



SAIN[†] MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A guiding light for children today.

February 3, 2021

Dear Families:

What a start to February it has been! I'm not surprised the groundhog saw his shadow; based on the mountains of snow I see all around Brooklyn—most especially in our own schoolyard—it's going to look like winter around here for quite some time!

Again, I must thank our Building Manager Richard Stockley, our custodial staff Rufino and Rogelio, and the rest of the cleanup crew for their hard work to ensure school opened safely today. Also, a special thank you to our teachers and staff—and our families—who traveled through difficult conditions to get to school today. Thank you for your dedication!

As I've mentioned before, although February is a short month, it is nonetheless an exciting one—snow not included! Tomorrow, our students will be receiving their progress reports. Parents of children in grades one through eight should check OptionC tomorrow, and students in nursery, pre-k, and kindergarten will be receiving paper copies. Next week is Catholic Schools Week in the Diocese of Brooklyn; please check your email soon for a list of the activities we have going on. Last, but not least, midwinter recess begins on Monday, February 15th, with classes resuming on Monday, February 22nd. It will be March before we know it!

Along with winter break, two weeks from today is Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent. Even though Lent is associated with “giving up,” it's also a time of service. In addition, February is also Black History Month. Therefore, it's appropriate that I share with you a quote from St. Martin de Porres, the first black American saint: *“Everything, even sweeping, scraping vegetables, weeding a garden and waiting on the sick could be a prayer, if it were offered to God.”* This month, I think we can add shoveling snow to that list, too.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal

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IT'S TIME TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID!

Tuition assistance is available for students in kindergarten through grade 8 who meet certain eligibility requirements.

TO APPLY...

- Families must be enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year, including all paperwork and re/registration fee.
- Contact **Mr. William Bunch** in the Business Office.
 - (718) 332-9304, extension #2
 - wbunch@smsonthebay.com
 - Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30am to 2:30pm
- Have 2020 W2 and 1040 Federal Tax Forms ready.
- There is a \$35 application fee.

DEADLINES...

- Application process begins **Tuesday, January 19th**.
- **March 22, 2021** for families who received an award last year.
- **April 19, 2021** for families applying for the first time.

FREE SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE...

- If you are interested in applying, please contact Mr. Bunch. Funding is limited, so we **highly recommend** that families work with Mr. Bunch during this process to ensure the best possibility of receiving an award.



EARLY DISMISSAL

on Friday, February 12th

- Please continue to use your usual entrance/exit.
- PRE-K FOR ALL will be a 100% REMOTE DAY for ALL STUDENTS.
- The after-school program will continue to be available for all students.

DISMISSAL TIMES FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12th

- Nursery A and Nursery B will dismiss at 12:15pm.
- Kindergarten A and Kindergarten B will dismiss at 12:30pm.
- Grades 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 3, and 4 will dismiss at 12:40pm.
- Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 will dismiss at 12:30pm.