



MOTHER OF
GOOD COUNSEL

Dear MGC Family,



KidMail

February 8, 2024

I would like to begin this week's newsletter by quoting the honorable Dr. Martin Luther King Jr:

**“Returning violence for violence
multiplies violence,
adding a deeper darkness to a night,
already devoid of stars.
Darkness cannot drive out darkness:
only love can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate:
Only love can do that.”**

I choose this quote not just because we spend this month honoring and celebrating influential Black people in America's history and culture, but for another reason.

The last few weeks it has been quite a revolving door in my office. The number of infractions and disciplinary actions is steadily increasing from K3-8th grade. A great deal of these infractions involve bullying, name calling, profanity, sexually inappropriate language or gestures, and physical aggression. Each day we discuss aspects of kindness, what we can do to be kinder, and that we never put our hands on one another in an aggressive manner. However, I always say it takes a village. I ask that each one of you talk about the seriousness of these behaviors. MGC does not tolerate play fighting, punching, kicking, pushing, swearing, name calling, threats, intimidation or bullying. We believe that conflicts can be worked out by approaching others with compassion, understanding, humility, and empathy. We believe students can learn the skills to talk it out with one another, and if students follow the rules, we can keep our learning environment safe. I would like to remind families that fighting **for any reason** goes against MGC's Catholic values. Our policy states that verbal and physical altercations will be met with out of school suspension or expulsion. I am seeing many students are being exposed to music, videos, and video games full of violence and sexually explicit material. These can be powerful influences on our youth. Children often absorb and mimic behaviors they see, and the staff is seeing this happening at school. MGC also does not allow inappropriate sexually explicit dancing, or slang of an inappropriate nature. Each child has a right to a safe education in a loving environment. I would encourage parents to carefully monitor screen times and monitor social media formats. I appreciate your support and attention to this matter. Let's encourage love over hate, peace over violence, and light over darkness.

Thank you for all of your continued support at home! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out at (414) 442-7600 extension 119 or at johnston@mgcparish.org.

In Faith,
Rachel Johnston
Principal

Dates of Importance

Feb. 9 No school In-service
Feb. 13 Mardi Gras & Valentine celebrations
Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday
Feb. 16 11:30 Dismissal, Conferences
Feb. 19 No school In-service
Feb. 21 Wear Be Kind shirt and uniform bottoms



Catholic Schools Week Pictures

You can find some of the pictures from Catholic Schools week online here (more have been added)
<https://www.mgcparrish.org/photos/view/id/83009>

Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences will be held on February 16, 2024 from 1:00-7:00p.m. Please be aware that February 16 is an early dismissal day of 11:30. Sign up slips were sent home. Conferences are mandatory for students who are being requested. For some students, this might be a very critical conference as we begin to look toward next year and grade promotions. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding conferences.



Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras is February 13. Read the flyer for more details.

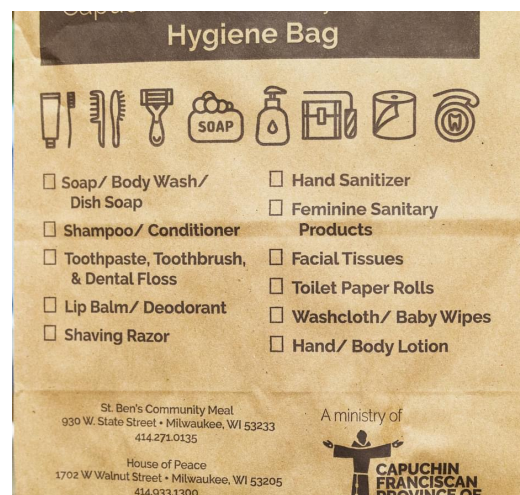
<https://uploads.weconnect.com/mce/e411a490148911bb6ee16beaa6f794a437b3bc9d/School/2024%20Mardi%20Gras%20Flier.pdf>

Ash Wednesday and St. Valentine's Day

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday which marks the season of Lent in our liturgical season. It is a time of giving up indulgences, spiritual reflection, and connecting more with our spiritual needs rather than our physical ones. As Catholics, we also honor our saints such as Saint Valentine. This year, Valentine's Day will be celebrated with Mardi Gras, on February 13. We will be abstaining from treats on Ash Wednesday which falls on the traditional day of Valentine's Day. Please do not send the children with candy.

Capuchins Hygiene Bags

Together with the Capuchins, we are collecting items for Bags went home today – we are collecting hygiene items for those in need. These items will be distributed to those at St. Ben's and The House of Peace. The items needed are listed on the bag itself.



Calendar Changes

Because of the snow days we had in January, we will be adding days to our calendar. May 10 will be a half-day and June 7 will also be a half-day. Previously these were Professional Development days.

Next Year?!?

Yes, believe it or not, it's almost time to start registration for the 2024-2025 school year! School Choice opens tomorrow on February 1. **This window closes on February 20, 2024.** Parents, please keep a copy of your January WE bill, cable bill, or a pay stub dated in January. You will need to log in to your DPI account in and register and then send us your proof of address – using one of the documents listed above. Let's try to have all returning students re-registered in February.

<https://sms.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/>

ECP

Parents, just a reminder that any hours not covered through the Wisconsin Shares Program will leave you with a balance. Those of you with outstanding balances, will receive a letter soon. These will have to be paid off or you will need to commit in writing to a payment plan as your care will be suspended in February. Funds for ECP go to pay qualified employees, cleaning services, providing nutritious snacks, and enrichment activities. Please contact Mrs. Johnston if you have questions or concerns.

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. The link has been updated.

<https://uploads.weconnect.com/mce/e411a490148911bb6ee16beaa6f794a437b3bc9d/School/Birthday%20Club.pdf>

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

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!



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

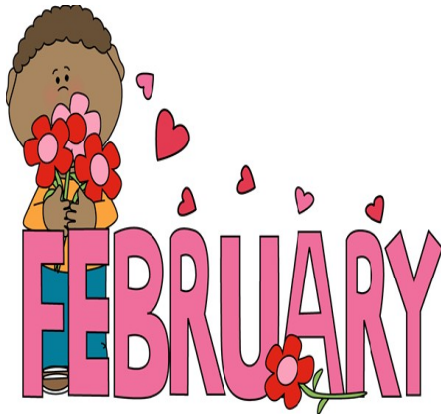
Have you checked-out MGC's website (www.mgcparish.org)? If not, please do so. You'll find a great deal of information about our church and school. The hot lunch menu is posted there so you don't have to worry about losing yours. Current and past editions of KidMail are also posted there. There are also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



Scroll Down for the Calendar

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



- 9 - No school, In-service
- 13 - Mardi Gras and St. Valentine celebrations
- 13 - School Committee Meeting
- 14 - Ash Wednesday
- 16 - 11:30 Dismissal, Conferences
- 19 - No School, In-service
- 21 - Wear Be Kind shirt and uniform bottoms

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.*