



Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!

SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 1
August 23, 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)

Upcoming:

Aug 28: Curriculum Night 6-7:30 PM (Grades PK-4)

Volleyball – on-going (see coach for scheduled)



The 2017-2018 school year is off to a great start. Below are some statistical highlights:

*Our current enrollment is 202 students consisting of 126 families
45% female; 55% male
19% of our students are from military families
74% Catholic*

It was enjoyable to ride in last weekend's Arrows to Aerospace Parade, representing St. Mary's School along with some of our school families, students and faculty. St. Mary's School has a long standing presence in Old Towne Bellevue. We could see the smiles as we waved to our parade attendees.

St. Mary's School was dedicated in 1948. We were visited last Saturday by some of our Alums who toured the school and enjoyed fellowship. They shared their excitement at our various improvements within the school, marking a vibrant school community.

As a quick historic note, St. Mary's school is rooted in the Dominican tradition. Our charisms include, "Veritas" or truth, learning, and service to others. As we move through the year, we will pray

together the prayer written especially to remind us of our strong roots and devotion to our faith. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Patricia Wallinger

-Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal

Free and Reduced Hot Lunch Applications. Friendly reminder, Free and Reduced Hot Lunch Applications are due September 29th. This is a needs based program.

Spirit Wear. As announced during Ice Cream Social, orders for Spirit Wear will be accepted until Sept 8ths. For more information or with any questions contact Joanna Lee at jllee2367@gmail.com or 402-215-8640. Forms available with eNewsletter or in the office.

Celebrating Nebraska's 150th Birthday. As part of Nebraska's Education Service Unit's mission, our 4th graders received a Nebraska Atlas and our 5th graders received a "Chief Standing Bear of the Ponca" book. Very fun.

Thanks to the Class of 2017! Let's Play Gaga Ball. The tradition of a Class Gift from the graduating class was brought back in 2015. 2015's gift was a statue of St. Francis, 2016's was a school flag, and 2017's is a Gaga Ball Pit. Gaga Ball is a fast-paced, high-energy sport played in an octagonal pit. The more players the better, but there's only one winner! Dubbed a kinder, gentler version of dodge ball and a combo of dodge ball and foursquare, the game is played with a soft foam ball and combines the skills of dodging, striking, running, and jumping, while trying to hit opponents with a ball below the knees. The Gaga Ball Pit's safety flooring glue is still curing, but soon it'll be released for play. A big thanks to the Class of 2017 for their fun gift to the school and a special thanks to the Tweedy Family for organizing and leading the design, build, and installation efforts!

Resources for Parents – Human Sexuality. Here is a link to the online version of the recent Catholic Voice article on Catholic Church/teachings on Human Sexuality. It provides a good description of original purpose and mission: <http://catholicvoiceomaha.com/news/committee-endorses-resources-sexuality>

There are three events which will be advertised through fliers, on Spirit Catholic Radio, in The Catholic Voice and in as many parish bulletins as possible. *All events are free to attend!* The first event is on **Thursday, Nov 2** at St Wenceslaus in Omaha from 6:30-8:30PM. This is an evening for parents- babysitting provided for 2-10 year olds.

Project Hope. Project HOPE has new coordinators – Rhonda Prewitt and Kati Wilwerding – we can both be contact at the e-mail address: smscripcoord@cox.net. Only \$1000 in scrip purchases makes you eligible to receive a rebate towards next year's tuition at St. Mary's, or any Catholic High School. Friends and family can help to increase the rebate amount you receive! SCRIP form is attached and available on webpage.



Jr High Youth Ministry. We have our first event for Junior High on Wednesday **Aug. 30th (5:30pm to 6:30pm) in the gym.** Hard copy schedules will go home with our 7th and 8th grade families. .

From our Youth Minister: My name is Will Targy and I am the youth minister here at St. Mary's Church. This is my 5th year here (although I grew up at the parish) and I love my job and feel very blessed to work at such a special place. The goal for youth ministry here at St. Mary's is to give young people and families lots of opportunities to grow in their relationship with God, create and encourage a strong faith community and have some fun along the way.

*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. We are asking the teens (and at least 1 parent) to attend at least 1 of these as well for Confirmation requirements.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to serving you and your teens this year. Please contact me at this email (will.targy@stmarysbellevue.com) or by phone/text at [402.659.8981](tel:402.659.8981).

St. Mary's Children/Youth Choir. Would your child like to be in the St. Mary's Children/Youth Choir? Practice is held Wednesdays, 5:45 pm to 6:25 pm in the Music room at St. Mary's School. Any children and youth ages 7 and up is able to help! (Strong reading skills are necessary). The St. Mary's Children's Choir will prepare to present music at the **9:30 am Sunday Mass** on the **2nd Sunday** of each month. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Ames, Director of Choirs at St. Mary's. 402/592-4091 or sallyaames@yahoo.com

Sports Registration. If you ever have questions on the parish sports program, please call Jen Kreps, the Sports Program Coordinator (402) 881-2576 or megjen992000@yahoo.com.

School Pictures. Picture day will be Tuesday, September 12th. Order forms went home earlier this week. You can hold for picture day or return to homeroom teacher. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

Boxtops. We love boxtops. Attached is a collection sheet. If students hand in three sheets, they receive a prize.

Breakfast / Lunch Menus. Menus will come home the week before each new month. They are also always available on Sycamore and on the webpage under School Life/Cafeteria.

Summer Photo Contest Winner. Thanks to all who participated in the "Where Are Our St Mary's families spending their Summer Break?" Photo Contest. Congrats to the Kettleson family, the winner of a \$10 SCRIP card to BB Dogs. Check out the fun stories on the school's facebook page.

Chess Club. Chess Club meetings will begin September 7th. The club will meet every Thursday school is in session. The meetings are held in the Spanish room from 3:20 to 4pm. Students are dismissed through extended day. All interested players in 3rd through 8th grade are invited. No experience needed--just a positive attitude and desire to learn. We are fortunate to have Coach Carney return to instruct players. Any questions, please email: joanne.sjostedt@stmarysbellevue.com (teacher sponsor) or kellieandboys@aol.com (parent contact)



Couples in Christ is a group of St. Mary's parishioners. We are couples and families sharing and celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage, who come together for religious enrichment, fellowship and education. Please save the dates for these future events:

September 30 – Hayrack Ride and Cookout
November 10 – Potluck Dinner and Games
December 16 – Ollie the Trolley and Christmas Fun

St. Mary's Karate Club! This school year we have added a new club dedicated to bringing the art of **Karate** to the St. Mary's community! Classes will be available for children age 6 and up and the club will meet Monday and Friday after school. Cost is \$80/semester and is hosted by club instructors, Sensei James Caldwell and Mr. Andy Metzger from the Shin Ryu Kan Dojo in Papillion. To register or if you have questions, please call Andy Metzger at 402-292-8899 or email: metzgerfj@aol.com

Girl Scouts. Local Girl Scout Troop invite. We have a lot of fun, do a lot of super activities, & learn a lot while advancing in a Nationally & Internationally recognized leadership program that college admission officers take seriously. We meet on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month from 6-8pm at 3702 S 370 Plaza, Bellevue, NE 68123. (the nearest intersection is S. 36th St. and 370). Our multi-level (K-12) troop is headed by Maria Reiter. Join us Mon, August 28, 6pm – 8pm! Any questions, email reiterr@cox.net.

Boy Scout Eagle Project. Elwyn Frailey (older brother of Bryce in 8th grade) is working on his Eagle Scout Project. His project will support Moving Veterans Forward (MVF), a small, locally based non-profit organization that helps military veterans, who have recently been homeless, get set up into stable housing and become self-sufficient. My project is a collection drive that will help MVF. If you would like to help, please bring any of the following items to school from 9/15-9/30: shampoo, deodorants, detergents, shaving cream, laundry baskets, etc.

CALLING ALL MEN OF ST. MARY'S! That Man is You! is an exciting and spirit-filled men's ministry opportunity! This dynamic program will start on Friday morning, September 8th in St. Mary's Parish Center. Come enjoy fellowship with parishioners and other school "dads." To register or if you have any questions, call Deacon Ted Menzel at 402-292-2076 or tcmenzel5@gmail.com.

FALL ADULT COMPUTER CLASSES. Mark your calendars now for these free adult computer classes, held in the school computer lab from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Register at jbezy@cox.net or call John for more information @ 402-291-1765. Class size is limited to 20 people.

- September 21 - Computer Security
- October 19 - Google Apps - Learn how to use Google Mail (G-mail), Google Docs, etc., and set up accounts if you don't have one.
- November 16 - Windows 10 & latest developments
- December 21 - Facebook & Social Media.

Home and School Association

Arrows to Aerospace Parade. Thanks to all who came out to enjoy the fun at last week's Arrows to Aerospace parade.

Thank you for your support! First, we would like to thank all those who came out to help us during our recent annual school cleanup. With your time and talents, the task at hand were made so much easier. To update service hours, log into *Sycamore* then My School/My Service Logs (see left margin).

President: *Mary Sasek, parent to Jillian (5th grade) and Andrew (1st grade)*

Vice-President: *Bernadette Miller, parent to Jack (8th grade), Caleb (3rds grade) and Mackenzie (PK)*

Treasurer: *Craig Ames, parent to Preston (8th grade), Carson (7th grade), Hudson (6th grade) and Greyson (4th grade)*

Secretary: *Janet Yale, parent of Bailey Yale (7th grade)*

Volunteer Coordinator: *Brenda Achterhoff, parent of Bennet (4th grade) and Ayden (Kindergarten)*

GIRLS RELIGIOUS AWARDS. The first meeting and registration for the Girls Religious Awards Program will be held on Sunday, August 20th at 6 p.m. in the parish center. Depending upon student interest, one or more adult facilitators may be needed. In order for the program to run, there needs to be at least 4 students enrolled in a level; there are four levels available for girls 7 through 18 years of age. For more info or to register now, call Maria Reiter at 402-871-7099 or reiterr@cox.net.

Would You Like to Sponsor a Korean Student? Become a KoAm host family. KoAm students arrive with round-trip airline tickets, complete medical insurance, tuition, school fees, and personal spending money for the duration of their stay. Exchange student shows appreciation to the host family with a monetary gift and reimburse expenses. Contact KoAm National Coordinator Haewon Park at [402-401-4320](tel:402-401-4320) and/or [800-521-6640](tel:800-521-6640) or by email at administrator@koameduall.org. Please visit the KoAm website at <http://www.koameduall.org> and click on 'Apply to Be a Host Family'.

Jinwoo - 4th or 5th grade, male - Warm, compassionate, considerate, and easy going. His favorite subject is PE, and is good in all sports. He likes to play soccer and ride his bicycle. He likes pets, but not cats. Average in academics and in English. He learned some Taekwondo and piano. He has an older brother and younger sister. Jinwoo is excited to come to the U.S. and experience a bigger world.