



Guardian Angels Church & School
217 West 2nd Street
Chaska, MN 55318

Dear Guardian Angels Parents:

We have much to report since yesterday's tragedy – and more will be forthcoming. First of all, I cannot say enough ***Thank You*** to the terrific Guardian Angels community – from the Pastor, to the faculty and staff, to the parents and the students. Here is something I wrote last night for Father Paul to use as he saw fit, so I am sending it to you.

Prayer to Guardian Angel

“Angel sent by God to guide me, be my light and walk beside me; be my guardian and protect me; on the path of life direct me.”

The Guardian Angels had their work cut out for them on Thursday, Feast of St. Valentine, and they followed through for us! Around 2:00p.m., which by now most of you know, an overhead heating radiator fell from the ceiling in a kindergarten classroom. 3 children and 2 teachers were injured, and the rest of us were upset and frightened in the cycle of the disaster. Two of the children stayed for their valentine party and thankfully were not badly injured. The two kindergarten teachers were checked out after school and released. One student was transported by ambulance, has a broken femur and is currently in surgery.

I have to share with you the details of the angels in our midst, here at Guardian Angels. Michelle Miller and Beth Ward, the kindergarten teachers, hurt themselves, and kept their distress to themselves – took care of students, moved students, no one was traumatized, and finished the day with a party, all the while praying for their students. Cindy Lynch, Amy Meger, preschool staff – no students, prepping in their classroom – took hold of the situation, called 911, ministered to the injured child as calmly as if it were a skinned knee! Then they went to help with kindergarten activities, and kept everyone calm. Our crisis training came into play, so key player, Mrs. Goers, Mrs. Gallus, Mrs. Schliesman, Mrs. Rothstein, Mrs. Girard took over other duties that needed attention. Mr. Crowell and Mr. Geyen helped to secure the room, contact the appropriate experts to deal with the situation. Mr. Crowell, Father Paul and I met to create the press release and handle the media. Father Paul led us in prayer as we gathered the school community. All of the staff was on board, calm and in control during a very difficult time. Then long after the day ended, Ms. Hritz, many parents and friends came to help move the kindergarten to St. Francis Hall. It brought me to tears as they set up the room for use today: Ron Rusli, Ron Fuchs, Janice Dahl, Katie Tierney, Judy Sonka, Mark Sanda, Colleen and Eric Crowell, Emily Klinker, Pete Ronhovde, Jeff Geyen, Mike Elftmann. You were angels to us.

Why do I tell you all these details? Because this is what our Catholic School is all about – a truly dedicated, caring, prayerful community to minister to your children. We ask for your

continued prayers, especially for our kindergartner, and we hope you join us in thanking God for the blessing of having a faith filled leader in Father Paul and a staff and community that simply cannot be topped.

Sincerely,
Nancy Ronhovde, Principal

Now I will report on today: Kindergarten was held in St. Francis Hall, and it was a super day for all. It meant a great deal to staff that all of the kindergarteners were here today, except Ethan. Thank you parents for your faith and support of us. Structural engineers have begun their investigation and will be giving us the results of their data collection. Owens worked last night to repair enough for us to have heat in school today. Preschool was cancelled today, but will resume on Tuesday over in St. Francis Hall. We will also be relocating the Nurse's office, Mrs. Scott's office and classroom and Mr. Epperly's Health room. I am now off to a meeting to continue planning for our future. Please continue to keep our community in your prayers.