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SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 5

September 20, 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)

Sep 20: All School Mass; Jr High Youth Ministry

Sep 21: Chess Club to 4pm, International Peace Day

Sep 22: Coffee with the Principal (after drop-off) ; Karate

Sep 25: Jr Legion of Mary; Karate Sep 25-

-Sep 30: Terra Nova Testing; Catholic High School Visits (Middle School)

Oct 16: Picture Retake



September is a busy month for teachers and students. We have taken the STAR assessments in PK through 8th grade. Our STAR assessments give us a way to take a look at individual students to benchmark their skills in the areas of reading and math. Because this is not a standardized test, the student is not compared to other students. This type of data gives parents and teachers a look at where a student's skills are strongest and what skills are challenging. We plan to send "Parent Reports" out in the next few days that will give you your child's results. The most important part of the report will be the narrative which suggests activities to enhance your child's learning both at school and at home. I hope you will take the time to read through the entire report and congratulate your student on all he or she has accomplished. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the results, please contact your child's teacher. We can also give you more information on the STAR program. We are very impressed with our students!

-Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal

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 8-10 parent volunteers to assist with height, weight, vision and hearing screening. No formal medical training required. We look forward to hearing from you.

Archbishop's Annual Pro-life Mass at St. Mary's. There will be a special Pro Life Mass at St. Mary's Church on Saturday, Sept 23 at 8 a.m. This will be followed by a rosary procession to the Bellevue Abortion clinic, and reception afterwards in St. Mary's Parish Center.



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

Catholic High School Visitations. During the week of Sept. 25th, the Catholic High Schools will visit the Middle School students. 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.

Thank You to Quik Trip. As part of our Day of Peace celebration, we needed straws to attach to our doves. Many thanks to Quik Trip who generously donated the extra large straws for this celebration. Next time you happen to visit a Quik Trip, please thank them.

Saturday School. For Middle School students with missing assignments sometimes Saturday School is applied. The following are the Saturday School dates for the year. All dates are on Saturdays from 7 to 9 am, except for the one on Friday, Nov 3rd. Students are expected to be here for the entire 2 hours. Affected student families are contacted in advance. Saturday School dates: Oct 7th, Friday Nov 3rd (3:30 to 5:30pm), Dec 2nd, Dec 16th, Jan 27th, Feb 17th, Mar 10th (Last one for 8th grade students), April 7th, April 28th, May 12th.

TERRA NOVA Testing. Terra Nova testing will begin on Sept. 25th for grades 3-8 and continue throughout the week. 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.

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. An eForm was sent to all our families inviting them to share information 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).

Celebrating Peace Week. We have a number of different activities in celebration of Peace Week.

Buddies: Buddies will get together to make pinwheels.

Doves: Each student will be given a dove to decorate in whatever way he/she wants. We will hang these throughout the building.

Peace Acrostics: Students in grades 3-8 are asked to write an acrostic using the word Peace.

Prayer Service: We will have a prayer service for peace on September 21 at 8:15am. Parents welcome.



Thanks to our Room Parents. Below is a list of our room parents for the 2017-2018 school year. Being a room parent is an important job. They support the teacher with parties, auction projects and other tasks. As fellow parents, please support them. It is a great way for acquiring service hours that count toward your total service hours requirement and it helps ensure our classroom environments are vibrant. For example, helping with crafts or coming to supervise at a party also counts. All it takes to get started is to say "yes" when the room parent calls. An added benefit is that your child will see your commitment to service. What a great gift! Thanks for all you do for us and we hope to see you at some of the many upcoming events

Room Parents:

Pre-K: Angelina Giles, Hannah Clark
1st: Mary Sasek, Christine Houlden
3rd: Kate McCary, Nelcy Vargas
5th: Judy Mansisor, Julie Williams
7th: Lisa Schneider, Deven Amin,
Kellie Kouba

Kindergarten: Christine Mueller, Brenda Achterhoff, Victoria Harker
2nd: Melissa Markham, Kim Zieno
4th: Melissa Swiecicki, Christina Legner
6th: Trixy Schmitz, Shannan McGarry
8th: Jodi Belcastro, Saboi Williams

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.

2017-2018 Yearbook. That's right...we are now taking orders for our upcoming yearbook. The price will be \$18 during the time period of Sept 12-Oct 31st, then the price will increase to \$20 with orders from Nov 1-Jan 31, 2017. After Jan 31st the price will be \$22.

Prayer intentions. Most of our classes do prayer intentions at various times during the week. These prayers are prayers of the gathered faithful. In praying these prayers, the faithful are carrying out their role of praying for the entire world as well as for the needs of the local community. Parents are invited to email the office if they would like prayer intentions for our weekly Masses.

Children's Liturgy of the Word. Available at the Sunday 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Masses for all children 4 years old-through 4th grade! After the Opening Prayers, a Catechist leads the children down to our Parish Center where a special homily centered around the Gospel Reading is presented. They join their family just before the Presentation of our gifts. Children do not need to be registered for this program and all are welcome. For more info, call Ted or Cindy Menzel 402-292-2076.

Project Hope. Project HOPE – coordinators – Rhonda Prewitt and Kati Wilwerding – smscripcoord@cox.net Just 37 weeks left to make your \$1000 requirement for a rebate. \$50 per week – 37 weeks = \$1850

Great News! PrestoPay will be FREE to use during the dates of September 23-29th. This means no \$.15 transaction fee! Create your account on ShopWithScrip.com. It will take approximately 1 week to create and set-up PrestoPay initially due to security processes. After that use PrestoPay without effort and take advantage of special deals through out the year!

On-line PrestoPay enrollment code – 2L1FB7D76253. More information and links go to - <http://stmarysbellevue.com/> & click on Project HOPE

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. Questions, email: joanne.sjostedt@stmarysbellevue.com.



Jr High Youth Ministry. Our Junior High Youth Ministry meets, 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. 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) or [402.659.8981](tel:402.659.8981).



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 until 9/30. Flyer attached in eNewsletter.



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.



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
December 16 – Ollie the Trolley and Christmas Fun

November 10 – Potluck Dinner and Games

AmazonSmile. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St. Mary's School whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Just chose St. Mary's School as your charity of choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.



HyVee Cash for Students. Calling all families, from September – 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 anti-bullying.

The assembly is called "Love Changes It All" featuring youth speaker and social skills educator Jeff Veley. Jeff's Social and Emotional Learning program teaches students how to face adversity, grow in resilience, and solve their own social problems. It's the perfect solution for schools who want to stop bullying/social aggression through skill-based education and student empowerment. We are also accepting cash donations to fund this special assembly.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS. Bring your pets to the front of St. Mary's Hall on Saturday, September 30th at 9 a.m. and celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi as our model for our care of animals. All pets and their humans are welcome!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPAGHETTI DINNER The Columban Council 6192 Knights of Columbus annual Spaghetti Dinner - Sunday, October 1st at the Knights Hall, 205 Industrial Road, Bellevue. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal while helping the Knights continue their support of the many charitable organizations in our community. Dinner will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., \$9 donation per adult ticket. ★ (under 12) are \$5. Can be purchased at the door. Meals include spaghetti, meatballs, and salad. A complimentary glass of wine for adults is included. Desserts from the Catholic Daughters will be on sale, too. Questions or to buy tickets, contact Mike Parente (mparente@cox.net).

Home and School Association

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 – The Fall Fundraiser has been Kicked-off!! Dates for the fundraiser are Wednesday, September 13, 2017 thru Wednesday, October 4, 2017. Delivery date will be determined after our order has been submitted; however it will occur prior to Thanksgiving.

We are asking each family to sell at least 20 items or participate in the \$250 buy out option (you will receive a tax deductible receipt if you participate in this option). Please have all checks made out to St. Mary's Home & School.

Online Ordering is simple! Please see the insert in the packet on how to complete the set-up. This is a great way to get family and friends involved that don't live nearby. The items will be sent directly to them if you order online. The students were very excited regarding the potential for prizes, there is detailed information in the packet regarding the prizes, here is a bit more information when it comes to them as well:

- We have the ticket system again to get the lanyards and this year the Pigster Pals, per Dr. Wallinger these will be able to be worn on Fridays only and not to be taken out on recess.
- Tickets will be processed on Mondays and Thursdays and their Pigster Pals will be handed out on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- The internet prize will also be handed out on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- The top 5 sellers will be selected to compete in the Pig Race. The winner of the race will receive a "Pig Out Party" hosted by H&S.
- Individual prizes will be top seller \$100 Visa Gift Card, 2nd – 5th top seller will each get \$25 Visa Gift Card.
- We encourage all families to participate as this is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year and every little bit helps. I appreciate your support through the fundraiser and if you have any questions or feedback please don't hesitate to contact me.



September Food night is at Culvers. Location: 3602 Raynor Parkway Bellevue.

Date: September 28th from 4-8pm. 20% of proceeds go to St. Mary's just remember to mention you are with St. Mary's School when you order. You can go to the inside or at the drive. This is a great opportunity to buy Culver's SCRIP too.

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](tel: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!

Upcoming Events: Halloween Fun Night Friday 10/27