



## ST. EDMUND'S ACADEMY

WILLIAM L. KINDLER, PH.D · HEAD OF SCHOOL

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### KEEPING IN TOUCH

September 18, 2009

Dear Parents,

***St. Edmund's Academy will close Thursday and Friday, September 24 and 25, due to safety and security concerns surrounding the G-20 Summit.***

In recent weeks, I have kept you current on the status of our operations during the G-20 Summit. I made the closing decision early this morning having personally received, on three occasions yesterday, quite disturbing information from very reliable security sources. Not only is there the potential of protest actions in Oakland and Shady Side, but now an ever-increasing likelihood of a targeted spillover into Squirrel Hill, which if this happens, can only compound travel and safety issues for our St. Edmund's Academy families, faculty, and staff. Equally contributing to the decision were specific remarks made surrounding the very aggressive, decisive, and immediate responses to illegal activities that will be activated by authorities. Such actions, if used, could place St. Edmund's Academy and all within our school in a location that could be detrimental to our normal operations, including access to and departure from the campus. I was asked several questions; "If this happened would you be able to....." etc. For obvious reasons, in an open communication, I am not permitted to repeat the specifics of the information provided to me. I can only say I listened intently and with a sobering demeanor.

Quite simply, we are a small elementary school, not a business, and the safety and welfare of our students and our 55 employees are the most important considerations under the circumstances presented and beyond our control. There are several opportunities throughout the year to make up the two days, and where appropriate, teachers will provide learning activities that students can do during the two days away from SEA.

I sincerely apologize to those who are inconvenienced by the decision and/or feel that this is a wrong decision. I have said many times throughout my career, I can better accept the error of caution for those we serve than take the risk of action which may never happen.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

William Kindler

WLK:sf  
12:15 p.m.