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SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 3

September 6, 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: ...need to update

Sep 6: Confirmation Parent Mtg (8th grade)

Sep 7: Chess Club to 4pm

Sep 10: Parish Festival/Cake Walk

Sep 11: Spirit Day; Jr Legion of Mary; Home and School mtg 6:30pm

Sep 12: Picture Day; Development Mtg @ 4:30pm

Sep 13: Confirmation Parent Mtg (7th grade)

Sep 18: NO SCHOOL



During the next two weeks the students will be taking STAR benchmark assessments in reading and math. The PK through 1st grade will do the STAR Early Literacy and Math while our 2nd through 8th grades will do STAR Reading and STAR Math.

These very quick online assessments are being used by quite a few of the Archdiocesan Catholic schools this year. We will no longer be doing the Acuity assessments. Like Acuity, STAR gives us a snapshot of where our students are individually in each of these areas, but it is more user friendly. The results are immediate and we can tailor instruction to meet the needs of individual students, small groups, or an entire class.

Teachers are better able to match activities with lessons and assist students to reach their learning goals. We will use the results to chart a student's progress and monitor learning over the course of this year. Once we have the student data, teachers will meet in teams to do some planning across the grades and with our academic support team.

I think you'll find the parent report component useful too. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

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.



Veterans Assembly. St. Mary's School will hold its annual veterans' assembly, November 10th, at 1:30pm in the school gym. All veterans, retired and active duty are invited to attend. More info to follow.

School Pictures. Picture day will be Tuesday, September 12th. Order forms went home with students last week. Students are encouraged to wear "Sunday Best" for our school pictures. Students can wear their uniform or appropriate dress following "free dress" day guidelines. Jeans are acceptable for picture day if appropriate and without holes.

From Lifetouch:

Pre-Order online or by order form before picture day and up to only 48 hours online after picture day. When you pre-order shipping is a free benefit. Any order form turned in after picture day is considered a late order. Late orders will be received 2 weeks after everyone gets pictures back at the school.

After Picture Day: Proof will come in with all other orders placed for those who didn't order, allowing parents to go online and order. A Proof order will come with a portrait ID and access code. Please note: there will be a shipping fee.

8th grade Confirmation Parents Meeting. All 8th grade parents, whose children are preparing for Confirmation May 2018, are asked to come to the Confirmation meeting tonight **Wednesday, Sept 6th at 6:45pm at the Church.** Info regarding Group Stewardship Opportunities, Retreat, Sponsors, Confirmation names, Prayer experiences, Youth Ministry will be presented.

7th Grade Confirmation Parents Meeting Wednesday, Sept 13th at 6:45pm at the Church. Information regarding Group Stewardship Opportunities, Retreat, Sponsors, Confirmation names, Prayer experiences, Youth Ministry will be presented.

Altar Server Training. During the month of September, parish children in grades 5 and 6 will receive training to serve at the altar. Whether in RE or the parish school, this will be an ongoing part of their religious education at St. Mary's. After training, the students will be given an opportunity to be scheduled as altar servers on the weekend, but this will be a decision they will make after discussion with their parents. In the spring, we will follow the same procedure with the 4th grade, and going forward, 4th graders will be trained every fall. An altar server is a lay assistant to the priest when he celebrates Mass. Servers can be any age, either male or female. Service at the altar is considered a liturgical function and, as with lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, requires training.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has established guidelines for altar servers. Regarding readiness: "Servers should be mature enough to understand their responsibilities and to carry them out well and with appropriate reverence. They should have already received Holy Communion for the first time and normally receive the Eucharist whenever they participate in the liturgy." Regarding training: "Servers should receive proper formation before they begin to function. The formation should include instruction on the Mass and its parts and their meaning, the various objects used in the liturgy (their names and use), and the various functions of the server during the Mass and other liturgical celebrations...." Please watch for more info coming home with your children in 5/6th grade and prayerfully consider this special ministry.

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.



Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge is scheduled for 12pm on Sunday, September 24th at the St. Matthew's Soccer Field. All 9 - 14 year old boys and girls are allowed and encouraged to participate. A flyer is going home with all eligible students this week. Please contact Don Pearce at pearcedk@aol.com with questions.

Volunteer Service Hours. All families are asked to volunteer in some capacity at our school to make it a vibrant place for all our students and families. To log hours in Sycamore, Log onto Sycamoreeducation.com using your id & password. Call the office if you are having trouble logging in. Our Sycamore school id is "1118". Go to "My School" (left bar) > Service Logs > New Log (upper right) > Enter date & time of hours served > Select appropriate Volunteer Opportunity and enter # of hours served and any notes. Submit!

Thank You. A huge thank you to all who participated in our Alumni gathering. The fun, fellowship, food and school tours were a big success. We will be forming an Alumni team for the Trivia Night on October 20th. We will also be planning a Night of Carolling in December. Stay tuned! Your St. Mary's Alumni Board

Jr. Legion of Mary. Meetings on Mondays from 3:30- 4:30pm. Open to 4-8th grade students. They are led by a spiritual director and 2 Senior Legion members. They pray the rosary, listen to a reading from the Legion handbook, pray the Legion prayers and report on one hour work they did the previous week. Prayers are very powerful and these Legion members feel they have a purpose. The first meeting is **Monday, September 11th**. The meetings are held every Monday school is in session. Questions, email: joanne.sjostedt@stmarysbellevue.com.

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)

Spirit Wear. As announced during Ice Cream Social, orders for Spirit Wear will be **accepted until Sept 8th**. 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.



Jr High Youth Ministry. We have our first event for Junior High tonight, Wednesday **September 20th (5:30pm to 6:30pm) in the 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. 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. Questions, contact Will Targy (will.targy@stmarysbellevue.com) or [402.659.8981](tel:402.659.8981).

First Communion/Reconciliation – Parish-wide Family Event. If you and/or your family would be interested in helping us prepare a family event for the parents and children who are preparing for Eucharist or Reconciliation, please contact the RE office. We are in the beginning stages of planning an event for our 2nd grade students and their parents. We would love your ideas and suggestions (call RE at 402-291-7222).

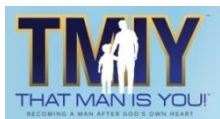
Like Us on Facebook. Did you know we have a [St Mary's School of Bellevue](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysSchoolofBellevue) Facebook page? All are invited to "like" us on facebook and if you have school related photos of your family, we'd love to see those too!

Helping Veterans. Elwyn Frailey's (older brother of Bryce in 8th grade) Eagle Scout Project will begin next week. 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. Please consider donating the following items: shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, laundry baskets, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, etc. Boxes will be located in the school and church. Flyer attached in eNewsletter. This drive will end on September 30th.

St. Mary's Alumni Association is selling *NEW* St. Mary's Alumni Shirts. Orders are due by Sept. 30. Please see attached. Email MLNARIK.SARAH@GMAIL.COM with any questions.

St. Mary's Parish Picnic. Sunday, September 10th, from 1:30 - 4 p.m. Enjoy a picnic lunch under the tent or bring a blanket or lawn chair. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided; **please bring your favorite side dish to share, and bring it by 2:30 p.m.** There are new games, face painting and a magician will perform! Confirmation students can receive service hours for Confirmation by helping with games and/or food service. Come enjoy and/or help with the St. Mary's Home and School *Cake Walk*. BINGO is scheduled throughout the afternoon. Prizes are needed for **ALL** ages. A container will be in the east entry of the church if you have any new/slightly used item you would like to donate.

St. Mary's will again be offering FREE computer classes for adult parishioners. We will have a maximum of 20 students per class on a first come, first served basis. Classes will be held once a month on the third Thursday, starting in September, 2017, in the school Computer Lab. Classes will be 2 hours in length from 7:00-9:00 PM. The curriculum will consist of 4 classes on the following topics: **Sep 21 – Computer Security Basics – learn how to keep your computer secure**



THAT MAN IS YOU! This dynamic program starts on Friday morning, Sept 8th at 5:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Parish Center. Come join Ryan Legner, John Clark and other St. Mary's School dads... To register or for questions, call Deacon Ted Menzel 402-292-2076 or tcmenzel5@gmail.com.

Home and School Association

Cake Walk Baked Good Donations - We are looking for Cake Walk baked goods (cupcakes, cookies, breads, etc.) for the upcoming parish picnic from 1:30-4:30 P.M. on September 10, 2017. Home and School will again host the Cake Walk, a fun family game, at the upcoming parish picnic. The winner of each round gets baked goods that have been made and donated by our wonderful St. Mary's School families. We ask that donations of cookies and cupcakes be divided and wrapped/plated into smaller portions to make it easier for distribution at the Cake Walk that day. Baked goods can be dropped off at the Parish Center after masses this weekend (Sept 9-10). If you would like to help, please sign up on SignUp Genius ([link](#)). If you have any questions, please contact Mary Sasek ([402-990-4228](tel:402-990-4228)/mary.sasek@gmail.com).



Home and School Meeting. Our first HSA meeting of the year is scheduled for Monday, September 11th at 6:30 P.M. in the school library. Meet this year's executive officers, tell us what you like – or areas for improvement – and get involved in your children's education. Remember, your attendance at the Home and School Meetings counts toward your volunteer hours!

Family Fun Night at Papio Fun Park – (see attached flyer) Friday September 22, 2017 6:00p-9:00p. \$10 per family, Includes unlimited access to Lazer Runner, Spaceball, Jumpshot, & Miniature Golf (weather pending), For an additional fee you will be able to purchase tickets for Go-Karts (weather pending).

Fall Fundraiser – Kick-off will be Wednesday September 13th. More information to come.

Upcoming Events:

Food Night – Culvers:	Thursday, September 28, 2017, 4-9pm
Trivia Night	Friday, October 20 th
Halloween Fun Night	Friday, October 27th