Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our school is participating in a community fundraising program, Bucks for Bears, benefiting Catherine Cares, a local nonprofit. Catherine Cares provides restaurant and fuel gift cards, as well as other tangible items to families of children who receive a devastating diagnosis. Catherine Cares partners with the four largest St. Louis hospitals- Mercy, Cardinal Glennon, St. Louis Children’s, and Missouri Baptist. Catherine Cares provide services to their hospital partners, and the hospitals distribute the items when working with families.

Catherine Cares was started by Wayne and Lauren Turley in December 2014, when Lauren was 31 weeks pregnant with the couple’s second daughter, Catherine Marie. Catherine received a prenatal diagnosis of Trisomy-18. Due to the numerous health complications, the Turleys knew they would not have much time with their daughter. Catherine was born on December 30, 2014, and lived for an hour. Catherine Cares is her legacy.

Catherine Cares is adding a new service as another way to uplift families. With the help of Build-A-Bear Workshop, Catherine Cares has designed a Heartbeat Bear which comes with a recording device. When a baby receives a life threatening prenatal diagnosis, the hospital staff will be able to record the baby’s heartbeat during an ultrasound. The recording device will be placed inside a bear and presented to the family.

Catherine Cares has also designed a leadership and fundraising program for our students called Bucks for Bears. Student leaders have developed one or more fundraising events within our building in support of Bucks for Bears. Details on our fundraising events are below.

We also have an opportunity to earn grant money for our ***enter student leadership group/club name*** by showcasing our caring H.E.A.R.T.s (Healing, Empathy, Action, Raising Awareness, and Teamwork). Our student leaders will be working on their grant submission after fundraising is complete. If our school is chosen, our student leaders will have an opportunity to deliver a round of bears to one of Catherine Cares’ hospital partners.

Please visit **catherinecares.org** and click on the **Services tab** to view a brief video called *“Bucks for Bears: Parent Video”* which describes in more detail the mission of Catherine Cares and the Bucks for Bears initiative. Our students will view the *“Bucks for Bears: Student Video”* as a kick off to our fundraising event. We invite you to view this brief video as well.

If you have any questions, please contact: ***enter Bucks for Bears Contact Name***

Thank you for your time,