



# "The **OL** Beat"

Special Weather Edition  
(January 18, 2012)

The following is our "Weather Conditions" policy. It can also be found on page 29 of our "Student and Parent" handbook and on our website at:

[http://www.ourladyofbethlehem.org/for\\_parents.shtml](http://www.ourladyofbethlehem.org/for_parents.shtml)

## **CLOSINGS / DELAYS:**

OLB may be closed or delayed due to inclement weather such as snowstorms, ice storms, excessive cold and wind chill factors, facility issues, etc. A closing or delay will be announced on local area television and radio stations and will be listed as "Our Lady of Bethlehem" (separate from "Columbus Catholic Schools). Parents may also receive an email and Twitter notification about the closure. Every attempt is made to ensure closings are announced as early as possible.

Many factors are taken into consideration when making the decision to close, including driving conditions, temperatures, the age of our students, staffing, our driveway and parking lot conditions, etc. We are also sensitive to the fact that many of our families have two working parents and most companies remain open even in adverse conditions.

Our snow removal company has been contracted to plow and salt the parking lot, driveway and sidewalks by 7:30 am. If you feel your vehicle might not be able to ascend the OLB driveway, the Olentangy Terrace apartment driveway (due north of ours) is an option. It is much less steep and the childcare entrance is near that lot. OLB has no jurisdiction over plowing and salting conditions in the apartment lot.

Due to the nature of morning/afternoon classes and half-day Kindergarten, it would be unlikely we would have a delay. Because of childcare and the fact that morning and afternoon classes are between 2-3 hours long, we will make every attempt to stay open once we are in session and not to close early.

**PARENTS ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT TO KEEP YOUR CHILD OUT OF SCHOOL AND/OR CHILDCARE OR TO COME AND PICK HIM/HER UP DURING THE REGULAR DAY DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS.**



## **OUTDOOR PLAY / ACTIVITIES:**

We realize the importance and benefits of outdoor play and exercise for young and school-aged children; therefore, it is OLB's policy to have outdoor recess on a daily basis whenever weather conditions permit. When extreme cold is involved, we adhere to the following practices:

When the temperature (taking wind chill into account) is at 32 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, Totally Terrific Two's, Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten and childcare students will remain indoors for recess or extended planned activities. These students may, however, take a brief walk or play outdoors for a 5-10 minute period (if the temperature or wind chill is higher than 20 degrees but 32 degrees or less) if students are dressed in appropriate winter attire. Kindergarten and latchkey students will remain indoors for recess or extended planned activities when the temperature or wind chill is at 20 degrees Fahrenheit or lower. During afternoon childcare/latchkey ONLY, all students will remain indoors unless the temperature is at 32 degrees or higher, including the wind chill.

In any kind of cold conditions where students are outdoors for recess or activities, they will have the opportunity to keep moving and avoid remaining idle.

## **CLOTHING / DRESS:**

**Students should be dressed in clothing that is weather appropriate. Multiple layers of clothes, clothes that cover extremities or sensitive areas such as hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, tights, etc., are encouraged. Boots may also be worn, but families should provide shoes for a student to wear while inside the building.**

Kindergarten students participate in the daily raising and lowering of the US and OLB flags. All students participate in monthly fire, evacuation and other safety drills that require us to go outside, no matter what the weather. So, appropriate dress, including footwear, is necessary. Kindergarten students are still expected to dress in uniform clothing.

## **MISC:**

Staff members are trained and well-versed in first aid and health issues and will observe students and watch for signs of distress, hypothermia, frostbite and other cold-related conditions. Staff will be cognizant of possible cold-induced complications for students with asthma. Staff will administer any necessary first aid and will follow emergency procedures when necessary.

All students will remain indoors or will be brought indoors during thunder, lightning, excessive rain, hail, etc. Students will also remain or be brought indoors during a tornado or other severe weather warning.

OLB continually consults with the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Health and other agencies and professionals to keep abreast of the most current health, safety and weather-related information.

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