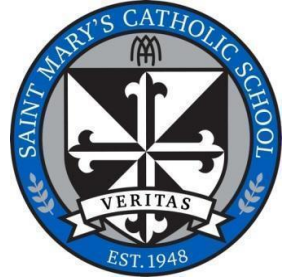




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!

ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 8
October 5, 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:

- Oct 6: Chess Club to 4pm; Youth Ministry @ school;**
- Oct 7: First Friday Mass; Trivia Night**
- Oct 8: Confirmation Retreat (8th)**
- Oct 10: Home and School Mtg**
- Oct 11: Budding Botanists; Legion of Mary**

SPECIAL REMINDER:

With our autumn weather and cooling temperatures comes a reminder that the last day to wear shorts to school will be October 27th. Students can resume wearing shorts in April.

As I look at our October calendar, we have a lot of activities to enjoy this autumn month. This Friday, we will celebrate the *Feast of the Holy Rosary* as a faith community with a living rosary. All parents are invited to attend. This month we will enjoy a variety of field trips for student enrichment. We have students visiting an apple orchard, the ballet, and the Archdiocesan Vocations Day celebration.

We will conclude our first quarter on October 21st with report cards home on October 26th. This week in the newsletter we have opened sign-ups for Parent Teacher conferences. This is an important opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss student progress and how best to assist our students in succeeding. While ultimately, the students have to be responsible for their learning, we all have an important role, and I'm happy to report I see examples of this collaboration every day.

We recently submitted our census report to the Nebraska Department of Education and National Catholic Education Association. We are proud of our diverse student body, including our military families. Some highlights: 19.8% of our students are non-Catholic which shows our faith-based curriculum appeals to both Catholic families and families of other faiths. St Mary's School is 12% African American/Black, 10% Hispanic, 7% Asian and 7% multiracial. 18% of our students come from military families. Interestingly, we are at 51/49% for gender breakouts as a school (male/female). The full statistics are available on our school website.

Our student population facts are interesting, but it is our student experience that tells the greater story. Have you visited our facebook page or school webpage lately? There are some wonderful stories. It is worth checking out. *Happy Autumn!*

Patricia Wallinger
Dr. Trish Wallinger, principal

Parent and Teacher Conferences. Parent - Teacher Conferences will be held Thursday, October 27th, from 11am-8pm. 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.” This method is the best way to easily compare teacher availability with your personal schedule. We look forward to getting to meet with you.



Confirmation Retreat – 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. 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.

We ask that the student check in at the north parking lot of the Columban Fathers no later than 10am. Please dress for the weather since part of the retreat will be outdoors. We ask that no shorts or flip flops be worn.

No electronics will be allowed during the retreat. If cell phones or iPods, earbuds, etc are brought to the retreat, we will ask the student to turn over the item to the retreat director and the items will be returned after the retreat. If the student needs to use a phone, one will be provided for their use. If you need to contact your child, information was sent home in the Confirmation packet on how to reach your child during the retreat.

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. 5th.

Safe Environment Training. Any adult who volunteers at St. Mary’s school is required to have a current Safe Environment certification. Your Safe Environment Training is valid for five years. If you have never been certified, you may sign up at www.archomaha.org. Go to Ministries, Safe Environment, Live training and find a location and date that will work for you. **St. Mary’s will offer the next SE Training on October 20th from 6pm -8:30pm. You must register online to attend this session.**

Picture Day. Picture retake day will be **October 13th**. If a student was absent on picture day or had a request for retake due to picture quality, the student may have their photo taken on October 13th. They may dress up for their photo and then change after their photos are taken. Please call the office if you have any questions.

Health Screenings. The school nurse, Mrs. Laney, will be conducting hearing and vision screenings on Monday, October 17th, for grades 1-6 and 8. Thank you to those parents who volunteered to help.

Thank you for Paper Towel Rolls – Upcoming Veterans Day Assembly. Many thanks for everyone who donated their paper towel rolls. The committee will be working with students on a fun project to honor our veterans.

There are a few volunteer opportunities for the Veterans Day Assembly:

1. To help cut and paste our “I Know a Solider” color sheets from students and attach to a red banner. This task will be completed sometime between Nov 8th-10th during the school day.
2. To assist in classroom with the MM and paper towel roll project.
3. To assist with decorating the gym the morning of November 11th.

Veterans Assembly. St. Mary's School will hold its annual veterans assembly, November 11th, at 1:30pm in the school gym. All veterans,

Handbook Highlight (ref: page 13)

Honor Roll recognizes academic achievement of students in grades sixth through eighth grade. Students are recognized at the end of each quarter. Highest Honors will be awarded to students who attain an overall grade point average of 4.0. First Honors are awarded to a student who attains an overall grade point average of 3.5-3.9 with no individual grade lower than B- in all subject areas. Second Honors will be awarded to students who attain an overall grade point average of 3.0- 3.49 with no individual grade lower than a C- in all subject areas.

retired and active duty, are invited to attend. A google form will be sent to all parents to provide information on veterans, or families can call the office to RSVP for their guest.

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.

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).

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 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.

October 7th

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

Home and School Association

Fundraiser Kickoff. We are off and running... Our Fall Fundraiser started last 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 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. H&S will provide receipts for tax purposes. Thank you in advance for your support!

Papio Park Family Fun Night. Thanks to everyone who was able to make it to our first family fun night of the school year this past Friday. 20 families participated. HSA collected \$200 in funds, all of which directly benefit our teachers, staff, and children by supporting school activities, clubs, and events throughout the year. Don't worry if you missed it. HSA is planning other family fun nights throughout the school year.



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.



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.



Sunday, Oct. 9th from 2:00pm-4:30pm at St. Mary's Parish Center!

Premiering "Toy Story"

All families are invited to join St. Mary's parish for October's Family Afternoon Movie. The fixings (popcorn and drinks) are supplied for a great afternoon promoting Discipleship through movies.

Along with the movie, families are offered a home kit which includes monthly activities, prayer and readings along with an opportunity to provide a service project (stewardship) to help others, based on the movie. If you would like more info, to help or to RSVP, contact the RE office at 402-291-7222 or email etomaso@stmarysbellevue.com. (Bringing your blankets and pillows is optional, but fun!)



BooFest. This is a neighborhood event, not sponsored by St Mary's. A student of St Mary's asked us to help spread the word. Details are as follows: "BooFest. 9810 S. 10th St. Saturday, October 15th, 1-3pm. Costume contest at 2pm. Half the proceeds will go to the Food Bank."