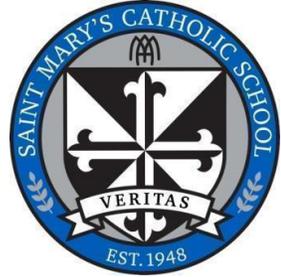




Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!

ST. MARY'S SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 11
October 26, 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 26: Report Cards; El Museo F/T (8th Spanish)

Oct 27: P/T Conf (11am-8pm);

Oct 27-28: NO SCHOOL

Oct 31: Special Dress; Halloween

Nov 1: Mass (All Saints Day); Legion of Mary

Nov 3: Indian Hoop Dancers @St.Mary Chess Club

Nov 4: Middle School Assembly @245pm

This week brings us into the second quarter of school. On Thursday, parents and teachers will have the opportunity to meet and discuss student progress during the first quarter. It is good to take a look back to gauge how well our students are meeting academic goals and to make plans to help students be successful in the second half of this semester. It takes a team to nurture students' hearts and minds in order to help them become all they are created to be. Here are some tips for getting the most out of a 10-15 minute conference.

- 1. Review the report card (K-4 will be distributed at conference), homework papers and tests.*
- 2. Have a list of questions you'd like to ask.*
- 3. Ask the most important questions at the beginning of the conference.*
- 4. Take notes and write down anything you want to discuss further with your child.*
- 5. Ask for explanations about anything you don't understand.*
- 6. Respectfully discuss any differences of opinion.*
- 7. Create an action plan for the second quarter.*
- 8. If you need to schedule more time, ask the teacher about a mutually convenient day.*
- 9. After the conference, keep in touch with the teacher.*

Parents and teachers all have important perspectives to share. In working together, parents and teachers send the message that school is important

and that we value the home and school relationship. We all want to provide the skills and knowledge that will enable our students to be happy and successful in school; the parent teacher conference can help find ways to reach this goal.

Patricia Wallinger

Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal

Free Will Offering of Stewardship on Holy Days. All students are invited to bring a small donation for Holy Day Masses. Money will be collected in the classroom and one envelope will be placed in the collection basket at Mass.

Middle School Awards Assembly has been scheduled for Friday, Nov 4th at 2:45pm. Families can enter through the gym.

Parent and Teacher Conferences. Parent - Teacher Conferences will be held tomorrow, Thursday, October 27th, from 11am-8pm. If not yet scheduled, please call the office. We look forward to getting to meet with you. Mrs. Ewing from BPS will be available from 12:30pm-3:45pm (Resource teacher). Parents, please be aware that all Special teachers:(Music, Art, Gym, Spanish, Technology,) will be in the gym.

Did you know not every school has an art program with a dedicated Art Teacher? At St. Mary's we are very thankful for Mrs. Schutt and our art program. There are multiple studies that explain the benefits of the arts on learning (see: http://www.dana.org/Cerebrum/2009/How_Arts_Training_Improves_Attention_and_Cognition/). All grades, PK – 8th, are taught using the principles (balance, movement, rhythm, contrast, emphasis, pattern, unity) and elements (line, shape, form, color, value, texture, space) of art. An adapted disciplined based art approach is used. This approach involves art history and appreciation and allows the students to look at all art objectively, to be able to view a piece of art and understand its use of the principles and elements of art. They will be able to apply what they have learned about the principles and elements of art to their own artwork as well. Along with the study of art history comes an appreciation for cultures and their differing art forms. Age appropriate projects, vocabulary and skills are learned, applied and evaluated. A variety of media are used in their projects. The creativity rules are also stressed, as it is Mrs. Schutt's belief that we are all creative individuals, some of us just need to learn how to use our creative tools. During P/T conferences, please enjoy the various art forms on walls.

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.

2016-2017 Parent Survey. The eSurvey will be emailed on October 31st. We are excited with this initiative. All parents are asked to take a few minutes to complete the survey. We appreciate your time and the insights that it will provide.

Adopt A Student Program. On Monday, St. Mary's hosted its annual phone-a-thon to thank donors. A special thanks to Alex Lee, Owen Legner, and Anna Bennett for volunteering their time and to Jackie Ortega for organizing.

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.

Time Change on Sunday, November 6, 2 a.m. Remember to set your clocks back Saturday night. Enjoy the one hour of extra sleep! Don't forget to check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

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 (that count towards parent service hours):

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.
4. To bake patriotic cupcakes and patriotic M&M cookies for the student refreshments (*We have 7 patriotic cupcake mixes/ icing and 7 kits for patriotic M&M cookies that will be provided to volunteers to bake). Mixes can be sent home and are needed by November 10th (at drop off).



Book Fair. Students and families are invited to enjoy our book fair the week...last day is tomorrow during conferences (11am-8pm on Oct 27th). The theme this year is "Bookaneer Book Fair (pirates)." The goal this year is to sell 600 books!

Also, we are collecting money for the "All For Books" program, where the money raised stays here and Ms. Schafer can buy books for the classroom or for students whose families weren't able to buy this year.

Our book fair is online at www.scholastic.com/fair **until Nov. 1**. All orders will be shipped to school and sent home.

Junior High Youth Ministry (7th & 8th Grade)- Fall 2016. Please mark your calendars for the following dates in November (meeting in the entranceway near school gym): Wednesday, Nov 2nd - Jr. High Large Group (5:30-6:30 p.m. in School Gym); Thursday, Nov 10th - Junior High Small Groups - 7-8:30 p.m. (meet in school gym hallway to be directed)

St. Mary's Arise Youth Ministry Pancake Breakfast. Sunday, Nov 6th, following the 7:30, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Masses. Come down to the parish center for a great pancake breakfast. All proceeds support Youth Ministry.



St Mary's Auction "All Hands on Deck" meeting. We are having the first meeting regarding the St. Mary's auction in the spring. The meeting will be held on November 7th at 6:30 PM in the school library; all committee chairs and volunteers will need to be in attendance. The auction is very important to our school and we are still in need of volunteers, so if you are interested in contributing to the success of this event please attend.

If you have any questions please contact the co-chairs: Brian and Bernadette Miller millertime181@yahoo.com; Jeff Reed and Heather Weddle heatherjeff4@hotmail.com; and Kati Wilwerding katiwil@cox.net

Couples in Christ invites all young couples to attend **A Wine and Cheese Evening with a Panel Discussion on Finances** at Saint Mark's Hall on Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. There will free babysitting in the Parish Center. Please RSVP to: Mary Sasek [402-990-4228](tel:402-990-4228) or mary.sasek@gmail.com

Topics

Savings, Investments & Retirement
Stewardship - Time, Talent & Treasure
Budgeting, Watching Credit Card Debt & Living within your Means
Living within your Means
Legal Advice - Early Will Planning & Guardianship of your Children

Presenter/s

Patrick Moylan
Ryan & Christina Legner
Alan & Melissa Swiecicki

Jennifer Thompson

Catholic Daughters Soup Dinner and Bake Sale. St. Mary's School Gym - 903 W. Mission Ave. Saturday, November 12th - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Come and browse and do some early Christmas shopping! A wide selection of hearty soups and delicious desserts will be available for purchase throughout the event. Proceeds support our Education and Scholarship fund. Crafters wanted! Tables are \$25. Call Peg Kallman @ 402-733-2915 if you would like to rent a table.

Home and School Association

HSA Fall Fundraiser Update. We are waiting on a delivery date from the vendor. A follow-up email will be sent out with the delivery date/time, as well as instructions for pickup. Orders made online by family and friends will be delivered directly to their homes. Thank you all for your support! If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact us directly (homeandschool.stmarys@gmail.com)



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. **Hot dog meal packs will be offered this year. They will include a hot dog, drink, chips, and a cookie. You can also be able to buy additional individual hot dogs or chips. Drinks and snacks will be available to purchase throughout the evening. Orders need to be in NLT Wednesday, October 26th. See order form with the newsletter.**

Halloween Fun Night 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 Trick-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 need help with the event, please go to Sign-up Genius ([link](#)) to sign up.

Veteran's Day Parade. Please join us Saturday, November 5th at 10 a.m. in our honoring those who served and continue to serve our great country. The parade will begin out in front of the school and proceed eastbound down Mission Ave. Meet in the school parking lot by 9:45am and wear St. Mary's gear, royal blue, or red-white-and-blue! We will have some candy on hand, but please bring some of your own to pass out as well! We will also be using our parade float again this year. More details to follow.

Upcoming HSA Events. Mark your calendars.

- November HSA General Meeting, Monday, November 14th @ 6:30 pm
- Dairy Twist Food Night, Thursday, November 17th, 4-9 pm

