



KidMail

December 14, 2023

Dear MGC Family,

We are celebrating the 2nd week of Advent with song and prayer. Our theme is preparing our hearts with kindness for the coming of Christ. Students are engaging in various projects, as part of our Advent season. It really is a special time of year. Ask your child what he or she is doing this year to celebrate the coming of Jesus!

We continue to talk daily about kindness and its importance. However, I am still seeing many children in my office for the following behaviors: pushing and shoving, putting hands on a person in an aggressive, inappropriate dances, inappropriate language for school, talking back with disrespect to teachers, and unkind words or verbal aggression towards others. These behaviors go against our core values as Catholics and as Christians. At no point, does MGC condone hitting or pushing, swearing or using profanity, and so forth. I urge you to talk to your child about alternatives to these behaviors. When it comes down to it, most situations are just misunderstandings. I urge students to use their words, to work out problems with compassion and understanding. In order for us to have a safe learning environment, I need your help in reinforcing these values. I appreciate your continued support at home. It truly takes a village.

The other issue I would like to address is attendance and tardiness. Letters have been sent home informing parents about excessive absences and tardies. Students cannot learn when they do not attend school. Students are to be here daily for the entirety of the school day. This is the law. Students who continue to arrive tardy or miss school, may have enrollments turned down as this violates the Milwaukee Parental Choice program as well as the compulsory attendance law for Wisconsin. Students who have in excess tardies and absences well over the number of 10, may be withdrawn or asked to leave, or quite possibly be retained in the grade because they have not mastered the material and standards for that grade level due to excessive absences. We take the business of education seriously. Please take careful note. We understand at times, a child may be sick or have a serious virus, or a family situation. Those absences need to be reported to the school secretary. Anything beyond that could put your child's education in jeopardy.

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to contact me at johnston@mgcparish.org or at (414) 442-7600 extension 119.

In Faith,
Rachel Johnston
Principal

Dates of Importance



Dec. 16 & 17 Christmas Bake Sale after Masses

Dec. 20 Wear Be Kind shirt and uniform bottoms

Dec. 21 Mass at 8:45 AM then Nativity Play, 11:30 Dismissal start of Christmas Vacation

Jan. 3 Students return to school

COVID/FLU/RSV Season

As we move forward into the winter season, we also prepare for upticks in COVID and Flu. Multiple news sources have reported that lung infections and RSV are quickly on the rise causing children to be quite ill. As we strive to remain safe and healthy, here a few important MGC protocols and policies to review:

- Students who are sent home sick with vomiting or fever are not to return to school for 24 hours and symptoms have subsided
- If your child has been exposed to COVID, we ask that you test as soon as possible.
 - A. If your child has been exposed, but tests negative for COVID, we asked that they mask for 5 days
 - B. If your child has tested positive for COVID, please report to the school. The student is to be out of school for 5 days. Student may return after 5 days if symptom free, and is required to wear a mask for 5 days

Your compliance and cooperation is greatly appreciated. It takes all of our efforts to mitigate these viruses which can seriously affect student and staff attendance compelling us to deliver instruction virtually. We can all agree that being physically in school, learning and being part of the community is our collective goal and responsibility. You are encouraged to keep up with COVID and FLU vaccines/boosters, and to use testing as a resource when you have knowingly been exposed to COVID or are experiencing symptoms. Let's pray for a calm season.

RESOURCES:

[Health Department](#)

[CDC/RSV information](#)

Snowball Promises

Snowball promises were sent home last week. Please review this with your child/ren and return them tomorrow with your children. Each family will receive one sheet with the promise and places for all children to sign.

DentaMed



DentaMed's licensed dental providers will be offering **free** cleanings and fluoride treatments to our students in January. We ask that parents complete a consent to treat or waiver of treatment for each child. Paper copies were sent home or contact the school office.

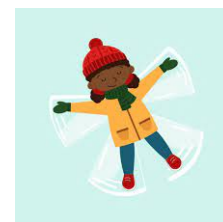
Drop Off and Pick Up

Just a reminder that for primary grades, parents are to pull into the north lot in a straight light and exit onto 68th Street. Students at no point should ever cross the street unattended. The traffic on 68th Street does not stop! In order to keep students safe, students are never allowed to be dropped off on Lisbon Avenue. Students in grades 3-8 can be dropped off in either the church lot or the North lot.

Furthermore, the school does not provide supervision before 7:30. Students should never be arriving before that time on the playground, students who need before school care can register for ECP if there is room still available. Let us take care of God's most precious gift-our children. Parents are reminded that students are to be picked up from 3:15 - 3:25 p.m. There is no way for us to provide free childcare. Students who need care after school, must be pre-registered in ECP. Let us work together to follow the procedures for safe drop off and dismissal.

It's Cold Outside – and it will get even colder!

Please remember that we do take the children outside for recess during winter. If the temperature/wind chill is at or above zero, we go outside. It is important that every MGC student come to school every day prepared for recess. This includes a winter coat, hat, mittens/gloves, scarves, snowpants, and boots. Children who do not have snow pants and boots are not allowed to play in the snow. Please do not put your child in that situation!



Be Kind T-Shirts



You don't want to miss this opportunity to be seen wearing our "theme" t-shirt on our Be Kind Days (third Wednesday of the month). Shirts are available in two colors and both long sleeve and short sleeve. Use code **MGCPICKUP** and orders will be sent to school at no cost.

Here is a link where you can purchase these t-shirts.

<https://www.shopjaynas.com/products/be-kind-mgc-t-shirts>

There are some Be Kind T-Shirts for sale in the school office. Contact Mrs. Berthold for size info.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for people to join the following committees: **School Committee, Athletic Board and Home & School Association**. It's a great way to make a difference! If interested, please contact me at johnston@mgpcarish.org, or contact the school secretary Mrs. Barb Berthold at (414) 442-7600 extension 118.



Like us on Facebook and Instagram



We hope you will “like and follow” us on Facebook! We post MGC School news, pictures, updates and more on the page so be sure to “follow” us.

<https://www.facebook.com/MGCMilwaukeeWI>

On Instagram we are @mgcparish

Birthday Club

Celebrate your child’s birthday the MGC way! For \$20.00 you get all that is in the picture and their name on the sign outside the school.

https://uploads.weconnect.com/mce/e411a490148911bb6ee16beaa6f794a437b3bc9d/School/MKE%20Fall%20Science%20Party%20FLYER_22.pdf

Weather Regulations



When there is a question of whether the school will be opening for the day because of extreme weather conditions, Archdiocesan regulations require that the school follow the Milwaukee Public School system. **The decision not to open is usually made before 6:00 AM on the day in question and is announced on local radio and TV stations. If the announcement is made that MPS schools are closed due to inclement weather, MGC will also be closed.**

Whenever the school is closed due to inclement weather, ECP and the parish offices are also closed. However, if MPS is not in session, or for some reason fails to close, an independent decision will be made for MGC. This decision will be made by Mrs. Johnston and Fr. Reed. The announcement will be made on local television and radio stations. Additionally, if MGC closes independently of MPS, an e-mail and text will be sent and local TV/radio stations will be informed.

MGC will not close early due to inclement weather. However, parents are welcome to come to school and pick up their children if they deem that to be in their family’s best interest.

If MPS closes early or fails to open due to staffing concerns, that will not affect MGC.

MGC’s Website

Have you checked-out MGC’s website (www.mgcparish.org)? If not, please do so. You’ll find a great deal of information about our church and school. The hot lunch menu is posted there so you don’t have to worry about losing yours. Current and past editions of KidMail are also posted there. There are also many great student resources available through the library page. Don’t miss this great resource!



MGC School Calendar

2023-2024

ALL students are expected to arrive on time and to be picked up on time.
Students may start arriving at 7:35 AM



- 20 - Wear Be Kind shirt and uniform bottoms
- 21 - Mass then Nativity Play, 11:30 Dismissal
- 22 - No school, Christmas vacation begins

- 2 - No school In-service
- 3 - Classes resume
- 9 - School Committee Meeting
- 12 - Warm and Cozy Day
- 15 - MLK Day No school
- 17 - Wear Be Kind shirt and uniform bottoms
- 28 - Feb 3 - Catholic Schools Week

Full calendar may be found on the School News page

<https://www.mgcparrish.org/school-news>

Parents/guardians are encouraged to check KidMail each Wednesday for regular updates.

MGC's Extended Care Program is fully licensed. Children must be registered with all completed paperwork turned in. ECP is open on school days and for summer camp, but children must be pre-registered. Parents/guardians are responsible for all ECP fees; failure to pay may result in dismissal from the program.

*Mother of Good Counsel Catholic School is an inclusive urban community committed to:
serving, learning, loving, and living lives of integrity as Christ did.*