

August 27, 2011

Dear Parents,

As mentioned in the August letter, the priority and goal is to keep you updated on the progress of our construction. Listening to your concerns expressed at our parent meeting in June, and working closely with the Architects, Catholic Schools Office, Campaign for Catholic Schools, Mr. Wilson, the Board of Trustees, and Fr. Sean, we believe we have arrived at a plan which provides the safest environment to our students and the least disruption to their learning.

The delay in the start of construction in June has obviously affected the overall intended timeline of the project. As a result, the Neponset campus will open for ALL grades on Monday, September 12th. By delaying our opening, the builders will have the necessary time to complete the intrusive and complicated exterior work ensuring the site is safe for the students to occupy the building. As of September 12th, the remaining construction on our campus will be isolated to the upper floors and the rear of the building, and is considered to be much less intrusive and complicated, and poses no direct impact to student safety or to the day-to-day operation of the school. Although student interaction with construction workers should be non-existent, we have taken the extra precaution of having all construction workers CORI-checked through the Archdiocese and every construction worker on site will wear a numbered name tag for easy identification.

In recent days, it has become very apparent that due to the new timeline, our initial plan to house the middle school students in the temporary classrooms (under the stage, in the computer lab, and in the cafeteria) is not an acceptable one to the Administration of PJPIICA, the Archdiocesan officials, and the office of Risk Management of the RCAB. It has also become clear that our fourth and fifth grade classes, as a result of their proximity to the construction, will not be able to be occupied during the duration of the construction. We initially were of the understanding that the sixth floor was not to be impacted. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

In light of these new developments, we have been spending our days attending numerous meetings to explore every possibility to meet our Neponset community's main objective of student safety in a learning environment with the least amount of disruption. To this end, we have explored the possibility of modular classrooms, partitioning the gymnasium, relocating our grade four through grade eight students to other PJPIICA campuses, as well as to other suitable locations.

As a result of the expeditious assistance and generosity of the Administration of Fontbonne Academy, a partner of ours in Catholic education, and the support and management expertise of our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary Grassa O'Neill, we have decided to utilize the former

Aquinas Junior College building (303 Adams Street, Milton) on the campus of Fontbonne Academy to house our fourth through eighth grade classrooms for a four month period until the construction is completed at the Neponset Campus. This option meets all of the academic, spiritual, emotional, social, and physical needs of our fourth through eighth grade students, and is located only 3 miles from our Neponset campus. We believe our students will flourish in this environment.

While we occupy the Neponset “Annex” there are many logistics that we have already put in place:

- Sr. Gail Donahue, CSJ, the PJPIICA Director of Guidance and former principal of St. Ann’s and St. Angela’s, will move from the Regional Office to the Annex so that she can assist the principal, the faculty, the students, and you with the day-to-day operation of this campus Annex.
- Rita Tangney, the Regional Operational Assistant, will move to the Annex to support the daily running of the office and Lynne McAteer, who will remain at the Main campus.
- Parents will be free to drop off and pick up their children from the Neponset Annex if that is more convenient, but the Academy will provide free bus transportation for all 4th through 8th graders between the two sites. The buses will leave Neponset daily at 7:40am and return to the campus at 2:25pm. All buses will have teacher supervision.
- Our classrooms at the “Neponset Annex” will be in an otherwise unoccupied building, which means that our students will have no interaction with Fontbonne students.
- There will be no disruption to the curriculum, the specialists, the spiritual activities, or the lunch program.
- All paperwork procedures, as outlined in the August mailing, remain the same for the Annex. Paperwork, including lunch forms and tuition, should be sent in with your child to be delivered to the homeroom teacher.
- The Annex WILL NOT hold any afterschool or extended day activities. ALL activities and extended day will remain on the Main campus in the approved areas.

To aid in sharing information, we will be hosting a Parent Meeting on Wednesday, August 31 at 6:30pm in the St. Ann Church Hall to explain further and to answer any questions you may have.

We will also be hosting an Open House at the Neponset Annex on Thursday, September 8 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm, so you can see how truly wonderful this temporary option will be.

We have been blessed with a wonderful school community, as well as by generous donors who have invested in our future. We thank you for your understanding, flexibility and support during this period of the school’s growth – and look forward to a great 2011/12 academic year!

In Christ’s Peace,

Ms. Kate Brandley
Principal

Mr. Russ W. Wilson
Regional Director