



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

Volume 20
January 25, 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 26: School Choice Rally (Middle School F/T); Chess Club

Jan 31: Jr Legion of Mary

Jan 29 to Feb 3 Catholic Schools Week See Calendar Insert



In a world that changes daily, there is nothing more comforting than something that remains constant. One of the constants in our school is the volunteer group that gives so freely of its time and talent. I didn't want to miss the opportunity to thank our special volunteer friends, our special grandparent friends, and those who remain faithful to the mission of St. Mary's School. We have very dedicated volunteers who have been helping for many years and some who have just begun helping. Whatever the case may be, we appreciate all the time, energy, and love our volunteers commit to our school.

Next Wednesday, February 1st, we invite all of our Special Friends to celebrate with us at an All School Mass. We will begin at 8:30 with Mass at church and finish with a donut and juice reception in the gym. Included in this newsletter is a thank you to some very special volunteers. We appreciate all you do!

Patricia Wallinger

Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal

HW Room will only be on Wednesday, February 1st next week. There will be no HW room Monday (Jan 30th), Tuesday (Jan 31st), Thursday (Feb 2nd) or Friday (Feb 3rd).

PARENT-TO-PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT. Do you have family or friends that would like to know what Pre-K and Kindergarten are like at St. Mary's School? Or do you have a child eligible to start pre-kindergarten or kindergarten 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 babysitting 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 pre-kindergarten or kindergarten next year are invited to take part in our round-up sessions on February 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 would like to register, please call the office at 402-291-1694. *Please share this info with family and friends, too.

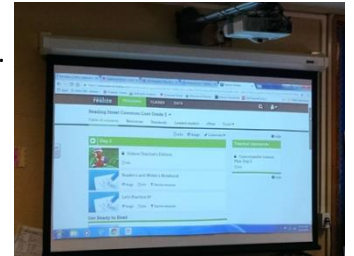
Basketball registration fees. Please pay your basketball registration fees (\$70/player) ASAP. This money helps sports with purchasing equipment, uniforms, league fees & tournaments. If this is a hardship please let me know. Send to school in an envelope marked "Sports". Thank you. Jennifer Kreps megjen992000@yahoo.com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



Please contact your team's coach if you have any questions regarding practices or games. No schedule available for newsletter this week.

Breakfast/Hot Lunch Menu is attached. Also available in Sycamore under documents and school webpage.

Technology. We received a substantial grant through *Ignite the Faith* for technology upgrades. Re-wiring is in progress and hardware install is 75% complete. This project is scheduled to be completed February 20th.



Impact: So far, 14 of 17 new projectors have been installed in classrooms that will link to chromebooks and other eResources offering a dynamic and innovative learning environment. Wifi connections have been strengthened so they are faster and have more reliable connections.

Professional Development. Five teachers have been attending science curriculum workshops at College of Saint Mary, taught by Dr. Hubbard. As an added bonus, they each received \$250 in science equipment. Our School Improvement Team was able to attend a seminar on AdvancEd and Nebraska Department of Education regulations. Our teachers and staff continue to attend monthly School of Faith sessions.

Parent and Teacher Conferences. Parent - Teacher Conferences will be held Thursday, Feb 9th 11am-8pm. **In order to serve you best, please schedule prior to February 6th.**

Parents are asked to sign up for conferences by using Sycamore or by calling the office. For Sycamore, login and click on "My School", then "P/T Conference." Please call your child's teacher direct to schedule a conference if these times do not work due to work schedules and other commitments that can't be rescheduled. You may begin signing up for conferences today.

Other reminders:

All Special teachers:(Music, Art, Gym, Spanish, Technology,) will be in the gym. If you would like to schedule a time for a conference with the *Specials* in addition to your child's homeroom teacher and middle school teachers, you would use the same process as outlined above (sycamore or calling office)

Mrs. Ewing, Bellevue Public School Resource teacher, will be available also. To schedule, please email her at: roseanne.ewing@bpsne.net

Handbook Highlight (ref: page 21)

Classroom Visitation. Parents are welcome to visit in the classrooms to better understand the classroom environment (or visit at lunch). Such visits must be prearranged with the teacher. All visitors can sign in at the school office and obtain a visitor's badge before proceeding to the classroom.

If needed, parents can drop off lunches and other items in the school office. School personnel will call students to the office to pickup the items so that instructional time is not disrupted in the classroom.

Bellevue Leader. Have you ever read the Bellevue Leader? Today's edition included some of our second graders and there will be an article on Ms. Kallman and Mrs. Sobilo. Enjoy!

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.

Nurse Update. Tuesday was Bridgette Laney's official last day. CHI has discontinued their Community School Nursing Program. St. Mary's in cooperation with St. Columbkille and St. Matthew's are going to contract nursing services with Nurse Laney privately. Welcome back, Nurse Laney!

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 tonight, Wednesday, January 18th from 5:30-6:30pm in the school gym. *Please note this is a change from previous meeting location.



See attached schedule for events. Please note that on the schedule some "special dress" days are identified.

Helping Sing at 9:30 am Mass. Students are encouraged to come in their uniform or Sunday Best to the church choir area at 9:15am in preparation for singing at the 9:30 Catholic Schools Week Kick-Off Mass.

Can you bake for our school service project (hosted by 5th grade)? ALL school families are invited to provide baked goods this Sunday for our Catholic Schools Week bake sale. We will hold this event after the 7:30 and 9:30am Masses. (See attached flyer).

Valentine's Day Cards. Students will be making valentines during Catholic Schools Week as a service project for Hillcrest Nursing Home and Mable Rose residents. We will use colored paper, but if any families have other Valentine's Day decorations (stickers, doilies, etc.) we would enjoy receiving those also.



We are blessed with so many wonderful volunteers at St. Mary's, especially our grandparent volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helps make our school a wonderful place. This week, we wanted to spotlight some of our grandparents and extend a huge "Thanks".

Paul and Maureen Swiecicki volunteer each year to help with auction acquisitions. Together they collected over \$3,000 in donations for our biggest fundraiser through calls and visits to various local businesses.

Debbie Kettleson and Kathy Karnik are two of our grandparents that come weekly to help serve and manage students lunches.

Sharon Hurley helps in the library, serves on the Development committee and helps with a variety of activities.

We are blessed to see many of our grandparents at our weekly Masses and at pick-up/drop off too! Look for future *Volunteer Spotlight* segments to hear more about our wonderful volunteers.

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. Please see Sign-Up Genius ([link](#)) for volunteer needs. Some of these opportunities are good for students (middle school). Also, it is not required, but extremely helpful if those who sign up to chaperone/serve as stage parents or stage crew be available for dress rehearsal as well as the event (for continuity). Contact Talent Show Coordinator Christina Legner (402-598-1262/christina_legner@yahoo.com) or Talent Show Director Miss Kallman (peg.kallman@stmarysbelleveue.com) with questions.



Volunteers Needed For CSW Pancake Breakfast. We need your help! Several parent and student volunteers are needed to make this kickoff to Catholic Schools Week a success! Please check Sign Up Genius ([link](#)) for volunteer opportunities on **Saturday evening at 6:00 pm, January 28th** and **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. Contact Chair Janet Yale ([402-250-7190](tel:402-250-7190)/jmyale10@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Special Friends Reception. H&S will be hosting a reception after the Special Friends Mass on **Wednesday, February 1st.** We are in need of volunteers to help with serving donuts and juice at the reception. **Volunteers need to be at the School Gym by 8:15 am.** If you would like to help, please see Sign-Up Genius ([link](#)). Please contact Brenda Achterhoff ([402-657-0619](tel:402-657-0619)/brenda_achterhoff@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

Mark Your Calendars. Our next Home and School General Meeting will be held on Monday, February 13th at 6:30 pm in the school library.



Spirit Catholic Radio is sponsoring its 5th Superstar Catholic School contest which coincides with Catholic Schools Week. Three Catholic elementary schools and 3 Catholic high schools will be chosen as winners. Get ready to vote Jan. 29- Feb 4th. Simply go to spiritcatholicradio.com and click on the Superstar Catholic School banner and follow the instructions on the page. Get your family, friends, co-workers and anyone else you know to vote. You don't have to be 18, but you need your own valid email address. You may not vote with more than one email address or your vote will be thrown out. One vote per person! Winning schools will receive a live interview on Spirit Catholic Radio's Spirit Mornings show, free prayer cards for every student, a trophy to display at school, Mystic Monk coffee for our teacher's lounge and \$1,000 worth of on air spots to promote St. Mary's School. We've won the Sarpy County People's Choice award 3 out of 3 times. Help us be a winner, a "Superstar" among the Catholic Schools. We need your VOTE!

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....

- **Kids Body Shop (\$17 each):** Two "Open to Public" Jump Events
- **Omaha Community Playhouse (\$72):** Two tickets to performance of "Leading Ladies"
- **Papio Fun Pare (\$17 each):** Two Activity Wristbands
- **Maplewood Lanes (\$20 each):** 10 4-packs for bowling games
- **Upstream Brewery (\$40):** Dinner for Two
- **Bob's Fitness Center (\$~500):** A variety of items: 3-month gym membership; 3-month tanning membership, 14-day passes, and shirts. *Bob's Fitness Center is owned by a parent of a Kindergartener.

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

Borsheims. In requesting auction donations, Borsheims will only donate if a school parent works at Borsheims...if anyone can think of a way St. Mary's would qualify, please call the office.



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

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). *Flyer attached.*

Catholic Daughters Education Contest (Grades 4-8). Each year, our local Catholic Daughters court sponsors an Arts Contest. Categories: ART /ESSAY/ POETRY/ COMPUTER ART/ MUSIC /PHOTOGRAPHY. This year's theme is: **"WHATEVER YOU DO FOR THE LEAST OF MY BRETHREN, YOU DO FOR ME."** MATT. 25:40 and **HELPING THE NEEDY WHERE I LIVE.**

The themes selected for the contest encourage lively imagination and freedom of thought when student talent and application go hand in hand. The contest enables students to compete and strive for awards while following certain fixed rules. Last year, St. Mary's had 17 students in grades 4-8 receive certificates and cash prizes. We also had one student win at the district level. Info will be handed out in homeroom.

Children's Choir. The St. Mary's Children's Choir is looking for some voices to enrich the Mass. Practices are held Wednesdays from 5:45pm-6:30pm.

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 .

Bellevue Soccer Club. Spring and Fall Registration Information is attached.