

March 4, 2022

Dear Parent/s:

With the onset of springlike weather that pops in among the cold and dreary winter days, the sharp decline of COVID cases in our school, and the Lenten Season starting that leads up to Easter, it would seem that the ultra-crazy, super-busy days that made up the start of this school year and intensified in January and February have begun to be replaced with new blossoms, more smiles, and a hint of a pivot back to the everyday, more “normal” busy days we all long to see again.

However - spring has not sprung for this principal just yet...

Back in the beginning of January, I was officially diagnosed with breast cancer. I am grateful and feel very blessed that the tumor was caught while still small, the two outpatient surgeries I've had have removed all visible traces of cancer from the tissue, there was no spread into my lymph nodes, I am not genetically predisposed to this type of cancer, and I will not need to endure chemotherapy. Bottom line: looks like I will still be given the task to be principal at St. Ferdinand School for the foreseeable future.

I have, however, just begun radiation treatments, which will last all of this month. There will not be any visible change in my appearance, but I just wanted you to be aware if I am not as available to meet with you, due to my session times necessitating that I leave school by 3:05 everyday. I hope to make it back for Friday Fish Fries and our Queen of Hearts Raffle, but we shall see if the effects of the treatments (extreme tiredness, pain at the site of radiation) prevent that from happening, or cause me to work from home a day or two as the month goes on.

If I ever cross your mind, please keep me in your prayers for continued strength through this important step in my care. Know that I have prayers of gratitude each day for my role as leader of St. Ferdinand School, as well as for the love and laughter that I experience each day from my interactions with your children, the teachers and staff, and with many of you - which focus my mind on all God has blessed me with in my professional life..

In God's grace,
Principal Erin Boyle Folino :)