little ones are easing into the school day by coming for shortened days this past week. They are a delight and I have gotten to know them and love watching their personalities shine through. They adjusted really well and I know that they will grow throughout the year. We have a great PreK program with dedicated teachers who know what makes 3 and 4 year olds tick. We have a total of 83 children in our PreK3 and PreK4 Program and they truly have an important part of our school already. I hope that you as parents get to experience everything that our school has to offer this year. Please feel free to jump right in! I must say that I am so happy that all of our new children seem to have been taken in with great hospitality by their classmates. The new families are a wonderful addition to our school and we thank you for choosing us!

I have highlighted the new security measure that we have to enforce to ensure that our school is the safest it can be for the safety of your children. I thank you most sincerely for being so gracious in not only accepting the major changes but also for cooperating us in implementing them without a hitch. A meeting was held on Friday with Fr. George, Miss Gisoldi, a school parent, myself and some experts in school security who offered us guidance on our next steps in the realm of securing our school even better. We will inform you of the details once they are all firmed up.

We are asked to be mindful and minimize foot traffic throughout the school day. The classrooms are off limits at all times. Please let me reiterate the following guidelines:

1. *All visitors must come to school on official business only and make themselves known in the front office, sign in and receive a visitor's badge and lanyard. Please return the badge before exiting the building and don't forget to sign out!*

This procedure must be used for all visits - to the nurse, to the uniform exchange etc.

2. *Please try to remember to pack a lunch for your child each day. Check with them that they have all of their supplies in the evening before the school day. Any forgotten items must be placed in the labeled bins outside or front door. They will be checked periodically*

It is also important that the children are here in time so that we can account for all of our children at the beginning of the school day. Please be very mindful of lateness and attendance. Also we ask that you please try your best not to take your children out before school ends. I understand that it is not always possible to make doctor's appointments at your chosen time but as much as you can control this I ask you to please do.

Co- ed Volleyball season is beginning and if the interest exhibited in the gym was anything to go by we could have up to five quite robust teams! I thank Mr. Barra and Mrs. Bohensky for being the brave souls to take this sport on. It promises to be a fun season. Middle school girls' soccer also kicks off this coming week under the direction of Mr. Puglisi and Mrs. Cirillo. Again we seem to have enough girls to form their own league! Details of these sports should be found elsewhere on this eNewsletter.

Parking and drop-off and pick-up continue to be a hot topic for us. Please take the time to abide by the procedures and pulling up to the 7th green man. We continue to get complaints and pictures of vehicles from our neighbors on Green Village Road. They have said that their next step will be to have the police come by and ticket the violators in the yellow zones, driveways and parking lots. Oh dear! I hope that it does not come to this. Remember to stay out of the parking lot to guard the safety of the teachers and the children. If anyone can come up with a solution to our everlasting challenge it would be of great service to us.

Mrs. Mc Guire has been very busy getting the directory ready for printing. She has made numerous corrections over the past two weeks. There is a news item on this week's eNewsletter about the directory. Can you please check that your information is correct. Many people count on the directory to help them communicate for things like birthday parties, HSA committees etc. Send Mrs. McGuire an email at mmcguire@svmsnj.org if you need to make any changes to your information.

Please bring to prayer the soul of James A. Gallagher, grandfather of Danny and Tommy O'Brien who went home to God last week. May he be enjoying eternal rest and peace. Rita Allocca, grandmother of Ella Allocca also passed to her eternal reward. May her family be supported by our prayers and the assurance that she is now resting in peace. Samantha Mele's great-grandmother, Josephine Cannizzaro, also died this past week. May the memories that she created for her family sustain them during this difficult time of mourning.

Let us pray that the peace and joy of these first 8 school days will continue throughout the school year. May we feel blessed abundantly and be a blessings for all that we meet.

Gratefully,

Sr. Noreen