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# SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 8

October 10, 2017



*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)**

**Oct 11: Youth Ministry (7/8)**

**Oct 15: Encounter Night (church)**

**Oct 16: Picture Retakes; End of 1st Quarter; Pig Races; No HW Room**

**Oct 17: Budding Botanists;**

**Oct 18: All School Mass**

**Looking Ahead:**

**Oct 26: Parent/Teacher Conferences (11am-8pm)**

**NO SCHOOL OCTOBER 26, 27, 30TH**

**St. Mary's is now on Twitter.** Show your school spirit by following us on twitter.



*Are you an ambassador for Catholic Education? Hopefully, you are letting friends and colleagues know about our wonderful school. As you may know, St. Mary's School, like so many other organizations, has a formal Development committee to ensure we are "looking forward" in our recruitment, scholarship program, grants, etc ...all vital in improving our overall student experience here at St. Mary's.*

*Last night was our kick off meeting for the Development committee. Many thanks to our parents and grandparent that were able to attend along with leadership: Father Del, myself and the business manager. Below are some highlights from our meeting. I want to share them because I consider all our families as stakeholders in St. Mary's School Development.*

- *Adopt a Student is a vital program for generating scholarship revenue; last year raised ~\$18,000 used for scholarships*
- *Grandparents form recently sent to families invites parents to get involved; we have grandparents helping in variety of areas from lunchroom to events*
- *Coffees with Principal is a great way to connect/introduce parents (next one in November)*
- *This quarter school has applied for 2 grants (one for bully prevention assembly and the other for bus/field trip funding)*
- *Alumni committee is enhancing relationships with former students and strengthened their ties to school; Alums traditionally been very supportive of school (auction, adopt a student, etc)*
- *Next big event: Father's Thank You Appreciation for donors of Adopt a Student Program*

*As with many committees, we discussed how to encourage others to get involved. St. Mary's has a vibrant community. Rather than focusing on getting people to attend the meetings, our first focus is to simply let you know the areas where we could use help so we can match your areas of interest with Development committee needs. See volunteer opportunities section in this newsletter and/or Home and School's sign up genius. Many thanks.*

*Patricia Wallinger*

-Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal

**7th and 8th grade Pilgrimage.** The students participated in a religious pilgrimage at Boys Town praying for sainthood for Father Flanagan. Volunteers from Father Flanagan League: Society of Devotion, led the prayerful journey. They related his life and work helping neglected boys in the Omaha community and the world.

Father Flanagan said, "There are no bad boys" He saw every boy as the raw material for greatness. He turned no boy away. The students were able to pray around Father Flanagan's tomb, hear testimonies from successful graduates of Boys Town, visit with a 91 year old priest who knew Father, visit his museum and attend a beautiful mass at Dowd Chapel. The following are some remarks from the students:

- "I really felt deeply moved when we touched Father Flanagan's tomb. When I touched the tomb it seemed like the holy spirit was surging through me." ZT
- "I enjoyed how we could be a part of the mass." CA
- "I wish more people could be like him by using love not punishment to win someone over." JM
- "I really like how the mass is celebrated at the chapel everyday. I am going to take my grandmother." JB

**Feast of the Guardian Angels.** As part of our celebration of The Feast of The Guardian Angels, we have some special students practicing being angels on earth. The students from this particular grade made some cards and wrote little notes inside of them as ways of reminding the finder that they are blessed. Throughout the month these students will hide a few around the school.

**Nanometer Challenge.** Students responded to the challenge from Omaha's Durham Museum and made overlapping geometric shapes on the playground to represent 100 Billion Nanometers (100 meters) for National Nanotechnology Day, today. We made a circle with a circumference of 100 billion nanometers, a rectangle with a perimeter of 100 billion nanometers and a square with an area of 100 billion **square** nanometers! **St. Mary's School \$250 for their entry check us out on the Durham Facebook!** #NationalNanoDay and #DurhamMuseumNano@thedurhammuseum and @NebraskaNCMN

**Dictionaries from Kiwanis.** For the eleventh year, the Bellevue-Offutt Kiwanis Club is giving a dictionary to every third grader in the city of Bellevue. On Friday, October 6th George Thompson, a member of the Bellevue-Offutt club, came to hand out the dictionaries to our third graders. The students were excited and thankful to have received a book labeled with their name. Many thanks for this great resource for book reports and other projects.

**Hurricane Relief.** Student council is sponsoring a hurricane relief drive. For each 10.00 raised, a strip of duct tape will be earned. Then, one lucky teacher will be duct taped to the wall if we have enough duct tape (thanks Mr. Patterson). And thanks to the students whose desire to help resulted in this fun project.

**Parent and Teacher Conferences.** Parent - Teacher Conferences will be held Thursday, October 26th, from 11am-8pm. Parents are asked to sign up for conferences by using Sycamore or by calling the office. For Sycamore, login and click on "My School", then "P/T Conference." This method is the best way to easily compare teacher availability with your personal schedule. We look forward to getting to meet with you.

**School Pictures.** We expect picture proofs this week or early next week. Picture retake day will be **October 16th**. If a student was absent on picture day or had a request for retake due to picture quality, the student may have their photo taken on October 16th. They may dress up for their photo and then change after their photos are taken. Please call the office if you have any questions.

**2nd grade Reconciliation Parents/Child workshop- Wednesday, Oct. 25th, 5:30-7:15pm at the Parish Center.** The format for the 2nd grade parents meetings has changed. We ask that the child who is preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and their parent/guardian attend this activity based workshop. Activities, information regarding your child's First Reconciliation, understanding of the Sacrament and Domestic Church activities to

prepare your child for this Sacrament will be presented. If your child will be receiving their First Reconciliation on Jan. 20th, you and your child are required to attend this workshop. For more information, contact the RE office.

**Health Screenings.** The school nurse, Mrs. Laney, will be conducting hearing and vision screenings on Monday, October 23 for grades 1-6 and 8, from ~8-10:30am/11am. We are seeking 5 more parent volunteers to assist with height, weight, vision and hearing screening. No formal medical training required. Please call the office to help.

**Middle School Awards Assembly has been scheduled for October 25th at 2:45pm.** Families can enter through the gym.

**Veterans Assembly.** St. Mary's School will hold its annual veterans' assembly, November 10th, at 1:45pm in the school gym (special guests asked to arrive at 1:30pm). All veterans, retired and active duty are invited to attend. An eForm was sent to all our families inviting them to share info on veterans that we can honor during assembly. If you don't have a computer to complete eForm, please call the office to provide info (402-291-1694).

**Chess Club Tournaments.** If you are interested in receiving Chess club updates on tournament information in the area or updates on calendar, please send your email to our parent volunteer Kellie Kouba. ( 7th grade parent) Her email is: [kellieandboys@aol.com](mailto:kellieandboys@aol.com).

**Book Fair.** It's that time again! St. Mary's Book Fair will be in our Media Center from Oct. 23-26 AND Our Online Book Fair runs Oct. 15-29. Please check our website for more information:  
<http://www.scholastic.com/bf/stmaryschool77>



Our goal is to sell 551 books this year, both online and in school. Please help us meet and beat this goal! If you would still like to volunteer, we have shifts open...see Home and School section of this newsletter. We would love to see you!

**Project Hope.** Project HOPE – coordinators – Rhonda Prewitt and Kati Wilwerding – [smscripcoord@cox.net](mailto:smscripcoord@cox.net) . More participation means we can truly “Help Our Parish Economically”! Please consider purchasing gift cards to use for your everyday grocery, gas, dining out or other retail needs.” New form on webpage and attached with newsletter.

**Effective immediately, Darden Restaurants scrip gift cards and ScripNow eCards will no longer be redeemable at Red Lobster locations.**

**Summer Kitchen SCRIP. Currently have 3 Summer Kitchen gift cards available. Please write it in on your order form if you would like to purchase those.**

Volunteer needed to sell Project HOPE once per month at the Saturday at 5:00 p.m. mass. This DOES count toward your volunteer obligation! For additional information please contact Angela Bennett at [402-926-8965](tel:402-926-8965) or [angbennett@gmail.com](mailto:angbennett@gmail.com)



**Jr High Youth Ministry.** St. Mary's Junior High Youth Group (7th & 8th grades) will meet in the school gym on Oct 11th from 5:30-6:30pm. Next Youth Group-School Gym, Oct. 11th. \*All 7th & 8th grade students are asked to attend at least 2 of our Wednesday night gatherings this semester to fulfill their Confirmation requirements. We also have 2 Encounter Nights on Oct. 15th & Dec. 3rd. Teens (and at least 1 parent) asked to attend at least 1 of these as well for Confirmation requirements. Questions, contact Will Targy ([will.targy@stmarysbellevue.com](mailto:will.targy@stmarysbellevue.com)) or [402.659.8981](tel:402.659.8981).

**Encounter Night: What do you Seek?** The first Encounter Night (new this year) will be Oct. 15th at the 5pm Mass with dinner to follow. The Encounter event is from 7-8:30pm. The focus of an Encounter Night is to provide an opportunity for life-changing personal encounter with Jesus Christ through worship music, testimony/talks, Sacrament of Reconciliation and most especially, Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. It is an invitation to experience the radical love of God and say yes to an abundant life with Him. Questions, contact Will Targy at 402-292-7688. All are invited. *Postcard invite with hardcopy newsletter. Flyer with eNewsletter.*



**Basketball News.** We are now accepting Basketball registrations. Registration forms can be found on school website. We've received about 10 forms...I know we have more basketball players at St. Mary's! Please return all forms ASAP so teams can be formed. Practices will start around the first week of November depending on teams. This basketball season we will have teams for 1st - 8th grades (boys & girls). The first graders will play with the second graders in their league. Games start the first weekend of December and continues thru middle of March. Any questions or concerns please contact Jennifer Kreps, Athletic Director at [megjen992000@yahoo.com](mailto:megjen992000@yahoo.com) or [402-881-2576](tel:402-881-2576).

**HyVee Cash for Students.** We've only collected about 20 receipts from 3 families...surely there are more of us shopping at HyVee. These types of activities are easy ways to raise funds to support school initiatives. We have until December 31, 2017. If you hand in your receipts to the school office, the school earns \$. Every \$200 in receipts earns \$1 that the school will use to fund an assembly this year on Bully Prevention. We have HyVee Collection Envelopes in the office to serve as a visual reminder. They will go home with hardcopy newsletters and available upon request for eNewsletter.



**St Mary's Auction "All Hands on Deck" meeting.** We are having the first meeting regarding the St. Mary's auction in the spring. The meeting will be held on November 12th at 6:30 PM in the school library; all committee chairs and volunteers will need to be in attendance. The auction is very important to our school and we are still in need of volunteers, so if you are interested in contributing to the success of this event please attend this first meeting.

**Volunteer Op: Thank You Celebration for Adopt a Student.** This event is a chance for Fr. to thank those who have responded to special appeals and the Adopt A Student program to support St. Mary's School. They helped keep the school running, provided necessities and gave children a great education by helping pay children's tuition for those with financial needs who otherwise could not come to St. Mary's School.

We are in need of volunteers for Father's Thank You Celebration. It is on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at St. Mark's Hall from 6:30-8pm. Please see below:

- 2 people to help set up from 5-7pm
- 1 person to help serve from 6:30pm-8pm
- 3 people to help clean up from 8-9pm
- 1 person to iron table cloths the day before (November 6th)
  
- 5-6 bottles of red and white wine
- 5-6 more fancy desserts (things you would enjoy at an Elegant Tea...cheesecake, bars, etc)

**Halloween Dress on Tuesday, October 31st.** Students will be allowed to wear jeans and an appropriately themed Halloween shirt. There is no fee, nor is there the expectation of canned goods to participate.

**Halloween Candy Drive.** Student Council will be sending flyers home this week...St. Mary's will be collecting candy to provide treats for children living in local homeless shelters. What a great project to help our students focus on serving others!

## Home and School Association

**Home and School Meeting.** Thank you to all who attended our October HSA meeting this past Monday! We encourage everyone's participation in these meetings. Next meeting will be Monday November 13th at 6:30p in the library.

**Fall Fundraiser** - Thank you for everyone's participation!! We appreciate everyone for turning their information on time. We are working with Charleston Wrap on our final numbers. We have sent out our order and are waiting for our delivery date. We will need a couple of volunteers to help in the disbursement of the products, more information will be coming in the newsletter when we have the delivery date firmed up.

**October Food Night - Don & Millie's** Thursday October 19th 4p-8p. Don & Millie's will donate 20% of proceeds. Make sure to mention St. Mary's, they will put you receipt in a collection bucket. Flyers will go out in the Wednesday newsletter before the event. If you bring your flyer, you can be registered for a drawing to win a drawstring backpack. Thank you for all your support of the Food Nights!

**Culver's Food Night.** Thanks to those who enjoyed food and fellowship at Culver's. \$185 was raised for St. Mary's School.

**St. Mary's 5th Annual Trivia Night** will be Friday, October 20th at St. Mary's Gym. Doors open at 6pm and trivia begins at 7pm. Gather a group of 6-8 people per team at just \$12 per person. Call Willie and Liz Wessling to register at 402-291-0785 or email [williewessling@hotmail.com](mailto:williewessling@hotmail.com). Beer, wine and pop provided. Bring in your own food. Prizes awarded for the best score and best decorated table! Buy a change to win the 50/50 Raffle and bid on Nebraska football tickets for the Iowa game!

**School Book Fair Volunteers Needed** - Oct 23-26, 2017 Ms. Schafer is needing help with the school book fair. The book fair will run from October 23 to October 26. She is looking for 2 adults per volunteer time slot. There will also be a need for help cleaning up on Friday, October 27. More details to follow on the time of clean up. Also, 7th and 8th Grade Students that are needing service hours may come and help too. If you would like to help or have any questions, you may sign up on SignUp Genius ([link<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945AFA82CABF49-stmarys>](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945AFA82CABF49-stmarys)) or by contacting Ms. Schafer ([jenny.schafer@stmarysbellevue.com](mailto:jenny.schafer@stmarysbellevue.com)).



**Halloween Fun Night.** Mark your calendars for our annual event planned for Friday, October 27th, from 6-8:30 p.m. in the school gym. We are going to have a Trick-or-Treat Village thru the school (candy/goodies will be handed out). We are also having a Pumpkin Decorating Contest. Please bring your carved, painted, or decorated pumpkins to the school for display/judging (For safety reasons, no real candles in them, please). The Cake Walk is back again, so plan on bringing your quarters! The Monster Mash Dance is also back. Dinner will be offered for families; pre-order will be available before the event. Order forms for preordering food is attached. The schedule of events is as follows:

- 6:00pm - 7:15pm Dinner served
- 6:00pm - 7:15pm Games, Cake Walk, Photo Booth, etc.
- 6:00pm - 7:15pm Trick-or-Treat Village
- 7:15pm - 7:45pm Costume Parade, Costume Contest, Best Door, and Best Pumpkin
- 7:45pm - 8:30pm Monster Mash (Dance)

This event would not be possible with volunteers. We are needing help with the following items, please go to Sign-up Genius <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0945afa82cabf49-stmarys> to sign up and help out with this fun event: Set-up for Event, Cake Walk (baked good donations), Greeters, Photo Booth, Door Watchers, Games, Working Kitchen, Clean up of Event