

June 2, 2020

Dear Parents:

Looks like we made it! I never, in a million years, ever thought I would start a parent update quoting a Barry Manilow song!! But it does seem appropriate –so let's just indulge me!!

Eighth graders wrapped up their last classes last week. Thursday we will be finishing up classes for the rest of the school! I am so impressed with our students' perseverance, our parents' diligence, and our teachers' dedication! This year is ending very differently than we expected, but we did well! I am very proud of how our students rose to the occasion, our teachers became innovators and cheerleaders, and our parents were the glue that held it all together. Bravo! We adapted and evaluated and created a new learning environment on the fly. And St. Monica School was stellar! I have gone through concepts covered and material taught in small groups and whole classes and I don't believe we missed a beat. Remote learning is not for everyone, (me especially!) but I learned a lot, and I am confident we will come out on the other side of this better from it! Our community was strengthened. We came together during difficult times, and offered support to each other while navigating these uncharted waters. We also were united to spread joy, teachers made some socially distant visits, special sentiments were delivered by mail – or even a virtual hug! There were birthday parades, fun videos made and even surprise visits by Auggie!! I wish I could say our school family was unscathed by this horrible COVID-19, but I can't. Lives have been forever changed. However, we will get through this- and be stronger. St. Monica School is stronger too.

### **Moving forward:**

I know everyone has lots of questions about how things are going to look in the fall. We are planning to open Tuesday September 1, 2020 for grades 1-8. Our school calendar will be published closer to July 1<sup>st</sup>. I am sure things our going to look, and may even feel a little different. How we arrive and dismiss from the building is probably going to change. I am waiting for an official set of guidelines from the Massachusetts Department of Health, Department of Education, Archdiocese of Boston, and finally the city of Methuen. Collectively, these documents will provide a blue print for a successful transition back to school. Once I know, I will gladly share the information with the community at large. I have always led with transparency- and this will not be any different.

### **20-21 Summer Work and Supply List**

All summer work will be posted online by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Most books will be available at our Scholastic Book Fair – which is open until September! Each grade level will have their own assignments and supply list.

### **Uniforms**

Our uniforms will remain the same as last year. Currently, JB Pride is offering a 20% discount. You may want to take advantage of this if you are in need.

### **Events**

On Wednesday we have Miss Lumb's retirement parade from 6:30-7:00 in the school yard. Please join us

in recognizing our favorite fifth grade teacher! This is not the sendoff we had hoped to give her, but this way she will feel our love and appreciation for all her gifts and talents she has shared with St. Monica School.

Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> will be our VICTORY PARADE!! The teachers and I are so excited to see everyone- while remaining appropriately socially distant. 10:00- 12:00!! Mrs. Tully will send home a schedule later today.

Next week parents will be able to drop off students' school books and receive any of their child's belongings that remained behind. Yesterday, Mrs. Tully sent out an email regarding this. She will send a reminder later in the week.

Now that Massachusetts is working through the Phases – we will resume planning and hosting our **Boot Scootin' Ball** that we had to cancel because of the pandemic! Once we receive the go ahead- we will be back in business! Stay tuned for the big reveal!

Finally, all families in need of financial assistance need to complete the FACTS Application and upload required documentation. There is a small window of time that we can access these funds. Typically, under normal circumstances, the well runs dry quickly- I can only imagine the impact COVID -19 will have on this process or resources. If you have any questions, please contact Kera at 978-686-3311 or via email at [kmansour@andoveradmin.com](mailto:kmansour@andoveradmin.com)

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Friday!!!

We need to keep praying for one another!

-Mrs. H