



November 13, 2020

Dear St. Mary's Families,

I hope you and your family had a good week! Today is [World Kindness Day](#), a day set aside for what I hope we all strive to do each day...be kind. World Kindness Day is an international holiday formed in 1998 to promote kindness throughout the world and celebrated annually on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the day is to "highlight good deeds in the community focusing on the positive power and the common thread of kindness which binds us". With so many things happening in our world, I am proud that St. Mary's has always promoted acts of kindness and compassion, one of the many wonderful things about our school. As Saint Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming away better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness".

Speaking of kindness and compassion, thank you to everyone who participated in November's Charity Dress Day, which benefitted St. Peter's Outreach House. [St. Mary's raised over \\$650 to donate to the Outreach House](#) so they may purchase food items and other resources they need to help the less fortunate in the Joplin area. With the Thanksgiving holiday approaching, I am sure the funds will be used to purchase items for a delicious Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings. Thank you for your thoughtful generosity and helping your children understand the importance of helping others with a joyful heart. Congratulations to Ms. Riley's class for winning the Class Competition, they will receive a sweet treat at lunch on Monday.

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching, and [5<sup>th</sup> grade is sponsoring Gobble Grams](#) this year as a fund raiser for their annual spring trip. Each Gobble Gram will include a bag filled with candy and a personal note. More information and order forms are included in your family's Communicator Envelope today and attached to this email. If you would like to send a Gobble Gram to your child, some of your child's friends, or a staff member please fill out the forms and return them in your family's Communicator Envelope with payment or drop them off at the school office. Gobble Grams are \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. Be sure to include the recipient's name and teacher's name. Additional order forms are available in the school office. [Orders will be taken through Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Gobble Grams will be delivered to students on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.](#) Please contact the school office (623-1465) if you have any questions.

Please take time this weekend to review the [St. Mary's winter dress code adjustments that went into effect on November 1<sup>st</sup>](#). The St. Mary's Dress Code is attached to this email and can be found on pages 16-19 in your Family Handbook. There are several changes that go into effect on November 1<sup>st</sup> of each school year, most evident being that shorts may no longer be worn to school again until March 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition to the change with shorts, here are a few other changes:

- Elementary girls who wear a uniform skirt, skort, or jumper may not wear ankle socks after November 1<sup>st</sup>. Students must wear knee high socks, tights (solid white or navy), or leggings (solid white or navy) instead to keep legs covered and warm during the chilly winter months.
- Sweaters may be crewneck with long sleeves, vest, crewneck or V-neck cardigan, or quarter zip. Solid white, red, or navy blue. No loose weaves, no patterns, no hoods.
- Only JACS (St. Mary's or JACS) hoodies are allowed to be worn during the school day. JACS hoodies must be worn over a uniform shirt except on Charity Dress Day or Casual Dress Days, and may not be worn to Mass. All other hoodies may not be worn during the school day except when worn outside as outerwear.

- Solid colored leggings in white or navy may be worn from November 1<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup> under skirts, skorts, or jumpers as an extra layer during colder weather. Leggings may not be worn as pants at any time.

In addition to these changes, please remember that No-Show socks **MAY NEVER BE WORN** to school, they are not part of the uniform dress code. Socks may be solid white, khaki, black, red, or navy blue in color, no patterns are allowed on normal uniform dress days. Girls may wear ankle length socks with pants but need to follow winter dress code guidelines when wearing skirts, skorts, or jumpers. Boys may wear crew or mid-calf socks and must be clearly visible on the ankle above the top of the shoe. Many students are coming to school wearing no-show socks to school and your attention to following this part of the dress code would be greatly appreciated.

I hope you have a relaxing weekend with your family. The weeks to come are going to be very busy at St. Mary's and I have listed many upcoming events so you can make sure your child is prepared and ready for the fun! You will notice that Christmas programs and parties are not scheduled yet, we are still working on the details and I will include this information as the dates approach. Thank you for all that you do for your child and our amazing school community!

God bless and take care,  
 Joanne Lown  
[jlown@jacss.org](mailto:jlown@jacss.org)

**Important Dates to Remember:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Monday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>   | Interstate Photo Retakes   |
| Wednesday, November 25 <sup>th</sup> -<br>Sunday, November 29 <sup>th</sup> | Thanksgiving Holiday   |
| Monday, November 30 <sup>th</sup>   | Classes resume   |
| Tuesday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>   | First Tuesday at Club 609  |
| Wednesday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | Charity Dress Day benefitting St. Mary's<br>Parish St. Vincent de Paul Society |

Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

Feast of St. Nicholas

Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

Holy Day of Obligation - Feast of the

Immaculate Conception

School Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

Ugly Sweater Day and Jeans Day!

Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Free Dress Day

Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

Noon Dismissal

NO After School Care

Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

Classes Resume