



INCARNATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL
2013 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



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August 18, 2017

Dear Incarnation Parents,

On August 21, 2017 the moon will pass between the earth and the sun for the first coast-to-coast total solar eclipse since 1918. Millions of Americans in twelve states will be able to watch this solar spectacle that will turn day into night for a couple of minutes. Our students will be in school during this event and our educators will take full, yet safe, advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime happening to make it a tremendous learning experience for our students.

Incarnation School's number one priority is the health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff. There are definite hazards associated with exposure to harmful rays during an eclipse. NASA has said that the only safe way to look directly at the partially eclipsed sun is through special solar filters, such as eclipse glasses. Yet, several well respected ophthalmologists have cautioned against these glasses, stating they are not sized for children's faces.

An individual's eyes can be damaged if exposed to the eclipse with ill-fitting protective eyewear. The damage will not be immediately apparent to the individual and there is no therapy to reverse the damage. The level of damage is directly related to the amount of exposure. Eyes are precious, and there is a strong concern with regards to the overall safety of our students.

The school will be having lunch-recess indoors on Monday, August 21. The teachers are planning lessons about the eclipse and will also be streaming the eclipse in their classrooms, the only guaranteed safe viewing practice. Additionally, Monday will be a Crazy Hat Day in celebration of the eclipse! The student with the best Eclipse Hat in each grade level will be invited to attend the first Pizza with the Principal lunch! The hats will also provide protection during dismissal, while being a reminder to not look up at the eclipse.

As always, we recognize that parents and guardians are fully responsible for their children. If you would like your child to have a different opportunity, please feel free to watch the eclipse with your child outside of school.

Thank you for your support on this matter; we want to promote the magnitude of this event while trying to guarantee the safety of all our students.

Blessings –

Leah Coghlan

Leah Coghlan
Assistant Principal

...following in the footsteps of Jesus.