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December 16, 2020
Year of St. Joseph

Dear Catholic School Families,

Recently, ADAAP Director Christine Cavallucci sent you a letter sharing how important it is to take care of ourselves on a social and emotional level. As we live our daily lives so focused on our physical well-being and many of us find ourselves experiencing "COVID fatigue," it is crucial to approach the holidays making our *mental health* a priority as well.

As a child, few things were as exciting as a snow day. Just like you, I have memories of spending time with siblings and friends, playing in the snow, shoveling the neighbor's walkway or making snow angels.

In a world where our school communities are burdened by all things COVID, tomorrow provides us all an opportunity to spend family time together. It may mean decorating for Christmas, putting up the manger, cooking your favorite soup, making snow angels or just staying indoors to talk and watch the snowfall.

Our teachers, staff, and students' health and safety are always the first thought that crosses our mind. All weather forecasts are now saying it will not be safe to travel Thursday morning.

To that end, I am very pleased to announce the Archdiocese will have a "traditional snow day" tomorrow, Thursday, December 17. There will be no online instruction, and all schools will be closed.

With many school districts going remote, essential services that they provide, things like transportation, nursing, etc., won't be provided to our students. Of course, please continue to take all safety precautions, and remember COVID does not take a snow day!

As we soon celebrate the "birth of Christ," may the joy of Christmas be yours this season, and may you remember that joy when you held your child for the first time!

Merry Christmas!

Mr. Michael J. Deegan
Superintendent of Schools
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