



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

Volume 18
January 9, 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:

Jan 11: End of 2nd Quarter

Jan 11: School Mass

Jan 12: Mission Imagination; Chess Club

Jan 13: Talent Show Sign-ups due

Jan 14: Catholic H/S Placement Exam

Jan 15: "Up" Movie at parish center

Jan 16: NO SCHOOL; teacher in service; Auction meeting

Jan 17: Health Screening (K); Legion of Mary; Development mtg

Jan 18: Report cards home Looking Ahead:

Jan 20: Awards Assembly 2:30 PM in Gym

On behalf of teachers and staff, we hope you had a very Blessed and Merry Christmas. Many thanks to all for the thoughtfulness and generosity for the teacher and staff gifts received. We are so grateful to be part of such a wonderful community!

We are happy to be back in school after a wonderful and restful Christmas Season. Last week's feast of the Epiphany gave us many ideas of how to share our own gifts with Jesus. It is more than the physical gifts that the Magi brought; rather, our gifts take the form of serving others, helping the poor, and continuing to renew our own spiritual relationship with the Lord. Even though we each might be one person, together we can make a big difference in the lives of others. The Heifer project raised almost \$1000. In addition, the mitten tree was a great success. We collected gloves, hats, scarves, and coats to keep both children and adults warm during the winter season.

Looking ahead, Catholic Schools week at the end of the month promises much celebration. There will be opportunities for service. We will participate in "Secret Saints", a school kindness project, as well as make cards for the residents of a local retirement home and collect canned goods for the Bellevue Food Pantry. We look forward to seeing our parents, grandparents and special friends during these activities.

Patricia Wallinger

Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal

Awards Assembly on Jan 20th at 2:30pm in the gym for grades 4-8. At this assembly honor roll certificates will be awarded along with other middle school awards. We will also recognize our 1st semester Spirit of Mary recipients. *For Spirit of Mary recipients, families will be notified in advance for purposes of coordinating time off from work.

Please note this change: Report cards will go home on Jan 18th (not Jan 13th).

St Mary's School Bellevue admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin

Looking Ahead...February 21st will be our Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Information Night. We are seeking school families to help spread the word. Please think of groups you belong to or places you frequent that you could share the information either via email or by posting a flyer. If you can help, please email the office for details.

8th Grade Graduation Photos. Photos will be taken on January 20th. A letter went home to families with outfit requirements.

Mission Imagination. On January 12th, our PK-3rd grade students will visit the Omaha orchestra and be enlisted by the Symphonic Starfleet, board the Sonic Spaceship, and lay in a course for intergalactic adventure!



The galaxy is in danger as the villainous Lieutenant Tritone is out to steal the three legendary Orb Crystals that maintain peace and order among the star systems. With the help of the ship's Captain and autonomous bot A440, all eligible recruits (our students) are called upon to employ the musical maneuvers and tactics of rhythm, pitch, and dynamics in a cosmic race against time to stop Lieutenant Tritone at all costs.

Thanks to Miss Kallman for organizing this awesome experience for our students and many thanks to Home and School for funding this trip. Most especially, thanks to our parents, who through their fundraising efforts make this all possible.

Civics' Lesson. As we approach Catholic Schools week, we are reminded that having a choice of where our children receive their education is a right that needs to be protected. Our Middle School students are invited to a field trip on Jan 26th where they will visit the capital as part of a School Choice Rally. They will be joined by other students from other non-public schools. Governor Ricketts, Lieutenant Governor Foley, state legislators and other guest speakers will be there too. 45 other states have adopted some form of school choice legislation. Nebraska is one of 5 who have not.

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).

Come out & support Spartan Basketball

Boys

2nd - Sat 1/14 @ 11:10 at Home; Sun 1/15 @ 5:15 at Home
3rd - Sunday 1/15 @ 1:00 at Home
5th - Sat 1/14 @ 10:05 at St. Peter & Paul; Sun 1/15 @ 1:00 at ICC
6th - Sat 1/14 @ 3:30 at Home
7th - Sunday 1/15 @ 7:30 at St. Matthews



Girls

2nd - Sat 1/14 @ 10:05 at Home; Sun 1/15 @ 4:15 at Holy Ghost
3rd - Sat 1/14 @ 12:20 at ICC; Sun 1/15 @ 3:45 at St. Columbkille
4th - Sat 1/14 @ 1:20 at Home
5th - Sat 1/14 @ 9:00 at ICC; Sun 1/15 @ 2:05 at Home
6th - Sat 1/14 @ 10:50 at St. Cecilia's; Sun 1/15 @ 3:10 at Home
7th - Tuesday 1/17 @ 7:00 at Lied Center 3
8th Tuesday 1/17 @ 8:00 at Lied Center 1

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

2016-2017 Yearbook. That's right...we are now taking orders for our upcoming yearbook. The current price is \$18 with orders from Nov 1-Jan 27, 2017. After Jan 31st the price will be \$20.

Auction Meeting on Jan 16th at 6:30pm. The auction committee would love to see some additional parents willing to assist with this huge event that benefits all of our children. If you can't attend, but are willing to help in an area, please contact the office and we will forward the message to your committee of interest.

Attention St. Mary's School Alumni - Establishing Alumni Board - We want YOU!

As announced in the Fall 2016 Alumni Newsletter we are establishing a St. Mary's School Alumni Board—President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer—and encourage YOU to be a part of it! The board would create their by-laws and work with the Alumni Community, St. Mary's Parish, St. Mary's School, and the broader community. Alumni are asked to submit their [online application](#) (link available on school website - <http://www.stmarysschoolbellevue.com/alumni/home-again>) ASAP. The new board will be announced on the school website by 1/31/2017. Remote board members are possible, so don't let your proximity to the school prevent you from applying! Contact Christina Legner with questions ([402-598-1262](tel:402-598-1262)/alumni@stmarysbellevue.com).

Junior High Youth Ministry (7th & 8th Grade). Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 18th from 5:30-6:30pm in the school gym. *Please note this is a change from previous meeting location.

UPCOMING SACRAMENT DATES:

2nd grade First Reconciliation January 21st, 10:30 a.m.
2nd grade First Communion Parents Meeting: February 1st, 4:45 or 6:45 p.m.
8th grade Rite of Enrollment: April 1st, 5:00 p.m. or April 2nd, 12:30 p.m.
2nd grade First Communion Practice: April 29th, 9:00 a.m.-Noon
2nd grade First Communion April 30th, 12:30 or 2:30 p.m.
8th grade Night of Reflection & Rehearsal May 5th, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
8th grade Confirmation May 7th, 2:30 p.m. - NOTE TIME CHANGE!

St Mary's could lose \$500 a quarter without your help! Baker's Community Rewards. Baker's is committed to helping our communities grow and prosper. For this program you register your Baker's card, **but you need to re-enroll every year after January 1st.** If you haven't re-enrolled it isn't too late. Go to <https://www.bakersplus.com/communityrewards> to sign up. Organization name and number St. Mary's Church of Bellevue #10430. The school earns around \$500 every quarter...it's easy and does our school a lot of good. Thanks.



the difference  can make.

Did you know there is a mobile app for boxtops? IN ADDITION to cutting them out and sending them in, St. Mary's can earn extra points on certain products if people purchase them and save their receipt in the app. We still are collecting the regular Box Tops...this is just an additional way to earn extra money for the school. One of our parents used the app this week and added \$1.50 to the school's account just by uploading receipts for stuff she would normally buy anyway.

Office Depot and Office Max are making it easy for their customers to Give Back to Schools. Schools like St. Mary's can be credited with 5% of qualifying purchases (school and office supplies) for free supplies. All you have to do at checkout in any U.S. store is to give St. Mary's School ID number 70063611. Ask friends and family to help support St. Mary's School each time they shop too. The impact can be immeasurable. This December, we received a check for \$20.08. It seems small, but the potential of this program is huge. Thanks to those who provided our ID # at checkout. With this money, we purchased sticky notes.

Parish Family Afternoon Movie "UP" will be Sunday, January 15th from 2-4:30 p.m. at the Parish Center. Join us for a free, fun afternoon of movies, activities & popcorn! Find out how movies can relate to our Catholic Faith! Blankets and pillows welcome to get comfy!

Home and School Association

Catholic Schools Week Talent Show 2017! The 4th Annual H&S-sponsored **Catholic Schools Week (CSW) Talent Show** will be **Friday, February 3rd at 7pm** in the school gym. **Audition Registration forms are due this Friday, January 13th.** **Auditions are Friday, January 20th 4pm-8pm.** There are only 24 slots available, so don't delay! We look forward to seeing St. Mary's talent!! Volunteer needs will be on the H&S SignUp Genius soon. Contact Talent Show Coordinator Christina Legner (402-598-1262/christina_legner@yahoo.com) or Talent Show Director Miss Kallman (peg.kallman@stmarysbellevue.com) with questions or to request a hard copy form instead of using the electronic one. If your 6th-8th grader is interested in being an emcee, contact Miss Kallman directly by Friday, January 13th. If your 6th-8th grader is interested in being a part of the stage crew to help set-up/take-down equipment in between acts, contact Christina Legner directly by Friday, January 13th.

Swine Dining Food Night. Join us for an awesome BBQ experience on **Thursday, January 19 from 5-8 p.m. at Swine Dining in Bellevue.** Be sure to mention St. Mary's School; we make 10% of sales during that time.

Volunteers Needed For CSW Pancake Breakfast and Special Friends Mass Reception. Please check your email for volunteer opportunities on **Sunday, January 29th before, during, and after the 0730, 0930, and 1100 masses.** We need help with breakfast set-up, food prep, serving, and clean-up. We are also looking for help after the **Special Friends Mass on Wednesday, February 1st at 0900 (exact time is dependent on mass end time).** We will be serving donuts and juice to our students, family, and friends. Details can be found in the informational emails and on Sign-Up Genius.

Christmas Luncheon and Gift Thank You. The teachers and staff were very moved by the generosity of our families this past year and expressed heartfelt thanks for our support and thoughtfulness. HSA received several thank you notes from our teachers expressing their appreciation. One note read, "Thank you for the Christmas gift and kind words...it brought tears to my eyes. The support from the families is very much appreciated. The children and families are always in my prayers."

Auction – Opportunity to Help. Calling all St. Mary's Families and valued supporters! Every year we assign specific themes for our St. Mary's School annual "Spring for the Children Benefit Auction" classroom baskets (that will be auctioned off). The donations received will go towards the creation of packages that will be auctioned off on Saturday, March 25th. For this year we have assigned themes for each grade, and we are asking for your help. Although we accept all donations, we would like to suggest donations that fall into one of the themes listed below. If you are a school family then we suggest that your donation coincides with your child's grade.

The deadline for turning in these donations is **February 28th**, and they can be turned in to St. Mary's School. On behalf of the event chair persons, we would like to extend our deepest appreciation for your support. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the chairs of the event: Jeff Reed jeffreyreed82@gmail.com; Heather Weddle heatherlinn77@gmail.com; Brian Miller millertime181@yahoo.com; Bernadette Miller degogirl14@cox.net; Kati Wilwerding katiwil@cox.net

- **Pre-K and Kindergarten:** Health, Beauty and Boutique- *Fitness gear, healthy supplements, spa gifts, skin care, purses, wallets, scarves, jewelry, makeup, accessories, etc.*
- **1st and 2nd grade:** Pet Lovers- *Pet beds, sweaters, bowls, toys, leashes, collars, gift cards to Pet Smart/Pet Co, etc.*
- **3rd and 4th grade:** Sporting Goods- *Youth and Adult size soccer balls, basketballs, golf balls, water bottles, team gear, gift cards to Dick's/Scheels, camping gear, etc.*
- **5th grade:** Kitchen, Food and Entertainment- *Cooking utensils, kitchen baking ware, small appliances, serving dishes, gourmet food, gift certificates to local restaurants, cookbooks, etc.*
- **6th grade:** Fan/Tailgating- *Cornhusker, Bluejay, Mavericks, Lancers, Beef etc.*
- **7th grade:** Home and Holiday- *Home decor, home office supplies, seasonal decorations, seasoned themed supplies, etc.*
- **8th grade:** Young Fun- *Games, toys, music, puzzles, etc.*

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. Below are some highlights on donations received this week...hope this gets you jazzed to attend and bid. It should be fun....

From Ann's Music World: (each valued at ~\$40): 2 free piano lessons, 2 free guitar lessons, 2 free string instrument lessons, 2 free band instrument lessons

All About U Massage & Day Spa: 1 hour massage (valued at \$55)

Don and Millie's: Gift certificates (valued at \$25)

Omaha Children's Museum: family pass good for 4 people (valued at ~\$50)

*If you happen to visit these businesses, please thank them for their support.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw contest is coming on January 17th. The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is open to all boys and girls in our community, ages 9 to 14. Parents will have to sign permission forms for their child to participate.

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

Bowling Fun. Join Couples in Christ for a fun afternoon of bowling on February 4th from 3-5pm at ICC Bowlatorium (2701 S 25th St, Omaha). Snacks provided by Couples in Christ and beverages available for purchase. The per family donation of \$15-20 appreciated (a flyer will go home mid-January). RSVP by SignUp Genius (search saintmarysCIC@gmail.com) or contact Hannah Clark (402-718-6114).



THAT MAN IS YOU! Is a special Men's Ministry Program will continue on Friday, January 27th here at St. Mary's Parish! Please consider joining us for the 2nd semester of That Man Is You! Our focus will be on the Bible and the Sacraments of the Church. Come share, pray and grow with other men from our parish! For more information, please contact Ted Menzel @ 402-292- 2076 or email tcmenzel5@gmail.com .

Concert at Creighton. All are invited to Creighton Prep Sullivan Center on January 25, 2017 from 7-8:30pm for an evening of architecture, art, choral arts, fashion, jazz band and technology. See school webpage for more details.



Schedule is attached...we look forward to seeing you there.