



## June 9, 2005 - Statement Concerning the Closure of Our Lady of Presentation School

The Archdiocese of Boston announced this evening that it has decided to close Our Lady of Presentation School two days sooner than planned based on information it had received that a group of individuals were planning to conduct an unauthorized use of the school later this week. All should be advised that effective today, Wednesday June 8, 2005 at the close of the school day, Our Lady of Presentation School's grace period of a one-year extension before closure has ended.

Bishop Richard Lennon, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, said, "We simply could not permit the school year to continue based on information we had received about the planned actions of a small group intent on stopping the Archdiocese from moving forward with its present plans for Our Lady of Presentation School. The decision to close the school is regrettable, but a necessary action in order that we are able to insure that our students and staff are safe. It is not the intent of the Archdiocese to allow our students and staff to be caught in the middle of any issue. We sincerely apologize to the families who will be impacted by this decision, and we pray that they will understand our justification was simply to preserve the safety of the entire school community."

Bishop Lennon also announced that the Archbishop, in conjunction with today's action, has made the decision to revisit the future use of the building.

Earlier this evening, school officials began calling parents to notify them about the decision.

Arrangements have been made at St. Columbkille School, 25 Arlington St., Brighton, to provide coverage for any parent who may need child placement tomorrow (June 9) and Friday (June 10). Parents are being instructed to report to the St. Columbkille School's main office and the principal will direct the children to the appropriate classrooms. Individuals are asked to use the Arlington Street door. St. Columbkille School hours are 8am-2pm. Friday dismissal is at 12:45pm. After school care will also be available at St. Columbkille School on Thursday, June 9 until 5:30pm only.

All items relative to the closure of a school year, such as academic awards and Report Cards, as well as any personal items that may have been left in the school will be forwarded by school officials to the proper individuals in as timely a fashion as possible.

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