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## ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 5

September 14, 2016



*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:

- Sep 14: Confirmation Parent Meeting @645pm;**
- Sep 15: Coffee with Principal; Chess Club to 4pm; Safe Environ Trg. @6pm (pre-register required)**
- Sep 20: Legion of Mary; Adopt a Student Thank You Dinner (Vol Op); Chess Club to 4pm; B&B Food Night**
- Sep 23: No School; Teacher In-service**

This past weekend, I had the privilege of going to our St Mary's parish picnic. I enjoyed seeing the children running and laughing and visiting with each other. It was enjoyable to see the parents and teachers helping serve food and representing the school at the welcome table. The Home and School Association managed the fun at the cake walk, staffed by school parents, students and Alums that brought so much joy to every winner. What a fun way to begin our fast approaching Autumn—with service and fun.

Throughout this year, there will be many opportunities for service and fun. This past week, our 6th graders are sponsoring a baby drive for the Essential Pregnancy Service that concludes on Friday. On Monday, we collected food and financial support for our local food pantry to help provide food and nourishment to those in need in our local community.

It was great to see so many parents at this past Monday's Home and School Association meeting. We received fresh perspectives from new parents, staff, and long-time parents on a variety of issues. With parent support, we can do many great things.

Something new this year will be our periodic *Coffees with the Principal*. This Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> immediately following drop-off will be the first. All Parents are invited to come and enjoy a cup of coffee, light refreshment and fellowship. Please come to the main office for a visitor pass. We look forward to visiting with you.

Thanks to everyone for all they do for our students and St. Mary's School.

*Dr. Trish Wallinger, principal*

**Seeking Adult Volunteers to Help Shepherd the Students during Drop Off.** It would really help alleviate traffic to have a few parents assisting staff when students are being dropped off. If interested, simply park on the surrounding streets and check in with the office on any day you can lend a hand.

**Safe Environment Training on Sept 15th.** Any adult who will be volunteering or working with the youth at St. Mary's is required to have a current Safe Environment certification. Your certification is valid for 5 years. If you are not sure if your Safe Environment Training is current, contact the school office. If you have never been certified, you may sign up at [www.archomaha.org](http://www.archomaha.org). Go to Ministries, Safe Environment, Live training and find a location and date that will work for you. St. Mary's will offer a training on Thursday, September 15th from 6:00-8:30 p.m. in the Dominican Center. You must register online to attend this session.

**From the Lunchroom...**Friday is a Domino's Pizza Day. This is a day the children love to order extra slices. We would like to make sure everyone is aware that if your account is negative your child will not be able to order EXTRA slices. Please check your accounts in Sycamore and make sure that your accounts have plenty of funds in them.

Also we can always use help in the lunchroom serving and cleaning up. Our greatest need is Thursdays right now, so if you are able please contact Becky Billings at [becky.billings@stmarysbellevue.com](mailto:becky.billings@stmarysbellevue.com)

**Picture Day.** Picture orders should arrive any day. For your information, retake day will be **October 13th**.

**Request for Paper Towel Rolls – Upcoming Veterans' Day Assembly.** Our upcoming Veterans Day Assembly is November 11th. The committee is in need of paper towel tubes as part of our decorations project related to this celebration. Please bring to school as your family empties the paper towels.

**Celebrate Creativity Field Trip.** We are very excited to have our Middle School students participate again in this arts-infused excursion. Thanks to the efforts of Ms. Kallman, we received a grant to cover the cost of transportation. It's an ingenious mixture of learning, symphonic music, and fun-filled discovery to ignite your students' creative spark. The experience begins with every student crafting his or her own individual schedule of artistic investigation, choosing from hands-on exploratory workshops led by industry professionals in acting, art, hip hop, and beyond. Students' schedules are topped off with their choice of a docent-led Joslyn Art Museum gallery tour and an interactive concert with the Omaha Symphony.

Creative Workshops Include: Stage Make-Up, Hip Hop Dancing, Acting, Stage Combat, Musical Theatre, Joslyn Art Classes, Percussion, Juggling, Tae Kwon Do, Animation, and more!

**Catholic High School Visitations.** During the week of Sept. 26th, the Catholic High Schools will visit the 6th-8th grade classes. Representatives from the Catholic Schools will give informational talks and give students materials to share with their parents. Please see *Sycamore* for specific school visits and times. Parents can also attend.

**TERRA NOVA Testing.** Terra Nova testing will begin on Sept. 26th for grades 3-8 and continue throughout the week. As done last year, 8th graders will also take Terra Nova tests as the Explore test is no longer available. We encourage parents to make sure children have plenty of rest, exercise, and healthy eating during the week. Children need to be healthy and well rested to do their best work.

#### **Upcoming Gatherings Related to Receiving the Sacraments:**

7th grade retreat:	September 24th, Pro Sanctity - all day
7th grade Rite of Entrance:	September 25th, 12:30 or 5:00 p.m.
First Reconciliation Parents Meeting:	September 28th, 4:45 & 6:45 p.m.
8th grade retreat:	October 8th, Columban Fathers - all day

**Free and Reduced Lunch Program.** This is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools to provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. Applications went home last week and are available in Sycamore. **Applications are due to the office by Sept 15th.**

**Discovery Education.** In our efforts to keep students energized in their learning, we subscribe to Discovery Education. Discovery Education transforms classrooms, empowers teachers and captivates students by leading the way in providing high quality, dynamic, digital content to school districts large and small, rural and suburban and everything in between. Discovery Education is offering virtual field trips. Please check it out with your child (codes provided by teachers). <http://www.discoveryeducation.com/Events/virtual-field-trips/explore/>

**The Rite of Christian Initiation is an invitation:**

- to come and see what our Catholic faith is all about
- to learn and experience scripture · to share faith and prayer and community
- to become a disciple of Jesus

The adult group meets on Wednesday nights; (began September 7th) from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. in St. Mark's Hall. The children's/youth group (3rd through 8th grade - high school considered separately) meets on Monday nights, beginning September 12th from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in St. Mark's Hall. PLEASE JOIN US! For more info, please contact Sr. Ellen at [ellen.dolan@stmarysbellevue.com](mailto:ellen.dolan@stmarysbellevue.com) or the liturgy office at 402-291-5395.

**Blessing of the Animals.** Bring your pets and celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi as our model for our care of animals on Saturday, October 1st at 9:00 a.m. in front of St. Mark's Hall.

**Knights Garage Sale on Sept 24th.** Visit 205 Industrial Drive 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Call Bill Kibler @ 402-291-7167 for pick-up of donations or to drop off. \*The Knights are strong supporters of St. Mary's School through scholarships and fun events like the annual Free Throw Competition. This is a great way to have some fun shopping and support them.

**Tootsie Roll Drive October 8/9.** Members of our Knights of Columbus Council 6192 will conduct their annual Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities, giving away Tootsie Rolls after all Masses in exchange for free will donations. St. Mary's parishioners always are generous, and we thank you for your continued support!

**2016-2017 Yearbook.** That's right...we are now taking orders for our upcoming yearbook. The price will be \$15 during the time period of Sept 12-Oct 31st, then the price will increase to \$18 with orders from Nov 1-Jan 31, 2017. After Jan 31st the price will be \$20.

**Baby Drive.** The 6th grade class is holding a baby drive to collect items for the Essential Pregnancy Services. The EPS is located across the street from our school. The drive ends this Friday. Pacifiers and onesies are needed but any baby items are greatly appreciated. Please send items to the 6th grade room. Thanks for supporting Life (For questions, please contact Mr. Kastl and Mrs. Sjostedt).



**Volleyball news....**

Please contact your team's coach or Sports coordinator, Jennifer Kreps [megjen992000@yahoo.com](mailto:megjen992000@yahoo.com) or 402-881-2576 regarding information about practices or game schedules.

If you have not turned in a registration form & payment, please do so immediately. Forms can be found on the schools website - not sycamore. Please send to school in envelope marked "sports".

**Come out & support Spartan Volleyball**

**3rd grade - Sunday Sept 18th @ 1:00 at St. Bernadette**

**4th/5th grade:** Sunday Sept 18th @ 1:00 at Home; Tuesday Sept 20th @ 6:30 at St. Matthews  
**6th grade:** Sunday Sept 18th @ 1:00 at Christ the King  
**7th grade:** Thursday Sept 15th @ 6:30 at Holy Name; Sunday Sept 18th @ 2:00 at Home; Tuesday Sept 20th @ 6:30 at St. Thomas More  
**8th grade:** Sun, Sept 18th @ 3pm(Home); Mon Sept 19th @ 7:30 at South Omaha Y (30th & Q south side of building)

**SCRIP.** Great program to support school and help families reduce tuition. Orders can be sent to the office and returned to families by student or parents can visit office during normal office hours (exception: No SCRIP sales on Fridays after 3pm). Form attached.

# 4th Annual St Mary's Trivia Night

## 7 October 2016

Get your teams together for some fun and Trivia  
Reserve your tables now  
Teams of 8 players  
\$12 per player  
Cost includes event and all the beverages (Beer, Wine & Pop)  
You can bring in your own food and snacks  
Doors will open at 6pm with event starting at 7pm  
Prizes for best scores and best decorated table  
50/50 Raffle  
A chance to bid on Nebraska vs. Maryland tickets, November 19<sup>th</sup>

Contact : Brian & Bernadette Miller  
402-738-8951  
[millertime181@yahoo.com](mailto:millertime181@yahoo.com) or [degogirl14@cox.net](mailto:degogirl14@cox.net)

**Grandparents Info Form.** All parents are invited to share information with the Development committee on grandparents. This info is used to invite grandparents to special events, send school newsletters etc. Forms went home last week. If you need another form, please call the office. This week, we're emailing a google form option. Whichever way you would like to provide the data, we would love to have it..

**Mercy High School Basketball Feeder Team.** Any girl in grades 5th – 8th for the 2016-2017 school year who is interested in playing basketball for the feeder teams for the Mercy Basketball program. The deadline for signing up will be September 23rd. To get a flyer, please call the office.



**Junior High Youth Ministry (7th & 8th Grade)- Fall 2016.** Please mark your calendars for the following dates in September (meeting in the school gym): Thur. Sept 22nd from 7-8:30pm- Jr. High Small Groups

**St. Mary's Family Afternoon Movie (FAM) Sunday, September 18** - 2:00-4:30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Center! Premiering "Jungle Book" – embracing change. All families are invited to join St. Mary's Parish for September's Family Afternoon Movie. The fixings (popcorn and drinks) are supplied for a great afternoon promoting Discipleship through movies. Join us and find out how "Jungle Book" can relate to our faith. Families are offered a home kit which includes monthly activities, prayer, an activity for children, and monthly readings along with an opportunity to provide a service project (stewardship) to help others, based on the movie. To RSVP or help with fun, contact RE office at 291-7222.

**Sharing Faith with Youth.** The Parish is seeking catechists for 2016-2017 RE classes. This program, which provides Religious Education for our parish children, cannot offer this important ministry without you. Please prayerfully consider sharing your faith with this weekly commitment. All lesson plans and materials are provided for you; class size ~10-15. Catechists & Co-Catechists needed: 4:30 p.m. - Grade 2; Grade 4\*; Grade 8 6:30 p.m. - Grade 7\*; Grade 8 \*



the difference  can make.

**Box Tops 4 Education Contest.** Each boxtop is worth 10 cents. The labels add up. Last year we made \$3,120.30. Over the last four years the school has received \$12,487.26. Please keep on clipping coupons, ask your family, friends and co-workers to do the same. Attached is a collection sheet to glue on your boxtops. If you fill out three sheets, there are prizes in the office.



**B & B The Place to Be.** School is back in full swing and our monthly food nights have begun. September 22nd Home and School is sponsoring our first Family Food Night at B & B Classic Dogs on Lincoln Road across from the library (event if from 5-8pm). So bring the whole family, enjoy a night away from the kitchen, socialize and support your school all at once. **\*Mention St. Mary's school at check out.**

**We are in need of volunteers for Father's Thank You Celebration.** It is Tuesday, September 20th at St. Marks from 7-8:30 PM. The Thank You Celebration is a chance for Father 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. If able, please call: **402-292-0238**. Opportunities include: Set-up (5-7pm); serving (7-8:30pm); clean-Up (8:15pm-9:30pm); picking up table cloths (ironing and bringing to St. Mark's by 4:30pm); picking up food at Columbans and transporting (~5pm).

## Home and School Association

**Parish Picnic Cake Walk.** Thanks to all who donated baked goods and helped with "Cake Walk" activities at this weekend's parish picnic. We had plenty of baked goods thanks to your generosity. There was quite the crowd of participants; all had a wonderful time.

**Home and School Meeting.** We really appreciate everyone who came out to the first HSA general meeting on Monday evening. We discussed past Summer activities as well as upcoming Fall events. Minutes are available at: H&S website at <http://stmarysschoolbellevue.com/home-school/overview>. Scroll down to "Meeting Minutes" header. If you have a questions about something discussed at this meeting and don't see the current meeting minutes posted yet, please contact Wendy Seaman at [wx\\_vain@yahoo.com](mailto:wx_vain@yahoo.com) .

**Papio Park Family Fun Night.** Join us Friday, September 30th at Papio Fun Park in Papillion for an evening of fun with friends and family. **See attached flyer.**