

DMCS eNewsletter May 7, 2020

Dear Parents-

Today is School Spirit day at Divine Mercy Catholic School! We are thrilled to invite all families to drive through our Spirit Parade tonight, May 7th, between 6:30 and 7:30 PM. The staff at school will be standing on the sidelines and cheering you on. We are so excited to see all of you and to show you how proud we are that you are a part of our community. We have missed all of you and we want to let you know! I hope to see you there.

On Monday, we begin the countdown of our last 10 days of the 2010-2020 school year. None of us could have predicted all that we would go through together, however, we have made it through some pretty extraordinary circumstances, and we are stronger because of it. Some of the lessons have been painful, and some have been filled with Joy. It has been a year for the history books. I know that I am thankful to have weathered this storm with my DMCS family and I hope you have found some comfort in that as well.

There are still many unknowns, however, here is the latest updates on a few things.

May 26th through 29th: We are following the daily updates from our Governor's office and will be putting a plan together by May 18th on how students and their families will be able to retrieve student belongings, return student devices, and have some closure for the school year. It is our great desire that some sort of face to face meetings can be held, but we will follow the guidance at the time to keep everyone safe.

5th Grade Celebration: This event is a great culminating event for our 5th grade students. We plan to celebrate this as planned on May 29th. We will work within whatever guidance there is at that time to allow as many people as possible to be present at Mass and the presentation of certificates. Mass will begin at 8:30 AM at IC and we will livestream it to Facebook so that extended family and school community can be part of it. It is our great hope that at least our students and their parents will be able to attend, but we will keep you updated.

Summer Care Programs: We are moving forward with our summer care programs. Childcare has been an allowed "essential" business through this entire time, and we have continued to offer care for our students. We will continue to do so this summer. We have screening, cleaning, and self-care protocols in place in accordance with the recommendations of the Minnesota Department of Health and will continue to follow their lead throughout the summer. The school year program draws to a close on May 29th and the summer program begins June 1st. If you are interested in registering for summer care, please download the registration form from our website and turn it in.

Enrollment: We currently have a reduction in enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year. There are currently 179 students registered in grades K-5 and 48 registered in preschool. There are 30 students still pending in our system, however, and we are working to get answers from these parents on their plans for next year. Staffing decisions are being made in the next few weeks and this number is vital to those decisions.

There is much to be done over the next few weeks and months to plan for next fall. The challenge is that no one really knows what that will look like. I have faith that no matter what we are tasked to deal with, we will meet it and overcome it. The resiliency and fortitude of this community has been tested and we have stepped up to the challenge. I know we can do whatever is required to care for our students and the families we serve. Thank you for placing your trust in us.

Know that we are here to serve you. If you are struggling in any way, please reach out. We will help in every way possible. You have stood by us, and we are here to stand by you-no matter what.

Parents, I want you to know that I understand the great task that has been put before you. I am a parent myself. I understand the challenges you face and the uncertainty. This weekend, I will drive to Winona to celebrate what should have been my daughter's graduation from Winona State University. I feel unprepared to help her through this time of disappointment, but I will do my best and I know that that is all I can do. Thank you for doing your best for your children. Know that all of us at Divine Mercy Catholic School will continue to do our best for you as well.

God Bless!

Mrs. Ashley





Where is Waldo-Mrs. Ashley?

Payton Bice was the first winner of the “Where is Waldo?” contest. Payton wins a \$25.00 gift card. Congratulations!

Can you guess where Waldo-Mrs. Ashley is? Watch Mrs. Ashley’s morning announcements and follow us on Facebook to see where *Waldo - Mrs. Ashley* will appear again! Students - send your guesses to gashley@dmcs.cc. Students who guess correctly will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate.

Second Grade

students made cards for residents at New Perspectives. Residents had to come outside to receive the cards but they were thrilled to get them.

*New Perspectives, Melissa & Jessica
Happy to receive cards from Divine
Mercy 2nd Graders*



*Ann, a Divine Mercy graduate
back when it was CCS, was
delighted to receive a card.*



Everything Mom

**How did you find the energy, Mom
To do all the things you did,
To be teacher, nurse and counselor
To me, when I was a kid.**

**How did you do it all, Mom,
Be a chauffeur, cook and friend,
Yet find time to be a playmate,
I just can't comprehend.**

**I see now it was love, Mom
That made you come whenever I'd call,
Your inexhaustible love, Mom
And I thank you for it all.**

**By Joanna Fuchs
Poemsource.com**

Original Works Orders

Original Works art fundraiser orders have been delayed. Unfortunately, the plant closed due to the pandemic and is hoping to reopen and start manufacturing on May 15th. I apologize for the delay with the orders. I will make sure everyone gets their orders as soon as possible, even if they arrive in June. Thank you for your support and understanding!

~ Mrs.DeShane

**Yearbooks For Sale
\$11.00 each**

**To purchase a book contact
Mrs. Ell at jell@dmcs.cc**