



Elizabeth Seton High School

May 2015

Dear Parents,

We wanted to take a moment to make you aware that Carly Nguyen is receiving treatment for leukemia, a childhood cancer and will be out of school for the remainder of this school year.

Students often worry when a friend looks different and they can benefit from basic information and a chance to ask questions. I will be speaking to junior religion classes this week about Carly. You are welcome to opt your child out of this discussion. This program is meant to dispel myths and calm fears in a developmentally appropriate way. We will share the following information and ways to be helpful:

- Cancer is not contagious
- A teenager does not do anything that causes the cancer
- Childhood cancer is very rare
- It is the treatment (chemotherapy) that makes the child look different not the disease
- Chemotherapy is very good at destroying the cancer cells but it also kills some healthy cells, causing the side effects we see or hear about
- Side effects of the chemotherapy include hair loss, fatigue, and low resistance to infection
- Wash hands often to prevent sharing germs
- Offer a visit when the friend is feeling well
- Help keep the absent student up to date on the happenings at school with letters or phone calls

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that when Carly returns to school, please do not send your child to school if she has a fever or any kind of communicable illnesses such as chicken pox. This could be harmful to all students, but particularly so for people with cancer as they are more susceptible to infection as a result of treatment.

Above all, we ask you to keep Carly and her family in prayer as there are so many emotions and uncertainties that cause them anxiety and stress.

Please feel free to contact me should you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mary Clare Roeder