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Sent May 16, 2020

Special Newsletter

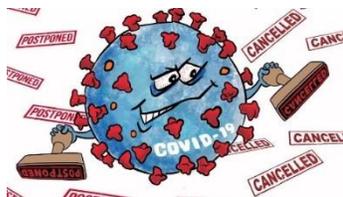
During the Coronavirus Quarantine



Update about St. Mary's School staying closed:

As a school in Idaho (with a childcare program), we are required to follow the guidelines of: Governor Little, State Board of Education, the Diocese of Boise and our insurance company, Catholic Mutual.

Presently, we have entered *Stage Two* (May 16-29) of the guidelines: No more than 10 may gather and Social distancing of 6 feet.



The following was sent on Saturday, May 16 to all St. Mary's families. Our St. Mary's Administrative Team and School Board members are sincerely hoping to have your input on 7 questions on the surveymonkey. All individuals responding are completely anonymous. Please take about 10 minutes to do the survey on/by May 22nd. Thank you.

The link to put in your web browser is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DWR9KBW>

From our music teacher--Nikki



“I hope you are all doing well. We would be having our dress rehearsals and performance for the Lion King this week. *I invite you all to have a family movie night at your home on Thursday, May 21 at 7PM and watch the Lion King movie at your house and imagine how amazing the St. Mary's students would have been in their production!!!!!!*”

See attached doc from Nikki regarding information about music program NOW and into the fall.....

FYI: A tradition we have had at St. Mary's for the past 25 years has been recognizing the birthdays of our students/staff at morning assembly with a blessing, recognition of their gifts/talents and having them receive a library book that is inscribed with their name/birthday to read first. These days of not being physically in school dampens this tradition. But *thanks to Danette Swam*, our Kindergarten teacher, who has been the *organizer of a new tradition: caravan of cars* to drive by the birthday person's place on his/her special day, honking horns. This is open for anyone who wants to join. There are a few birthdays left in May and June. So if you want more information to join the caravan, email Danette at: kindergarten@stmarysmoscow.com Lately, we've also been able to have ZOOM “check ins” on the students birthdays in April and May too. Here they receive their blessing. and gifts/talents as well as seeing *their* book they have chosen. They will get it first when we return to the school! This certainly doesn't take the place of celebrating birthdays *in person*, but it is the next best thing! Thank you, Danette, for helping us to find an alternative way.



Is there childcare this summer is a question that we have been asked. We do not have a definite answer yet. Guidelines from Idaho State Health and CDC were just recently published and sent to us. We are trying to grapple with the guideline to see if we can meet the guidelines demands: financially, personnel, and space-wise. *If you are definitely needing childcare this summer (starting in June), please email or call Debbie Johnson at office@stmarysmoscow.com and let her know number and dates.*

Have you completed **the Census**? The information gathered in the US Census is used to determine everything from how many Representatives each state gets in Congress to the distribution of funds to schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and many other programs. For the first time ever, you can complete the Census online. Do so today at my2020census.gov.



As we start to come to the “end of this school year” and due to the restrictions surrounding students not coming into school, your child’s teacher will clean his/her desk putting items into a bag with them on it. They will also have PE shoes in the bag too. Parents you will be able to pick-up your child’s items the week of June 1 through the 3rd. **HOWEVER**, if you need something before that time (several students have jackets in their lockers), please contact Debbie in the main office 208-882-2121.



TRADITION---a key tradition we’ve had for many years at St. Mary’s on the last day of school is to have Mass together “on the grass” and have a blessing for each grade as they move-up to the next grade. We know it won’t be possible to have Mass due to the restraints of numbers gathering and social distancing **BUT** we are working on an unique way to gather safely and have a blessing as students advance to the next grade. *Details regarding time and place are still being worked on* but what we can tell you definitely is to **save the date = June 3rd**. *As plans finalize, we’ll let you know.*



We have received information that Holy Apostles in Meridian, Idaho has a weekly Mass for students on their church’s FACEBOOK live--- https://www.facebook.com/holyapostles.church/live_videos/. Fr. Len MacMillan pastor was pastor at St. Augustine’s here in Moscow for several years too. This might be a good resource for your family.