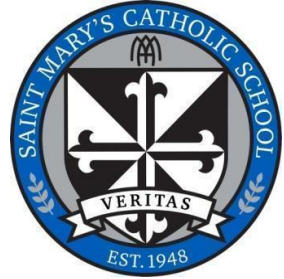




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!

ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 9
October 12, 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 13: Picture Retakes;
Chess Club to 4pm;
Culvers Food Night**
Oct 14: Swan Lake Field Trip
Oct 17: Health Screening
Oct 18: Legion of Mary

I hope you all enjoyed our beautiful Tuesday after the Monday rain showers. Yesterday, we had a visit from the Archdiocese. Vickie Kaufold from the Catholic Schools Office was here to observe and discuss with teachers the new science standards. The Archdiocese, along with many other schools is adopting the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), a new set of voluntary, rigorous, and internationally benchmarked standards for K-12 science education.

Within the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), there are three distinct and equally important dimensions to learning science (core ideas, cross cutting and practices). These dimensions are combined to form each standard—or performance expectation—and each dimension works with the other two to help students build a cohesive understanding of science over time.

Crosscutting Concepts help students explore connections across the four domains of science, including Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, and Engineering Design.

When these concepts, such as “cause and effect”, are made explicit for students, they can help to develop a coherent and scientifically-based view of the world around them.

What I like about these new standards is that they help students critically think about the course content, not just get a “right answer.”

The teachers are very energized about the new standards. Over the next 5 months, some of our teachers are attending a series of science workshops offered by the College of St. Mary. These opportunities help us collaborate with other educators to maintain our fun and innovative learning environment. I hope our students are sharing their classroom experiences with parents and friends.

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. Mrs. Ewing from BPS will be available from 1230pm-345pm (Resource teacher). Parents, please be aware that all Special teachers:(Music, Art, Gym, Spanish, Technology,) will be in the gym.

Basketball News. We are now accepting basketball registrations. Registration forms can be found on school website. Please return all forms soonest so teams can be formed. Practices will start around the first week of November depending on teams. This basketball season we will have teams for 1st - 8th grades (boys & girls). The first graders will play with the second graders in their league. Games start the first weekend of December and continue thru middle of March. Any questions, please contact Jennifer Kreps, Athletic Director at megjen992000@yahoo.com or 402-881-2576.



Halloween Dress on Monday, October 31st. Students will be allowed to wear jeans and an appropriately themed Halloween shirt in appreciation for their participation in the Halloween candy drive. There is no fee, nor is there the expectation of canned goods to participate.

Candy Drive Sponsored by Student Activities Council. During the last two weeks of October, we will be collecting Halloween candy. The candy will be used to fill bags decorated by our students for the children living in Omaha shelters. The children living in the shelters are not able to go out and trick or treat like all of the other kids in the city. This project allows them to share in the fun of the tradition. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Catholic High School Entrance Exam. For those interested in catholic high school please mark your calendar - January 14, 2017 is the entrance exam. Each catholic high school sets the start time for their exam. *Also, information on catholic high school open houses went home to 8th grade families and is available in the office.

Symbaloo. Symbaloo is a tool to manage St. Mary's favorite bookmarks and web resources to easily share with students and families so learning can continue at home. Please check it out at stmb.symbaloo.com. Ms. Schafer, our Technology teacher, will be updating it periodically as teachers use new sites in their classroom.

Adopt A Student Program. The Adopt A Student program is where benefactors donate to help students that otherwise could not afford to come to St. Mary's School. We are blessed to have so many benefactors who last year donated over \$14,000. With their support many more students are able to come to our school. Each year we thank our benefactors to Adopt A Student by phone. A team of 8th graders personally call the benefactors to thank them for their support of St. Mary's School. If you would like to be one of the 6-8 callers, please have your parents contact Mrs. Ortega at jackiesortega@yahoo.com.

Please save the date: Monday, October 24th. We will start the evening off with pizza and soft drinks, and then make the calls. Please RSVP by Friday, October 23rd....a message went to 8th grade parents...this is a reminder.

VETERANS ASSEMBLY St. Mary's students and staff invite all veterans [active, reserve, guard and retired] to our annual veterans assembly to be held in the school gym on Friday, Nov 11th, at 1:45pm. Veterans are asked to call the school office at 402-291-1694 or use the on-line form to RSVP by Nov 9th. It is important that we have a head count for seating purposes. Veterans and their guests will enter the school via the south gym doors at 1:30pm so that the assembly may begin at 1:45pm. Upon entering the gym, veterans will be ushered to a classroom. Students who have a veteran attending the assembly will escort their veterans into the gym at the start of the assembly.

Veterans may submit a military photo no later than Wed, Nov 9th. Military medal displays can also be brought to the assembly. Photos and medal displays can be picked up at the end of the assembly.

Families are asked to fill out a Veteran Color sheet. Forms available at Sycamore documents, the school office or take one home during conferences. Please return the color sheets to the office or to a teacher no later than Wednesday, Nov. 9th. Our students and staff look forward to honoring our veterans! *Attached with this newsletter are two versions of the color sheet. Either form will be used on our banner. Some families submit 5+...there is no limit.

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.

Jr. Legion of Mary Prayer Intentions. The Jr. Legion of Mary members will be praying for our school family and school staff prayer intentions. There is a box under the Statue of Mary in front of the office. All parents, students, and staff are invited to place the prayer requests in the box. On Tuesdays a member will collect the intentions. The requests will be prayed for at the meeting. There's no format. Prayer Intention should be simply written on piece of paper and does not need to be signed (unless requestor would like to share this).

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.

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.

****Volunteers are also needed for the Scholastic Book Fair Oct 24th-27th in the library.** Help is needed before (set-up), during, and after (tear-down). Specific days/time slots will be posted in SignUp Genius.

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): Wednesday, October 19th - Jr. High small groups - 7:00-8:30 p.m. (meet in the hallway outside of St. Mary's School gym).

Volunteer Opportunity – Receipts from SpartanNash. There's a program where the school can earn \$1000 for every \$150,000 in eligible receipts collected from SpartanNash grocery stores (ex. Family Fare).

St. Mary's needs a team to manage. We are looking for three parents. This is all you have to do:

- Office collects receipts and sends home.
- Volunteers bundle in 15 sets of \$10,000 worth of receipts.
- Once we have the \$15,000, volunteer would be asked to fill out our submission form and walk to local store manager.

*A great project for parents that have a hard time volunteering with work schedule. If interested, contact the office.

TrueFlix®. St. Mary's students enjoy our TrueFlix® through Scholastic. This program offers dozens of units to supplement social studies and science core curricula learning. TrueFlix® is a highly-engaging multimedia resource that can be used in the library, the classroom, on mobile devices, or at home.

Interested in Cub Scouts? Cub Scout Pack 305 is our parish/school cub scout pack. If you are a boy in grades Kindergarten-5th grade and you would like to learn more, please call email Britain Ragar (2nd grade parent) ragarbm@gmail.com.

Home and School Association



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. For those interested, the Culver's custard flavor of the day (13 Oct) is "Mint Explosion." Yum!!! *Culvers SCRIP is available for purchase in the office.

HSA Fall Fundraiser. Our Fall fundraiser runs through Wednesday, October 19th. 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. *****Note*** For those friends and family ordering online, the orders will be shipped directly to their address.** Thank you in advance for your support!

Halloween Fun Night. Mark your calendars for our annual event planned for **Friday, October 28th, from 6-8:30 p.m.** in the school gym. We have added some exciting new things (Photo Booth and Spooky Story Time), while also keeping with entertaining things from past years. Instead of Trunk-or-Treat, we are going to have a Trick-or-Treat Village thru the school (candy/goodies will be handed out). We are also having a Pumpkin Decorating Contest. Please bring your carved, painted, or decorated pumpkins to the school for display/judging (For safety reasons, no real candles in them, please). The Cake Walk is back again, so plan on bringing your quarters! The Monster Mash Dance is also back. Dinner will be offered for families; pre-order will be available before the event. Order forms will be coming out soon.

The schedule of events is as follows:

6:00pm – 7:15pm Dinner served
6:00pm – 7:15pm Games, Cake Walk, Photo Booth, Spooky Story
6:00pm – 7:15pm Trunk-or-Treat Village
7:15pm – 7:45pm Costume Parade, Costume Contest, Best Door, and Best Pumpkin
7:45pm – 8:30pm Monster Mash (Dance)



This event would not be possible with volunteers. We are needing help with the following items, please go to Sign-up Genius ([link](#)) to sign up and help out with this fun event:

- Set-up for Event (10/28/16 12:00pm-4:00pm, school gym) 6-8 people
- Cake Walk (baked good donations) A lot!!
- Greeters (10/28/2016, 6:00pm-7:15pm) 2 people
- Cake Walk (10/28/2016 6:00pm-7:15pm) 2 people
- Games (10/28/2016 6:00pm-7:15pm) 6 people
- Working Kitchen (10/28/2016 5:45-7pm, 7pm-8pm, 8pm-9pm) 3 people - each shift
- Clean up of Event (10/28/2016 8:30pm-9:30pm, school gym) 8-10 people



the difference  can make.

Fall De-Clutter Sweepstakes by Hefty. There will be 5 winning schools that will receive 5,000 bonus Box

Tops! Families that have a Box Tops 4 Education account, or those willing to sign up for one, can enter once per day per email address (see link below). They must designate St. Mary's School for earnings. Sweepstakes runs October 3-November 1, 2016. It would be pretty awesome for our school to earn a bonus \$500 towards our Box Tops goal! <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/sweepstakes/2016/hefty-fall> is the link for the sweepstakes. It will prompt them to log in or sign up.