



November 1, 2020

Dear Parents,

As we approach election day in this unprecedented year, let us place our nation under the protection of God and trust that His peace will be the gift that we will all be given during this week. We pray that election day itself will go down in history as one that our students will remember as providing them with hope in this time of anxiety and confusion. Let us spend some time in prayer on Tuesday asking God to grant us a day when we will all be instruments of His peace and when God's love will reign throughout the land.

What erratic weather we are having! Many teachers arrived on Friday morning saying that they had to travel through snow to get to SVMS. And the rain this week? Wow! It was a delight to these Irish eyes but brought many challenges. Ice had to be scraped off of the cars on Saturday and who knows what tomorrow will bring. 2020 certainly has provided us with heretofore unseen scenes.

We had to tone down Halloween in school this year but you would never have known that going through the halls on Thursday and Friday. During all these weeks of having to live within parameters and be in compliance, the shining light has been that your children have continued to remind us that they are still children and they seem to accept what is happening with great lightness because they are guided by you and all of their teachers. The costumes were terrific and the games and crafts provided by parents were top-notch. The little ones had mini-parades through the

hallways and happiness radiated from them. Thank you to all who contributed goodies and crafts and thank you to all of the class moms for pulling it all together and creating great buzz in the classrooms. Even though you could not be present, your beautiful giving spirits were felt in every room.

It has been a long time since we have been able to do anything community-based so Trunk and Treat was extra special on Friday evening. Jen Nolan and Madeline O'Shea deserve the Best Producers Academy Award for plowing through tough times and producing an experience that will stay with the children ...and me forever. Having to postpone on Thursday did not detract from the success of the event on Friday. All protocols were fully in place and the endless line of cars that contained our beautiful students thrilled to be able to experience a true Halloween festival added pizzazz to the event. Our real-life superhero, Fr. George, looked spectacular in his fictional superhero Green Man Lantern costume. I was so touched by the time and effort that the Trunk hosts put into decorating their trunks. The parking lot was turned into a panorama of Halloween delight with ghosts and goblins piercing out all over the place. The creativity was top-notch and each trunk radiated a great sense of pride and tremendous effort. I cannot imagine what it took to put it all together. The love and pride shone through each trunk. Special kudos to all and to the number of parents of older children who entered into the trunk decorating fun and to our own Mrs. Quinn who presented an emoji trunk in sync with the lessons that she teaches. I know that Madeline and Jen spent countless days and nights preparing for this event in a time when we do not know what each day brings. They had to dodge many curve balls but they knocked it out of the park on the night. The full moon added to the atmosphere and the weather cooperated perfectly. The delight and excitement radiating from the children was palpable and it was so good to enjoy a community event while still having to stay apart.

Today is All Saints Day, a day to pray to your favorite saint or to choose a favorite saint. In reading the lives of the saints I have always been taken by the fact that most were ordinary people who decided to turn their lives around and direct them totally toward God. We are all called to do this- do what we do with a heart turned toward God. Tomorrow is All Souls Day when we remember all of our loved ones who have died and pray that their time in heaven is all that they longed for. May all who have died in our school family this this past year be resting in the loving embrace of our God.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Bosslett's mom, Marie Yarlando, who went home to God this past week. May she be resting in the loving embrace of our God. We mourn her as a colleague in our school community. She was a retired teacher and was Mrs. Rojack's Aide in Prek3 for a few years. Her sweet kindness touched the hearts of many children and adults. Also, please take to prayer Patrick Griffin, grandfather of Abigail and Caroline. May his family be consoled by their loving memories of him and may they feel the power of our prayers as they mourn a great loss..

We just ended week 8 of the 2020-2021 school year without a case of CoVid in our school community. Thank God! I am so humbled by all of your cooperation and ask that as numbers rise that we revisit what needs to be done to keep us safe and healthy. Within our building is the personification of compliance. I cannot praise your children enough for managing to give the abnormal a semblance of normalcy. They are so happy and so upbeat and wide open to learning to all that is presented to them. I acknowledge the trojan work being done by our teachers and staff. Daily they give totally of themselves for the love of your children. Please read the Pandemic Response Team Updates as we maneuver the push and pull of what is best to do, what is safe to do and what is right to do in this time of great challenge.

Let us hold each other in prayer and do everything that we can to keep the virus from entering through the doors of 26 Green Village Road.

Blessings,

Sr. Noreen