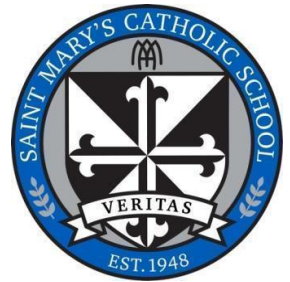




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!
ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 6
September 21, 2016



MISSION: To provide a Catholic education that nurtures students' hearts and minds to become servant leaders in an ever changing world.

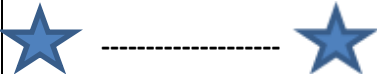
Front Office Corner

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 22: EPS F/T (6th), Chess Club to 4pm, B&B Food Night**
- Sep 23: No School; Teacher In-service**
- Sep 24: 7th Grade Retreat**
- Sep 25: Rite of Election (7th)**
- Sep 26**
- Sep 30: Terra Nova Testing; Catholic High School Visits (Middle School)**



Very Important:

For the safety of all, students are to not to be dropped off on East side of parking lot. There is only one drop off point for students not using Extended Day: Clay Street Drop Off Lane.

Happy fall! The first day of autumn is actually on Thursday, but the leaves already seem ready to turn and we are enjoying all sorts of fall activities. As the school year moves forward, we have wonderful opportunities for parents to volunteer. We hope to create a list of recurring activities, but in the meantime, watch the newsletter, bulletin, and the digital sign outside.

The requirement for volunteer hours has not changed. We ask that all families contribute time helping with tasks around the school and or parish. Single parent families should be giving 10 hours, and dual parent families are asked to give 20 hours. Speaking from experience, volunteering and adding up those hours is a great way to get involved with your child's classroom, meet other parents or family members, and really become part of the St. Mary's Community. Many of the activities can be done when it is convenient for your schedule. Most will be advertised enough in advance that you could plan ahead to be available.

Room parents will be reaching out in the next few days to ask for your help with parties, Spirit Days, and the classroom auction project. Any of these would be ideal for acquiring service hours that count toward your total requirement. Most of the room parent requests will be for sending something in. If you bake or supply a food item, it counts as time volunteering. Helping with crafts or coming to supervise at a party also counts. Before you know it, you've accumulated quite a few hours. 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 I hope to see you at some of the many upcoming events.

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

Patricia Wallinger

Dr. Trish Wallinger, principal

Health Screenings. The school nurse, Mrs. Laney, will be conducting hearing and vision screenings on Monday, October 17th. More info to follow. She is looking for 7 or 8 parent volunteers to help that day (thanks to the 3 parents who volunteered so far). Please call the office for more info.

Couples in Christ Hayrack Ride. Couples in Christ is hosting their annual Fall hayrack ride on Saturday, October 8th, at 5:00 p.m. at the Karnik Farm, 15315 Hwy. 75. All young couples and families are invited. Please bring hot dogs or burgers to grill and a side dish to share. RSVP to Kate & Jerome Tyner at 402-212-6689 or stmaryscic@gmail.com. Facebook: Couples in Christ: St. Mary's, Bellevue

From the Lunchroom. 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.

2nd grade Reconciliation Parents' meeting - September 28th, 4:45 or 6:45 p.m. - at the Church. If your child will be preparing for his/her First Reconciliation this year we ask that all parents attend this First Reconciliation Parent meeting. This is an important first step towards Reconciliation for your family and child. Information regarding your family's role in helping prepare your child for this Sacrament will be available. First Reconciliation will be January 21st .

7th grade Confirmation retreat is September 24th. We are still in need of adult volunteers to help as small group leaders for this retreat. Volunteers must be Safe Environment trained. Permission slips are due in the office no later than September 21st .

The 8th grade Confirmation retreat is October 8th. We are still in need of adult volunteers to help as small group leaders for this retreat. Volunteers must be Safe Environment trained. Permission slips are due in the office no later than October 1st. Contact the RE office for information regarding the retreats and if you would like to volunteer. Thank you.

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. We received about 10 paper towel rolls last week and would love some more. Please bring to school as your family empties them.

Catholic High School Visits. 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

Knights Spaghetti Dinner – October 2nd from 11:30 a.m. - 7p.m. Tickets available at the door (Adults \$9; children 12 & under \$5). Meals include spaghetti, meatballs, salad and bread. A complimentary glass of wine for adults is included. Delicious desserts provided by the Catholic Daughters. Carry out is available.

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.

Handbook Highlight (ref: page 14)

Parent – Teacher Conferences. Parent – Teacher conferences are held at the end of the first quarter and mid way through the third quarter. Conferences provide the opportunity for parents and teachers to meet and discuss the growth and achievement each child is making throughout the school year.

Grant for \$1,000. St. Mary's received a Mid-America Dairy Council grant for \$1,000. The grant will be used for equipment to make healthy drinks for students and for other programs to develop/educate healthy lifestyles.

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.

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. Thanks to all our generous supporters for the 6th grade fundraiser.

Volleyball news....

Please contact your team's coach or Sports coordinator, Jennifer Kreps 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 school's website - not sycamore. Please send to school in an envelope marked "sports".



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

Divine Mercy Movie and Pizza Social (6th, 7th, 8th). Wednesday, October 5th, from 6:30pm-8:45pm at St. Columbkille. Forms previously sent home. If you need another form, please call the office.

Skinny Bones Pumpkin Patch. Saturday, Oct. 22nd, all 6th-12th graders are invited to join us for a fall outing at Skinny Bones Pumpkin Patch in Blair, NE. Cost is \$25 (non-refundable) which includes transportation, admission & dinner. Check-in is at 5pm at St. Mary's School parking lot. Will return around 1030pm. Checks payable to "St. Mary's Youth Ministry." Forms previously sent home. If you need another form, please call the office.

Clue: Unravel the Secrets (7th and 8th). Sunday, October 16th, at St. Robert Bellarmine from 2-5pm. Cost is \$15. Registration forms went home previously. If you need another form, please call office.



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, and 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 is 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.**

Home and School Association

Fall Fundraiser Kickoff. It's already that time of year! Our Fall Fundraiser kicks off next Wednesday, September 28th, and runs through Wednesday, October 19th. We are very excited to be working with a new vendor this year, Charleston Wrap. They offer a wide variety of items: wrapping paper, cookie dough, kitchenware, home goods, and personalized products/gifts...something for everyone. All families are asked to buy/sell 20 items or do the buyout of \$200. More details to follow next week.

Buyout Option: If you choose not to participate in the 2015 Fall Fundraiser, you can donate \$200 to St. Mary's H/S. The families choosing the buyout option can fill out 15 red tickets for their students so they will still be eligible to participate in pig races. Buyout option is tax deductible. H&S will provide receipts for tax purposes.

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.**

Home and School Meeting. Our next HSA meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 10th, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. Archived minutes are available at: <http://stmarysschoolbellevue.com/home-school/overview>. Scroll down to "Meeting Minutes" header.

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 19th

Contact : Brian & Bernadette Miller

402-738-8951

millertime181@yahoo.com or degogirl14@cox.net

Interested in some of these Student Contests?

Below are some fun student contests that our students could choose to participate in. Please check descriptions and grade eligibility and submission requirements.

“Celebrating a Century: America’s National Parks” Essay Contest

Sponsor: Daughters of the American Revolution Grades 5-8 Due Date: December 1, 2016

This is an essay contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution for students in grades 5-8. The topic for this year’s essays is the National Parks Service which was established in 1916. The author is asked to pretend you are writing a journal while visiting one of our 58 national parks, identify the history of the park and what makes it a national treasure. There will be a local (Bellevue) bronze medal winner in each grade level and those winners will move on to state & national contests.

“Colors of Christmas” Art Contest

Sponsor: Catholic Voice Grades K-6 Due Date: December 5, 2016

This year’s theme is from the Gospel of Matthew 2:9-11 – the three wise men following the star and bearing gifts to the baby Jesus. Students in grades K-6 can submit entries. Selected artwork will be published in the Catholic Voice Dec. 16 Christmas edition.

“My Responsibility to America” - Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest

Sponsor: Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Grades 9-12 Due Date: November 1, 2016

The V.F.W. is sponsoring an audio-essay contest consisting of a typed essay & recorded 3-5 minute reading of the essay related to this year’s theme of “My Responsibility to America.” Last year’s winning submission can be found with this link: www.vfw.org/VOD

“The America I Believe In” – Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest

Sponsor: Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Grades 6-8 Due Date: November 1, 2016

The V.F.W. is sponsoring an essay contest consisting of a typed essay, 300-400 words in length, related to this year’s theme of “The America I Believe In.” Last year’s winning submission can be found with this link: www.vfw.org/PatriotsPen