

St. Simon Parish School

Educating Children to Know, Love and Serve God and His World

September 3, 2010

Dear Parent of a Fourth Grader:

Several times during this year your child will be participating in a Friendship Class activity called, "Secret Buddies." Each time we do this activity your child will have the name of one person in the class toward whom s/he will act especially friendly, kind, and helpful during the following week at school. The name of this buddy should be shared only with you so that it remains "secret." At the next week's class the students will reveal the names of their buddies to each other. To maintain secrecy students are taught to act friendly toward everyone and to say something like, "Maybe, maybe not," if they are directly asked whether a certain student is their buddy.

I introduced this activity to the students today and they received their buddies' names. During class we reviewed ways that students can reach out to their buddies during the school day. This ranges from a smile and hello to playing the game their buddy likes to play. This is an "in school" activity only and should not include playdates, emails, or telephone conversations. Please ask your child each day how things are going and discuss ways that s/he can act friendly, if your child is feeling unsure. It's very disappointing to their buddy when a child forgets or chooses not to do something special. I am attaching to this email a list of friendly behaviors that students are keeping in their friendship class folders at school.

The intent of this activity is to motivate friendly behaviors in your child, as well as in all Gr. 4 students. If your child's friendliness is not reciprocated, please stress that your child can still feel good about his/her own behavior. The unfriendliness on the part of the other student, intended or otherwise, is the other child's issue, not your child's.

Nearly all of the students like this activity and gain a lot from it. I appreciate your support in making sure that your child actively participates. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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