

Academy of St. James of the Marches

400 Totowa Rd.

Totowa, NJ 07512

973.956.8824



Good evening everyone:

I want to begin by thanking the families for all your flexibility with respect to our school delays etc. It is a challenge for sure and thank you!

We are finishing off the month of February with a bang! I will update you on some of the activities we have had in the midst of the snow and ice.

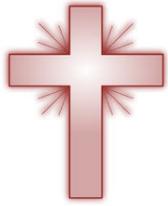
On Tuesday, YoJo productions presented the children with a very clever and important show "**Bully No More.**" Through the use of a large furry blue animal the students were given strategies on how to stop bullying behavior by themselves, others and what to do when they feel threatened by mean behavior. It was very well done and both the staff and students found it positive and helpful. As a school we work hard to encourage children to feel comfortable talking to an adult and being honest about meanness and repeated acts of unkindness. Never hesitate to contact me or your child's teacher if your child comes home and talks about behavior that is unacceptable. Unfortunately, in the world name calling and belittling behavior is many times tolerated. We work diligently with the children to stop these actions. They are children and sometimes, especially the younger children, struggle with handling hurts. They lash out at others. Please help your child at home learn how to handle disappoints. But know we don't tolerate hitting, mean words or actions!

On another note, please understand I hate being the uniform police, but as we have discussed before, there are uniform shoes and they should be worn. In times of snow, boots are acceptable. However, slippers are not. Sneakers are not acceptable except on your child's gym day. Not every gym day, just your child's gym day. Nail polish is sneaking in, big dangling earrings are making a come back. If one child wears these items, then why shouldn't every child be permitted? Thank you for understanding, and to all those who follow the rules...THANK YOU.

Genevieve's orders are to be completed by Tues, Feb 26th.

I can only hope everyone completed their scholarship applications! **The Diocesan Trust Fund extended their application process to tomorrow, so that is the only one you can apply to tonight.**

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March 4-8 is our testing week. Please start now with getting your child in bed early, getting them off the gaming devices and talking to them about the fact that this is their time to shine. They can do great - create a positive feeling about the IOWA test. We don't teach to the test but we set up the environment whereby they can feel confident. Grades 2-8 take the test. They will test for less than two hours each day.

ASH WEDNESDAY: March 6th. We will go to Mass at 9 AM! All families are invited to join us! Lent is a time for reflection, prayer, renewing our faith, sacrificing and doing for others. We will talk more about this but it is on the horizon.

Reminder: **Our half day in March is Fri the 15th. We will have a full day on March 8th. The staff is training with CPR on the 15th.**

It has been very busy at school lately; we are gearing up for the Tricky Tray on April 12th, Blingo on May 3rd. As always, volunteers are needed to assist at these events. I believe there are only around 40 tickets left for the Tricky Tray. Please plan to attend. Rachel Broniatowski, Grisel Lebron-Barbosa and their team have worked tirelessly, and Jenny Parga & her team are busy organizing Blingo. Betsy Classen is overseeing the calendar raffle and Blanca Hopper is finishing up our sale of chocolates. We truly appreciate all your support of our fundraising.

I want to thank the Confirmation candidates as they are coming into the school this weekend and washing all the chairs in the cafeteria and the desks in the classrooms. Thank you Kathryn DiPasquale, Gail Monochello, Sr. Anne and your team who is making this happen. You are making our world better!

In closing, we continue to pray for one another, our children, our school and Parish as we grow and try to do the best job we can to assist one another and love God. We cannot do it alone. We need one another for strength and courage. Making good choices is not easy for ourselves or our children. Have faith in the Holy Spirit that He, along with the Father and the Son, will guide us along in our journey.

Good evening and God bless,
Lelia

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