



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

Volume 22
February 7, 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:

Feb 8: NO SCHOOL
In-Service for teachers

Feb 9: Parent /Teacher Conf (11am-8pm)

Feb 10: NO SCHOOL

Feb 12: "Up" Movie in Parish Cntr @2pm

Feb 13: Home & School Mtg @630pm (library), then Auction mtg

Feb 14: St. Valentine's Day Classroom Parties @2:15pm

I wanted to update our families about 2017-2018 school registration for your planning purposes. The purpose of registration is to plan and project our enrollment numbers. This is best served if we complete registration in the early spring.

For the reasons set out above, registration will open the last week of February/beginning of March timeframe. We will again do registration on-line. We received a lot of positive feedback that parents liked not having to again provide address, phone numbers, etc, but could just verify no changes. One change: last year there was a documents tab for parents to print the forms that needed to be handed in (ex. for nurse, for Home and School, etc). This year, a hardcopy of those documents will go home with the messenger student along with a reminder for on-line registration.

I hope families are planning to support our Spring for the Children Benefit Auction as best as they are able. From volunteering to purchasing raffle tickets to reserving a table with family and friends...we look forward to working with families as we continue to make St Mary's an exceptional school for our children. As a reminder, I'm wondering if I'll be coloring my hair blue...its up to you. Wink. So far I'm told we have sold 134 tickets by 18 families.

One final thought: look forward to seeing the students enjoy fellowship during our St Valentine's Day parties next Tuesday at 2:15pm. Thanks to our room parents for organizing. **Students can wear red with jeans in celebration of St. Valentine's Day on February 14th.**

Patricia Halling

As a reminder, on February 24th, dismissal will be at 11am for any pre-kindergarten students not scheduled to attend Kindergarten Round-Up and the entire Kindergarten class.

SCRIP Update. SCRIP is a great way to reduce your tuition costs. Families that purchase SCRIP cards throughout the year, earn a rebate for the upcoming school year tuition. For details about % of rebate and how to start, please call the school

office. Some interesting statistics:

From program start in 2009:

Rebates to families: \$1,820

of St. Mary's families participating: 20

Present:

Rebates to families last year: \$15,225

of St. Mary's families receiving rebates: 48

Dietician at Parent/Teacher Conferences. As part of our *Fit for Life* program hosted by Creighton University students, Registered Dietician, Sarah Sortino, will be available during conferences at answer any questions from parents. Thank you to Creighton University for setting this up.

Class Pictures. All class pictures were distributed a few weeks ago (with the exception of 4th and 5th grade which will be here in the next two weeks). If you ordered a package with the class picture and don't show that it was received, please let me know.

PARENT-TO-PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT. Do you have a child eligible to start PK or K next year? Please join us on Tuesday, February 21st at 6pm for dinner. We will host a complimentary dinner at the school for parents to talk to parents whose children are in Pre-K and K, meet the teachers, principal and pastor, and take a tour of the classrooms. Free childcare and a meal for visiting children is also provided. Call the school at 402-291-1694 to RSVP.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP. All children eligible to begin PK or kindergarten next year are invited to our round-up sessions on Feb 24th from 1-2:30 pm. The purpose of the Round-Up visit is to help familiarize parents and children with the school setting, as well as give them a glimpse of a day in the life of a Kindergartner. Parents will get to see how the teacher interacts with the children through classroom activities and will receive resources to help them improve their child's readiness for Kindergarten. Kindergarten Round-Up is for one parent and their child. Preregistration is required. If you have any questions or to register, call the office at 402-291-1694. *Please share with family and friends, too.

St. Mary's Family Afternoon Movie. Sunday, Feb. 12th from 2:00pm-4:30pm at St. Mary's Parish Center! Premiering "Up."

GeoBee. The National Geographic Bee is an annual competition organized by the National Geographic Society, designed to inspire and reward students' curiosity about the world. Students from 10,000 schools across the United States are competing in the 2017 National Geographic Bee for a chance to win college scholarships and the glory of being the National Geographic Bee Champion. Congratulations to all our GeoBee participants (Grades 4-8). Our top three performers are highlighted below.

Fourth Grade: Delaney Meinders and Addison Pithan

Fifth Grade: Christian Swieicki and Caleb Luyando

Sixth Grade: Joseph Kouba and Jacob Legner

Seventh Grade: Timothy Bartz and William Van Huffel

Eighth Grade: Joseph Seaman and Gabriel Tweedy

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest. Congratulations to our winners at the local council competition level. All the students listed below have been invited to compete in the district competition and will be formally recognized at our year end school assembly. Many thanks to our Knights of Columbus who generously volunteered their time to host the event with Mrs. Hug in PE. It was a lot of fun.

9 yr old girls: Winner Taylee Wharton

10 yr old girls: Winner Coventry Thompson

11 yr old girls: Winner Julia Bennett

12 yr old girls: Winner Taryn Wharton

13 yr old girls: Winner Gabrielle Sjostedt

14 yr old girls: Winner Theodosia Mba

9 yr old boys: Winner N/A

10 yr old boys: Winner Grayson Janulewicz

11 yr old boys: Winner Harshil Amin

12 yr old boys: Winner Raoul Djidjoho

13 yr old boys: Winner Preston Ames

14 yr old boys: Winner Nicholas Kouba

School Facility Committee - Volunteers needed. The Parish Maintenance Committee is launching a School Facility Sub-Committee this February. This sub-committee will work with the Pastor, Principal and Business Manager to develop a 3 -

5 year School Renovation Plan and Annual Facility Maintenance Plan. One member will, also, serve on the Maintenance Committee. The current anticipated time commitment is 1 - 5 hours per month depending on the length of the meetings and tasks identified to complete for each committee member.

If you are interested in helping us shape the future of St. Mary's School, please email a brief summary of why you would like to serve on this committee and what skill set you would bring to enhance the committee to our Pastor, Father Del, at frdellape@stmarysbelleuve.com. To date, Father hasn't received any volunteers, but he's hopeful to hear from us.



JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY (7th & 8th Grades) Wednesday, February 22nd - Large Group Meeting - 5:30-6:30 p.m. - School Gym

2016-2017 Yearbook. That's right...we are now taking orders for our upcoming yearbook. The current price is \$20. 8th grade families are invited to buy an ad that will appear in the yearbook. This is a special way to create a memory for your child.

Basketball registration fees. Please pay your basketball registration fees (\$70/player) ASAP. This money helps sports with purchasing equipment, uniforms, league fees & tournaments. If this is a hardship please let me know. Send to school in an envelope marked "Sports". Thank you. Jennifer Kreps megjen992000@yahoo.com or [402-881-2576](tel:402-881-2576).

NO PRACTICE TOMORROW, FEBRUARY 9TH DUE TO PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES.

Please contact your team's coach if you have any questions regarding practices or games.

Parent and Teacher Conferences. Parent - Teacher Conferences will be held Thursday, Feb 9th 11am-8pm. If you didn't schedule, you can call the office and we can try to help. The Sycamore scheduler has been closed so schedules can be printed for teachers.

PARISH FAMILY AFTERNOON MOVIE - "UP" SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 2:00-4:30 p.m. - PARISH CENTER Families of all sizes & ages are invited to join St. Mary's Parish for the Family Afternoon Movie (FAM) "UP". The fixings (popcorn & drinks) are supplied for a great afternoon promoting Discipleship through movies. Join us & find out how "Up" can relate to our faith. Along with the movie, families are offered a home kit which includes monthly activities, prayer, an activity for children, monthly readings along with an opportunity to provide a service project (stewardship) to help others, based on the movie. If you would like more information about Family Afternoon Movies, to RSVP or are interested in helping in the planning of a family movie event, contact the RE office at 402-291- 7222 or email etomaso@stmarysbelleuve.com.



Scholastic Books is running a 1 Box = 1 Book offer with Kellogg's and WalMart from now through April 30, 2017. It is a very easy way to get free Scholastic books for our school library and for individual classroom libraries in the school. To support this program all you need to do is purchase participating Kellogg's products at WalMart and send in your receipts to the school.

We will take care of uploading the receipts and redeeming the credits for free books! You can also participate in this offer as individuals to get free books for your home libraries. Let's keep our kids reading!

If you do not use Kellogg's products in your home, consider purchasing a few items and then donating the products to the Bellevue Food Pantry and the receipts to the school -- then you are able to help our school and those in need in our community at the same time.

Let it Grow Contest...St. Mary's is in 1st place by 400 votes. We would love your help to take this to the finish line. There's a 5 question multiple choice quiz, but getting wrong answers isn't a show stopper...they will educate you on correct answers and still let you submit. Click on this link: http://www.thescienceofsoil.com/contest?utm_source=DiscoveryEducation&utm_campaign=NFL&utm_medium=ProgramOptIn_Jan5&utm_content=LetItGrow

Home and School Association

Catholic Schools Week (CSW) Thank You. It was a fantastic and fun-filled week for all. Of course, these extra activities would not be possible without the help of our families, teachers, and St. Mary's students who graciously offered their time and talent to help out. Another big thank you goes out to all who helped at our CSW Pancake Breakfast, as well as those who helped with set-up, serving, and clean-up at our Special Friends Reception last Wednesday. Finally, thank you to our 42 performers, 4 emcees, 7 stage crew members, faculty/staff, and families who participated in and helped with our 4th annual talent show last Friday. Through generous donations of our attendees, we collected \$533 for our Open Door Mission!

Heart of Mary Award Nominations Needed. The Heart of Mary Award selection committee is currently taking nominations for individual(s) who have made significant contributions to St. Mary's School. This award is presented at the annual benefit auction to those who have tirelessly given of themselves with passion, benevolence and dedication. **Submit nominations to Heart of Mary Award Chairs, Craig & Dane' Ames, at daneames@yahoo.com no later than Tuesday, February 14.** Please include detailed information on why you think this person(s) should be considered for recognition. Previous nominations are kept on file and will be considered along with any new nominees. Past Heart of Mary Award Recipients: 2016 – Ryan & Christina Legner; 2015 – Larry & Jackie Ortega; 2014 – Steve & Tina Targy; 2013 – Ted & Cindy Menzel

Home and School General Meeting. Our next general meeting will be held on **Monday, February 13th at 6:30 pm** in the school library. We will be discussing past CSW events, upcoming HSA officer elections, and HSA scholarships. Hope to see you there!

Children's Classroom Project Meeting. Christina Legner would like to meet with room parents, teachers, and all who are responsible for/interested in assisting with auction classroom projects on **Monday, February 13th at 7:30 pm (after the HSA meeting) in the school Computer Room.** She will have examples on-hand, go over how to update the Google Sheet, and field questions you may have. Please contact Christina Legner if you have any questions. (402-598-1262/christina_legner@yahoo.com)

Valentine's Day Classroom Parties are scheduled for **Tuesday, February 14th starting at 2:15 pm.** Room parents will be contacting classroom parents for assistance/food donations as needed.

Five Guys Burgers & Fries Food Night. Join us on **Wednesday, February 15th from 4-8 pm at Five Guys Burgers** in Papillion (8540 South 71st St Plaza) for our next food night fundraiser. St. Mary's School makes 10% of all gross sales during that time. No flyers necessary or need to mention the school.



Save the Date. The Spring Musical is Friday, May 12th.

St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 305 Chili Cook Off. Please come and join us in the parish center on Saturday March 4th, 4–8pm and Sunday March 5th, 11am – 2pm for some delicious food and our silent auction. Funds raised from this will go toward troop needs, such as equipment and Scout awards. Tickets: Adult (12 and up): \$5 and child (3 to 11): \$3. Price includes all you can eat chili. To purchase tickets, we have 5 scouts in our St. Mary's Middle School so please call the school office.

St. Mary's School 23rd Annual "Spring for the Children" Benefit Auction News (Event: Saturday, March 25, 2017)

Ticket Sales – Kicks off on Sunday, January 29th, deadline for ticket purchase is March 15th. For those who purchase their tickets prior to February 13th you will receive a free Pick-A- Card (value: \$10) for a chance to win a \$1,000 Nebraska Furniture Mart Gift Card.

We Need Your Donations! Deadline is Saturday, February 28th. Many thanks for 1st grade and 3rd grade that are leading the way on parent donations for baskets...Did you get something for Christmas that you'd like to pass on? We'll take your re-gift! Send them in with your name, contact info, if you're a first-time donor (or you've had a change since your last donation), and the value of the item.

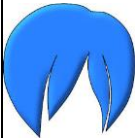
Business Donations. Do you have a business that you frequent that may donate to our auction? We'd love your help. Wondering about what to bid on at the Spring for the Children Benefit Auction? Every year St. Mary's School is blessed with many donations from families, parishioners and also local businesses.

Live Auction Donations Needed Too! We would like at least 25 Live Auction packages, including 10 art projects from each of the classes. The Live Auction Co-chairs are also looking for donations from Sports tickets including season tickets, trip/vacation packages, Iowa hog processed and packaged, and even Hotel stay certificates. If you have any items that would be a good fit for our live auction packages please contact Live Auction Chairs Chris & Carrie Leighow phone 402-709-3446 or e-mail: ckingleighow@yahoo.com.

Father's Wallet. We are also looking for donations to the popular "Father's Wallet" live auction package. Donate items that would be found in a man's wallet such as money, tickets to fine arts events, sporting event tickets, spa/salon gift certificates, passes or memberships to local museums, or even the Henry Doorly Zoo. You also might want to consider purchasing some gift cards from the St. Mary's Project Hope program. Please drop your donation off at the rectory or school office and denote that it's for "Father's Wallet."

Classroom Projects. Room parents are gearing up for their photo collages for each grade for our spring auction. In order to make the best projects, they need your help in collecting all the pictures from your child's classroom event, and school events. All pictures welcome. Send to office in an envelope labeled Children's Projects. If they are sent using a flash drive please include a note if you would like it returned to you.

Raffle. 134 tickets brought by 18 school families. We have 491 tickets to go...then Dr. Wallinger says she'll celebrate by coloring her hair blue for one week. Tip: Just stick a personal return address label and write your phone # on tickets--quick & easy. If you have any questions or need service hours, please contact Cristin Kelly cristinkelly@aol.com. To date top sellers: Kelly (23), Meinders (20), Steinke (11) and Goodall (9).



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Table Monitoring Volunteer(s) Needed! If you want to be part of the auction team, but do not have a lot of time to spare, this opportunity may be for you! Table Monitors only have responsibilities for the night of the event (~5-6 hours total), and provide a great service to all the attendees. You will assist bidders by answering questions about bidding, close silent auction sections, and sort & pass out purchased baskets. A total of 12 volunteers are needed for this committee.

Advertise your Business or be a Corporate Sponsor – Buy by Friday, February 28th! If you have a business you'd like to purchase advertisement space for in our catalog (will be seen by 350+ attendees), or if you'd be interested in purchasing one of our Corporate Sponsorship packages, contact Alan & Melissa Swiecicki phone 402-292-1097 or e-mail: amswiecicki@cox.net.

2016 Advertising Rates: \$100 – Full Page Ad (Size 7 ¼" X 10"), \$50 – Half Page Ad (Size 7 ¼" X 4 ½), \$25 – Business Card Ad (Size (3 ½" X 2") contact chairs for sponsor level info.

General Chair Contact Information. For questions+, General Co-Chairs ♦ Brian & Bernadette Miller / 402-738-8951 or e-mail: millertime181@yahoo.com; Kati Wilwerding / 402-250-3585 or e-mail: katiwil@cox.net; Jeff Reed / 402-210-1636 or e-mail: jeffreyreed82@gmail.com & Heather Weddle phone 402-598-5257 or e-mail: heatherlinn77@gmail.com.