



January 14, 2022

Dear Old Mission School Parents,

It has been a tough week.

It is with a very heavy heart that I share the news that the young Santa Barbara firefighter who lost his life in a skiing accident last Saturday, Joey DeAnda, was the fiancé of our own Melissa Newman. It is such a tragic loss for Melissa, our community, his family, and his friends. The Santa Barbara County Firefighters Benevolent Foundation is taking collections to support the family. We are also collecting support specifically for Melissa as a school community. If you would like to contribute, please see me, Susie, or BJ in the front office. Please keep Melissa and Joey's family in your prayers. We are happy to forward any cards or gifts.

We continue to see an increase in COVID-19 cases. There are updates to CDPH and county guidance almost daily, it seems. I want to fill you in on where we are at as of today. CDPH issued this [update to school guidance](#) late Wednesday. Isolation and quarantine guidance can be found [here](#), including household guidance (which is different from school exposure guidance). We are going to implement the [Group-Tracing Approach](#) when there is a positive case beginning next week and re-evaluate as time goes on. The Diocese of Monterey continues to be in communication with public health authorities to clarify updates as they impact our school communities. I will continue to share information as it becomes available. We appreciate your patience as we continue to navigate the constantly changing protocols, requirements, and recommendations.

One of the things that has changed is we can now accept an antigen test administered at home (with verification of the date and time administered) to end an isolation or quarantine period. The volume of cases and difficulty in scheduling at clinics and testing sites have loosened that requirement. The availability of antigen tests continues to be a challenge.

If your child is vaccinated, a scan of the front of your child's vaccination card (the side with the dates) may be submitted to Susie to enter into the health record. An additional update since our return after the break is that to be considered "fully vaccinated" a person needs to obtain a booster when eligible.



The national celebration of Catholic Schools Week is coming from January 30th through February 5th. This is always a favorite week with students and staff. Please see the attached schedule of themes and dress days.

Because of the surge in cases, the superintendent requested at our Tuesday principals meeting that we postpone any large gatherings until at least February 7th. Because of this, we will not be hosting an in-person Open House on Sunday, January 30th. For now, we would still plan to have a school presence at the Mission parish Mass at 9:00 on January 30th including students attending in uniform, student greeters, gift bearers, servers, choir, and lectors. If your family is comfortable, please join us for

the Mass to thank our parish for their generous support and celebrate our Catholic School! We will credit 3 parent volunteer hours for attendance (a sign-in sheet will be available). *If Fr. Kelly deems this an unnecessary risk to add our families to the parish community, we will cancel.* We hope to hold an Open House for current families later in the year but will have a virtual Open House for prospective new families on the Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week.

Pizza Monday Volunteers needed - Our Parent Club Pizza Monday round two begins Monday, January 24th. We are in need of volunteers. Please sign-up on our [website](#) under the Parents tab. Volunteers must fulfill all requirements including being fully vaccinated or being tested within one week of volunteering. Check with BJ if you have questions about requirements.

Enrollment for our current families for the 2022-2023 school year will begin during Catholic Schools Week. We do have wait lists for several classes. Open enrollment/registration for new families will open on March 1st. Families in need of tuition assistance can apply through FACTS online beginning January 28th. Tuition assistance is limited, and applications should be submitted early.

May God keep you in his care and give you peace.

Eternal rest grant unto Joey, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

--Ms. Gray