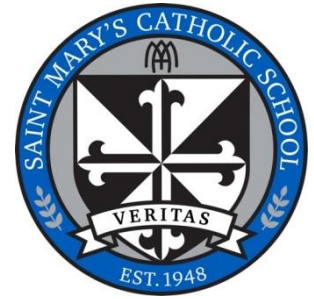




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!

SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 17
January 10, 2018



MISSION To provide a Catholic education that nurtures students' hearts and minds to become servant leaders in an ever changing world.

Front Office Corner

Office hours 7:30am-3:30pm and by appointment.

School Mass every Wednesday at 8:30am (or Fridays for the First Friday of each month)

Jan 11: Chess Club

Jan 12: Karate Club; textbook loan docs due

Jan 15: No HW Room; Last day of Quarter; NO SCHOOL

Jan 16: Knights Basketball Free Throw (during school gr 4-8)

Jan 17: All School Mass; Arise Youth Ministry



On behalf of teachers and staff, we hope you had a very Blessed and Merry Christmas. Many thanks to all for the thoughtfulness and generosity for the teacher and staff gifts received. We are so grateful to be part of such a wonderful community!

We are happy to be back in school after a wonderful and restful Christmas Season. Last week's feast of the Epiphany gave us many ideas of how to share our own gifts with Jesus. It is more than the physical gifts that the Magi brought; rather, our gifts take the form of serving others, helping the poor, and continuing to renew our own spiritual relationship with the Lord. Even though we each might be one person, together we can make a big difference in the lives of others. The mitten tree was a great success. We collected gloves, hats, scarves, and coats to keep both children and adults warm during the winter season. Thanks to the Braxton family for delivering the donations to the Stephen Center.

Patricia Wallinger

Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal

Cold Weather Dress. With the colder weather, students are waiting inside once they are dropped off. We would like to remind parents and others who drop off that the teachers on duty are available to help with exiting vehicles and directing students to the gym or playground from 7:35am until 7:50am. As a courtesy, we were assisting students beyond 7:50am during nice weather. Because of the frigid temperatures, the teachers and staff will no longer be outside after 7:50 am. If you arrive after that time, you may park in the loading zone and walk your child to the main entrance of the school to be admitted.

Textbook loan documents. Two-sided letters went home requesting parents to sign indicating that they would like to borrow textbooks from Bellevue Public Schools for next year. Without this signed permission form, families would have to purchase their students textbooks. Textbook purchasing is based on current projections so one form is needed for each student. These are statutory forms and all lines must be filled in by parents. Please review, sign both sides and return soonest. For questions, please call the principal at 291-1694.

Saturday School Update for 8th Graders. For second semester, there will be no more Saturday School opportunities for 8th graders as they begin their transition from middle school to high school.

Awards Assembly on Jan 19th at 2:45pm in the gym for grades 4-8. At this assembly honor roll certificates will be awarded along with other middle school awards. We will also recognize our 1st semester Spirit of Mary recipients.

Sacraments - 2nd grade First Reconciliation - January 20, 2018 - 10:30 a.m. If your child is preparing for Reconciliation, this is a reminder that you should be working on your home preparation materials. If you have questions regarding the home packets, please contact the RE office.

First Communion Parent/Child workshop is Wednesday, January 31st from 5:30-7:15 p.m. in the parish center. Your child does not prepare for Sacraments by themselves; the family is also preparing to share in this gift of Communion. We have developed activities for the family to work on together to help prepare your child to receive Communion for the first time. Parents will also receive vital information regarding First Communion. A light snack will be offered during the meeting.

Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Information Night. We are seeking current PK/K school families to attend and mingle with prospective families. We are also looking for school families to help spread the word. If you can help with either, please email the office for details.

Invite - Pre-K and Kindergarten Info Night. Tuesday, January 23, 2018 from 6:30 – 7:30 P.M. (Snow Date: Tuesday, January 30th) in the St. Mary's School Gym. Free Childcare will be provided for your children. To RSVP, please call the office and let us know the number of children, their ages, and adults attending by noon, Friday, January 19th.

Catholic High School Entrance Exam. The entrance exam for eighth graders desiring to attend Catholic High School is scheduled for Sat., Jan. 13, 2018. Students should contact their prospective Catholic High School because start times vary and you need to register in most cases.

Graduation Picture Day at St. Mary's. Picture Day is Thursday, January 18th at 8am. Students will wear "Sunday Best" that day (they will not change into uniform after pictures). Miss Sheridan will communicate dress guidelines.

Missionary Discipleship 101. We hope to see many people from St. Mary's attending this incredible event organized by the Archdiocese of Omaha Office of Evangelization and Catechesis.

What: Become a missionary right where you're at! An opportunity for personal spiritual growth as well as fantastic tools for serving in your ministry!

When: Saturday, January 27, 2018. 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM.

Where: St. James, 4720 N 90th Street, Omaha

Cost: FREE to you.

St. Mary's believes this will be a valuable event for you and for the St. Mary's Community. Thus, we would like to cover the \$13 registration fee for you. See flyer for more details.

Winter Giving Tree. Thanks for all who donated for this worthy project. Volunteers delivered 8 large bags of coats, mittens, boots, etc.

2017-2018 Yearbook. Get yours early to miss the rush at \$20....price will be \$22 after Jan 31, 2018. See attached form.

Letter from one of the original sisters who started St. Mary's School 70 years ago...

Dear St. Mary's Students,
Thank you for your wonderful surprise package. I appreciated your special made Christmas cards, kinds words and prayers. I am impressed with your art and proud to see the neat work at continues with wonderful St. Mary's students. Keep up your good work. God bless you for all you do in such loving ways. May 2018 be a special happy year for you. Peace, love and prayers.

-Sr. Joan Miriam



Jr High Youth Ministry. St. Mary's Junior High Youth Group (7th & 8th grades) is **Wednesday, January 17th at 5:30-6:30pm (St. Mary's Gym)**. *All 7th & 8th grade students are asked to attend at least 2 of our Wednesday night gatherings this semester to fulfill their Confirmation requirements. Questions, contact Will Targy (will.targy@stmarysbellevue.com) or [402.659.8981](tel:402.659.8981).

Come out & support Spartan basketball
Boy teams



2nd - Sat 1/13 @ 1:00 at Home, Sun 1/14 @ 2:00 at Holy Ghost
 3rd - Sat 1/13 @ 4:30 at Home
 4th - Friday 1/12 @ 7:00 at St. Bridget's, Sat 1/13 @ 12:15 at St. Gerald's, Monday 1/15 @ 7:00 at St. Bridget's
 5/6th - Sat 1/13 @ 12:15 at St. Peter & Paul, Tues 1/16 @ 7:00 at Lied Center 2
 7th - Sat 1/13 @ 2:15 at Home, Sun 1/14 @ 12:00 at St. Peter & Paul
 8th - Sun 1/14 @ 2:10 at Holy Name

Girl teams

2nd Pink - Sat 1/13 @ 10:00 at Home, Sun 1/14 @ 1:05 at St. Bernadette
 2nd White - Sat 1/13 @ 9:00 at Home, Sun 1/14 @ 5:05 at Home
 6/7th - Sat 1/13 @ 5:30 at Home
 4/5th - Sat 1/13 @ 3:30 at Home
 8th - Monday 1/15 @ 8:00 at St. Matthews

When Is My Child Too Sick For School? From the school nurse: Proper care in the early stages of an illness can decrease recovery time for the ill child and the possibility of spreading the illness to others. Proper diet, adequate rest, and frequent hand washing can assist the body's ability to fight infection. There may be some students attending school who have difficulty fighting infection. We ask that you assist us by notifying school of your child's illnesses and consulting the following guidelines to decide when your child should stay home from school.

Irritability, poor appetite, tiredness, achiness are vague symptoms. Changes in a child's normal behavior can often signal the beginning of an illness (see flyer for more info).

Fever of 100 degrees or higher. Take your child's temperature if he/she is complaining of feeling tired, headache, sore throat or stomach ache. A child should be fever-free for 24 hours WITHOUT the use of fever-reducing medication (Tylenol, Advil, etc.) before returning to school. *See handout with the eNewsletter.*



Boxtops. Thanks to all who hand in boxtops. St. Mary's received a check this week for \$1,239 from 8 months worth of collecting. These funds have been earmarked for an Bully Prevention Assembly that the school is organizing. If everyone does a little, we can accomplish a lot. See eNewsletter for collection sheets...for every 3 you hand in, students earn a prize.

Karate Club. The St. Mary's Karate club has openings for a few more students in the coming semester. The club meets on Monday's and Friday's after school till 4:45pm. Additionally, we practice at the Shin Ryu Kan dojo one Saturday a month. The cost is \$80 for the semester. If interested, please contact Andy Metzger at 292-8899/ metzgerfj@aol.com.

Help the Bellevue Food Pantry – Brown Bags. If you have brown bags, the Bellevue Food Pantry is in need of brown bags to help the community. Bags can be brought to the office.

Men of St. Mary's . . . God is calling YOU! Are you listening? Do you have a question about the Catholic faith? Do you desire to strike up a few, new friendships? Do you enjoy hot, freshly prepared breakfasts? *Welcome to That Man Is You!* We will be starting our 2nd Semester of TMIY on Friday, January 19th in the Parish Center. For more information contact: Deacon Ted Menzel @ [402-292-2076](tel:402-292-2076) or tcmenzel5@gmail.com

RE-TREAT YOURSELF. Come and join us, February 10, 2018, 9am – 3pm at the St Mary's Parish Center. Come join the MOMS Ministry for a day of grace. Guest speakers and activities will help women explore their spirituality and encounter Jesus as they are reminded to care for themselves before attempting to care for others. Included topics: Mental Wellness, Wellness for Women, Spirituality for Women. A morning snack and lunch included. See flyer in eNewsletter.

Become a Knight of Columbus! * Informational Event * Give us one hour of your time to learn more about this great organization for Catholic men. *Dinner, Drinks and Door Prizes!* Sunday, January 21, 2018 5 - 6 P.M. K of C Hall - 205 Industrial Drive in Bellevue. RSVP: John Clark @ [402-718-6154](tel:402-718-6154) or [jic3049@yahoo.com](mailto:jjc3049@yahoo.com).

Home and School Association Information



Catholic Schools Week Talent Show 2018! As was included in the newsletter before Christmas break, the **5th Annual H&S-sponsored Catholic Schools Week (CSW) Talent Show will be Friday, February 2nd at 7pm** in the school gym. Individual & group performances by students, teachers, & parents/families are welcome! Interested performers' parents/guardians need to complete the [electronic audition forms \(Step#1\)](#) by **Tuesday, January 16th** (note the extension from Friday, January 12th). Hard copies will be available in the office for those who need one. In addition to filling out the audition form, by Tuesday, January 16th parents/guardians also need to sign their child/children up for an **audition slot using [this sign-up \(Step#2\)](#)**. There are **only 24 available slots**, so don't delay! **Songs must be approved by Miss Kallman prior to the Friday, January 19th auditions.**

We are also looking for **2-4 emcees and 4-6 stage crew** members. Email Miss Kallman (peg.kallman@stmarysbellevue.com) and Talent Show Coordinator Christina Legner (christina_legner@yahoo.com) by Tuesday, January 16th if your student is interested in one of those opportunities. This is Christina's 5th year doing the show and she's looking to transition it to another parent. Please let her know if you're interesting in shadowing her this year to then take it over next year! The time commitment is approximately 20 hours and is a mix of at-home and at-school work (after business hours). Contact Christina with questions.

Panera Food Night. Get ready for our next St. Mary's School Food Night at Panera in Bellevue on Thursday, January 18th from 4-8 pm. We will make a percentage of all sales, 20% and up, depending on the number of paper or electronic flyers received at the time of purchase. A flyer is attached for you to bring with you or pull up on your phone when you are there.

SAVE THE DATE: Volunteers Needed For CSW Pancake Breakfast and Special Friends Mass Reception. Please check your email for volunteer opportunities on **Sunday, January 28th before, during, and after the 7:30a and 9:30a masses.** We need help with breakfast set-up, food prep, serving, and clean-up. We are also looking for help after the **Special Friends Mass on Wednesday, January 31st at 9:00a (exact time is dependent on mass end time).** We will be serving donuts and juice to our students, family, and friends. Details can be found in upcoming informational emails and on Sign-Up Genius. Please be watching for further information.

2018 Auction All Hands Meeting – The next All Hands Auction Meeting is Sunday, January 21st, 2018 at 6:30p in the School Library. (Please note change of date) Everyone is invited to attend. The Annual Auction is St. Mary's major fundraising event of the year and we welcome all volunteers to help make this event successful. If you are interested in volunteering but have not been contacted please contact Janet Yale (jmyale10@gmail.com). We want to thank those families that have already contributed their time and talents to the Auction.

Acquisitions Help. The Acquisitions team is following up on our donations requests that were mailed out to local businesses. Last year, a call from team didn't always do the trick, but if a parent is a customer and asks, maybe we'll have better luck...if you frequent the below businesses and are willing to help, please call the office...

Bellevue Keno
Donut Professor
Majestix Salon
Romeo's Mexican Restaurant

Brenda's Barber and Beauty
Lil Burro
Roma's Italian Restaurant