



KATHLEEN A. LAINEY
Principal

Dear Parents,

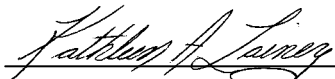
This year Safe Environment training will continue in all of our schools using the *Think First & Stay Safe* program, which will be presented to St. James students on November 12th. Safe Environment training teaches students important safety skills to help children recognize and safely respond to early warning signs of unsafe situations in their environment. The *Think First* program is delivered by a trained counselor from Catholic Family Services in age appropriate groups as we have done with great success for the last 3 years. If you have any questions about the program or if you would like to preview the program in advance of the classroom instruction please call Erin Neil (203) 416-1406. For more information you may also go to www.childlures.com and www.bridgeportdiocese.com under Safe Environments.

In the Diocese of Bridgeport we recognize parents as the primary educators of their children. It is important to know that classroom sessions are intended to assist you as parents by reinforcing and strengthening the safety information that you are teaching your child at home. Prior to the program, we ask that you review the safety information from your parent guide with your child. If you are new to the school this year the parent guide will be sent home to you in the next few weeks. If you did not receive a guide in the past, please contact the school office.

Personal safety training for children is most effective when it is taught and reinforced over time and your participation in this effort is critical.

If for any reason you *DO NOT* wish for your child to participate in Safe Environment training during the 2007/2008 school year we must receive the opt-out form below signed by you no later than **11/1/07**. If we do not receive this form by this date your child will be permitted to attend.

Thank you for all of your assistance on this important safety initiative.


Kathleen A. Lainey, Principal

OPT-OUT FORM

**Please sign and return this form to your School Principal
ONLY if you DO NOT want your child to participate**

I was provided with the opportunity to preview the Safe Environment Program for Parents and Children and I received the *Think First & Stay Safe Parent Guide*, so that I may teach this information to my child at home and I agree to do so. I **do not** wish for my child to attend Safe Environment training at this time.

Name of School: ST. JAMES SCHOOL, STRATFORD, CT

Name(s) of Children and Age: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian (Please Print) _____ Signature: _____

Comments/Questions _____ (cont. on other side...)

*****A copy of your opt-out form must be sent to the school. The original form must be submitted to: The Diocese of Bridgeport Office of Safe Environments: 238 Jewett Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06606 by November 1, 2007 or your may fax it to Safe Environments: (203) 371-8698.**