

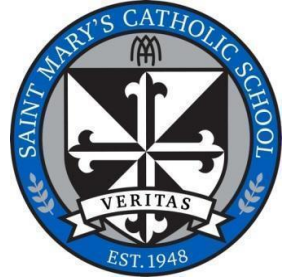


Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!

ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 7

September 28, 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 28: 2nd Grade Parent Mtg (First Reconciliation)

Sep 29: Terra Nova Testing; Gross Catholic High School Visit (Middle School); Chess Club;

Sep 30: Mercy H/S Visit; Sidewalk Chalk School Activities Fun @230pm; Papio Fun Night sponsored by HSA

This week's *Principal Corner* is about things that may not be widely known. For example, many people know that we offer Academic Support, but may not know that Miss Kallman has been offering this service to our families for the last seven years. This is beyond her school day and she volunteers her time as the facilitator.

Other teachers and staff also help with various activities and clubs. Miss Sheridan is the sponsor of numerous clubs and teams. She coaches Wits Clash, Book Bowl, and Student Activities Council. Wits Clash is a 7th and 8th grade academic club focused on preparing students for quiz bowls modeled after College Bowl. Students are challenged on quick thinking skills and competitive spirit. The Book Bowl is a similar club. Although some of the time spent is during school, much more time is spent after school hours and on weekends.

Mrs. Sjostedt is the Chess Club Sponsor. She gives the students a place to learn how to think strategically, think ahead, become more analytical, but most of all to be a gracious sport, win or lose. Her time is also a gift to the students.

Have you seen the beautiful grounds? Mrs. Menzel, along with her husband Ted spent countless hours in the gardens this summer pulling weeds, thinning plants and spreading mulch. Now that school has begun, Mrs. Menzel along with Ms. Gaspers, Mrs. Harms, Mrs. Embury, Miss Jankovich, and Mrs. Thompson assist with the Budding Botanists Club. All these teachers donate their time to provide enrichment after school hours.

These are just a few of the ways our teachers and staff give the gift of service to the St. Mary's family. Each person believes that a big part of living our faith means serving others. What a loving and compassionate gift!

Patricia Wallinger

Dr. Trish Wallinger, principal

Buying SCRIP. The school was contacted by a school family who's Grandmom, living out of state, wanted to buy SCRIP and support the school. Did you know family and friends can do this via www.shopwithscrip.com? Enrollment code: 2L1FB7D76253. After registering, the family will need to be approved before placing an order. After they sign up for Pesto Pay (shopwithscrip.com>Family functions>PrestoPay) then our SCRIP coordinator gets an email to approve them.

*Also, last year the office would average 2-3 SCRIP orders daily to fill via student backpacks. We've been averaging less than 5 per week. Families can stop by the office to purchase SCRIP, buy after Mass, but also send orders through their child's backpack. We will fill the order, put in a sealed envelope and return to student backpack.

Health Screenings. The school nurse, Mrs. Laney, will be conducting hearing and vision screenings on Monday, October 17th. More info to follow. We need 4 more volunteers to complete the screenings. Please call the office for more info.

Did you know you can check your extended day and cafeteria account balances from Sycamore? When you log in, on the left margin, click on "my accounting", then childcare and cafeteria to see up to the minute balances.

Sacraments

Confirmation Retreats – Please keep our 8th grade students in prayer as they prepare for and attend their Confirmation retreat.



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 Oct. 3rd. Contact the RE office for information regarding the retreat and if you would like to volunteer. Thank you.

Something new. This year we have invited three other parishes, Our Lady of Peace, St. Matthew and St. Bernadette, to join us for an all Bellevue Confirmation retreat at the Columban Fathers. NET (National Evangelization Teams) will be presenting our combined Confirmation Retreat.

For more than 30 years, NET Ministries has ministered to 1.7 million young Catholics through 30,000+ retreats in 150 dioceses across the United States.

NET sends over 150 young adults across the country in teams of 8-14 to proclaim the Gospel to Catholic youth. The NET teams will share their love of Christ and the Church with over 80,000 youth from September to May this year. They come from a wide variety of states and countries. The NET team members have been trained in the teachings of the Catholic Church and formed as brothers and sisters in Christ, a quality young people consistently notice and to which they are attracted.

2nd grade Reconciliation Parents meeting tonight- 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 your attendance is needed. 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.

Don't forget to showcase your school pride this upcoming Mon, Oct. 3rd, for Spirit Day. On designated days, students may wear class spirit shirts with their uniform pants or skirt. Students may wear jeans with their spirit shirt if they opt to participate in our jeans charitable fundraiser (\$.75). Jeans must be neat, clean, and free of holes. No rivets, cargo pants, low riders, hip huggers, or baggy pants, please.

POP TAB Roundup! Thank you! Our most recent donation of POP TABS to Ronald McDonald House was 24,000 for a total of 2,344,000 collected since the start of our POP TAB Ministry in 2006. To reach our next goal of 3,000,000 we need 636,000 more POP TABS. You can collect those tabs at your next basketball, football game, family gathering, tailgating, the office, or while you pop that tab after a day's work. You may turn in your collected tabs to any Parish office or by the collection site at Church located near the elevator. Thank you to the Miller family for their continuous offer of dropping off the many boxes of POP TABS to the Ronald McDonald House.

How do we know how many tabs we collect? We weigh them, each tab weighs an ounce.

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 are getting close, but need about 25 more. Please bring to school as your family empties them so they can be decorated.

Veterans Assembly. St. Mary's School will hold its annual veterans' assembly, November 11th, at 1:30pm in the school gym. All veterans, retired and active duty are invited to attend. More info to follow.

TERRA NOVA Testing. Terra Nova testing began on Sept. 26th for grades 3-8 and continues 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.

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.

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, and then the price will increase to \$18 with orders from Nov 1-Jan 31, 2017. After Jan 31st the price will be \$20.

Pro-Life Ministry – Life Chain Sunday. Defend life and join in the annual Life Chain on Sunday, October 2nd, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. This year our parish will again be standing on the North side of Dodge Street in front of St. Margaret Mary's School and the soccer field. Signs will be given out there or may be picked up in the parking lot of St. Margaret Mary's Church. Contact Liz Miller with questions at lizm54@cox.net or call 402-614-0496.

Baby Drive. EPS News: The 6th grade class would like to thank the community for the the baby items donated to the EPS. The students were able to take many baby outfits, bottles, wipes, diapers and more across the street. The students enjoyed a tour of the facility. Thank you very much for supporting our service project for Life!

Junior High Youth Ministry (7th & 8th Grade)- Fall 2016. Please mark your calendars for the following dates in October (meeting in the entranceway near school gym): Thursday, October 6th - Jr. High small groups - 7:00-8:30 p.m. (meet in the hallway outside of St. Mary's School gym). Wednesday, October 19th - Jr. High small groups - 7:00-8:30 p.m. (meet in the hallway outside of St. Mary's School gym).

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.

Handbook Highlight (ref: page 24)

Socks must be worn at all times. Girls and Boys must wear solid white, navy blue, or black socks. All socks must be ankle, crew, or knee socks. No Tennis socks may be worn (socks must be visible).

White or navy opaque tights may be worn from November to February. Tights must be a solid white or solid blue with no prints or decorations. Leggings are not permitted.

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 the office.

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.

Home and School Association

Fall Fundraiser Kickoff. It's already that time of year! Our Fall Fundraiser kicks off today, Wednesday, September 28th, and runs through Wednesday, October 19th. Packets will be going home today after the official kickoff assembly. 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 and gifts...something for everyone. All families are asked to buy/sell 20 items. If you choose not to participate in the 2016 Fall Fundraiser, you can donate \$200 to St. Mary's H/S. The buyout option is tax deductible. HSA will provide receipts for tax purposes. Thank you in advance for your support!

Papio Park Family Fun Night. Join us this Friday, September 30th, from 6-9pm at Papio Fun Park in Papillion for an evening of fun with friends and family. **\$10.00 per Family. Includes unlimited access to Lazer Runner, Spaceball, Jumpshot, & Miniature Golf (weather permitting) For an additional fee you will be able to purchase tickets for Go-Karts (weather permitting).**

Papio Fun Park, 210 E. Lincoln Street, Papillion, NE 402.592.5671 www.papiofunpark.com

*Flyers previously sent home. If you need another info flyer, please email the office.



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.

October Food Night. Spend the evening somewhere else instead of the kitchen. Meet us at Culver's in Bellevue on **Thursday, October 13th, from 5-9 p.m.** St. Mary's School will receive 10% of all gross sales during that time.



Halloween Fun Night. Mark your calendars for our annual event planned for **Friday, October 28th, from 6-8:30 p.m. (tentatively).** Expect some new activities this year: Trick or Treat Village with a door decorating contest (in lieu of Trunk or Treat), a photo booth, Spooky Story Time, and a pumpkin decorating contest. There will also be various games, a costume contest, and the best part....a dance. More formal agenda to follow.



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