

Dear Parents,

This year's Safe Environment training provided by the Diocese of Bridgeport will continue in all of our schools using the *Think First & Stay Safe program*. The training will take place in our school during the month of **APRIL, 2016**.

Safe Environment training teaches students important safety skills to help children recognize and safely respond to early warning signs of unsafe situations in their environment. The *Think First* program is delivered by a trained counselor in age appropriate groups as we have done with great success for the last 12 years. If you have any questions about the program please call Erin Neil (203) 416-1406. For more information you may also go to www.childluresprevention.com and www.bridgeportdiocese.com under Safe Environments.

A parent preview session will be held on **September 29, 2015 from 6:00-7:30pm at the Catholic Center located at 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport CT**. Parents will view a video and have a chance to review sample lesson plans. The presenter of the Children's Safe Environment program, Nicole DiMartino Wichowski, L.C.S.W., will be available to answer questions about discussing personal safety with children in an age appropriate and non-threatening manner. Please call or email Nicole DiMartino Wichowski if you are planning to attend to ensure she has enough materials for you. Please leave a message with your name and phone number at 203-305-2881 or reserve a spot by email at nicole.m.dimartino@gmail.com.

In the Diocese of Bridgeport we recognize parents as the primary educators of their children. It is important to know that classroom sessions are intended to assist you as parents by reinforcing and strengthening the safety information that you are teaching your child at home. Prior to the program, we ask that you review the safety information from your parent guide with your child. If you are new to the school this year the parent guide will be sent home to you in the next few weeks. If you did not receive a guide in the past, please contact the school office. **Personal safety training for children is most effective when it is taught and reinforced over time and your participation in this effort is critical.**

If for any reason you **do not** wish for your child to participate in Safe Environment training during the school year we must receive the opt-out form below signed by you no later than **September 20th**. If we do not receive this form by this date your child will be permitted to attend.

Thank you for all of your assistance on this important safety initiative.

Principal

OPT-OUT FORM

Please sign and return this form to your School Principal
ONLY if you **DO NOT** want your child to participate

I was provided with the opportunity to preview the Safe Environment Program for Parents and Children and I received the *Think First & Stay Safe Parent Guide* so that I may teach this information to my child at home and I agree to do so. I **do not** wish for my child to attend Safe Environment training at this time.

Name of School: _____ Town: _____

Name(s) of Children and Age: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian (Please Print) _____ Signature: _____

Comments/Questions: _____

