



January 27, 2021

Dear Parents,

As the cold temperatures of January are compounded by the many limitations on gathering indoors, we are called to embrace winter, especially for the wellness of our beloved young people. With social distancing in place and many events and athletics on pause, it is so important for all of us to stay active and stay connected.

A recent [New York Times article](#) highlighted the “positive wintertime mind-set” of Norwegians in some of the most remote, sunlight-limited locations. They embrace the opportunity winter provides to get outside, see others, and participate in activities.

We at Marist are going to mimic the Scandinavians and welcome winter by providing a positive and fun outlet in the form of three outdoor ice rinks right on our campus. Over the past month, the existing tennis courts have been transformed into skating rinks. Our plan is to have the rinks open on school days from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning February 1. Students can skate before or after school. Additionally, we will sponsor evening events for groups, including opening our rinks with our senior winter fest planned for Friday, January 29.

It is our hope that this will be one outlet for our students to stay physically active and spend safe, quality time with friends outside of the school day. Their wellness is our top priority as we continue to journey through this challenging time.

Details about the rink are available on our website and further communication about evening events will be sent directly to the groups involved.

We cannot wait to see our students out on the ice. Please pray for their continued wellness and resilience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn M. Baal', written in a cursive style.

Kathryn M. Baal, Ph.D.
Principal