

Dear Parents/Guardians,

During the coming weeks St. Mary School will be participating in the Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Project. Students will be participating in the Maintenance Phase of CAP workshops for the Diocese of Camden (Nov. 17/18). Those students in the Kindergarten, 4th and 7th grades directly participate each year. **As adults who love and care for children and who are concerned about their safety, we hope you will join with us in participating in this program.**

The CAP Project aims to prevent child assault by teaching children to recognize and deal with potentially dangerous situations, and by training teachers and parents to help prevent victimization of children. The program has three components: a teacher/staff in-service, a parent program, and individual classroom workshops for children in kindergarten, fourth and seventh grade.

The parent program will be held on Tuesday, November 15^t starting at 7 PM. This program includes information on child sexual assault, identification of child assault victims, positive ways to protect your child without creating fear, reporting of abuse, and communication skills to help children in crisis. There will be a detailed description of the children's workshops. Extensive informational materials will be distributed. I encourage all parents and guardians of students at St. Mary School to come, and it is not a prerequisite to have a child in those grades mentioned above to attend the CAP Parent Workshop.

The classroom workshop combines guided group discussion with a series of role plays focusing on situations children frequently encounter: a bullying problem, a stranger assault, and an assault involving an adult the child knows. Information and strategies for personal safety are conveyed in a non-threatening and positive way. The strategies include self-assertion, peer support, and telling a trusted adult.

The success of the CAP project depends on the support of the entire school community. The children are encouraged to share their experiences and concerns with trusted adults, so it is vitally important that parents and school staff be willing and able to respond to these concerns. As part of our community we hope you will be able to attend the CAP parent program

Sincerely,
Mr. Steven P. Hogan
Principal

PLEASE KEEP THE ABOVE LETTER AS A REMINDER

Please return this slip to your child's teacher **ONLY if you DO NOT** want your child to participate in the CAP Program.

I DO NOT want my child _____, to participate in Child Assault Prevention workshop.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date