

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
St. Mary's Parish School
Week of February 7, 2021



Possibilities of helping the school:

- Spring is coming and we'd like to get our Greenhouse up and running more effectively for the students. Would you be willing to serve on the "Greenhouse Committee"? If you answered yes, then please contact Erin Linskey at etlinskey@gmail.com Thank you so much!
- Should we have early morning snowstorms, we need persons who will be able to shovel the walk-in front of the school for the safety of those who come into the school. Mr. Matt Johnson is one of the key helpers doing this, but we need more just in case he is out of town. If you can assist with this, please call the school and leave your name with Sister Margaret or Peggy Quesnell.
- Due to the additional duties Sister Margaret is doing, she would be appreciative knowing if there is/are someone(s) who could sub as a cook, *just in case*. She wants to provide seamless lunches for the students, if at all possible. Please contact Sister at the school for more information.



We are soliciting **nominations** (*form is attached*) for our **St. Mary's Parish School Board for this coming year**. The term is for 3 years. This very important committee is doing a great job for our school. Several members' terms are finished this year and we need persons who want to move the school forward in the most positive way possible with Fr. Joe and the new administration. The attached form gives the responsibilities and the process of "election". For any questions, please contact a member of the school board: *John Bieker, Steve Farley, Deanna Gilmore, Natalie Johnson, Kevin Kirchner, Erin Linskey, Don Panko, Julia Polito, Karen Richel, Stacey Thornycroft or Father Joe McDonald, as pastor/local superintendent. All nomination forms are due on/by Friday March 5th.*

Dates to note for this coming week:

Tuesday, February 9: School Board will meet at the school starting at 6:30 p.m.



Will be held on Thursday, February 11 (*postponed from last week*) ...



Palm branches will be burned (*to be used as ashes on Ash Wednesday*) by Fr. Joe after school Mass on Friday, February 12. Mass is at 9:00 a.m.

That afternoon the classes will celebrate St. Valentine's Day in the classrooms. We are so sorry that parents, during these times, can't be present with your child in the school. *Thank you* for understanding why we have the regulations that we do. *It will get better.*



Notes for this week:

Penny Wars continue this week; ends on Friday, February 12th. Pennies count as one cent each as you would expect but silver coins and paper money (including checks) count **AGAINST** that class. This is where the competitive nature comes into play. Teams can then place silver coin and paper money into the other



classes' jars and not their own. What happens then is that students put as many coins *other than pennies* in *other grades class jars* so that their own class jar keeps to the positive with loads of pennies.

The winning class with the most positive pennies as well as the class with the most money both receives a pizza party. (Classes will be pro-rated based on number in the class.)

All monies raised are donated to our local St. Vincent DePaul Society to help people who often are in desperate need for heat, food, and other necessities just to survive.

*just
a note* from Sister Margaret:

At the Mass, led by the Student Council, for the end of Catholic Schools Week Celebration, each class was asked to share what it means to them to be a student at St. Mary's Parish School.

I wanted to share some of their responses with you and be sure to check our FACEBOOK page for more pictures and responses too. And what responses would you add as parents?

"We get to talk about and learn about our Christian faith every day. This means that we get to live out our faith at school, praying with each other and praying for each other."

"We are recognized by everyone in the school. We are known by all and valued by all."

"That all the grades and classes are accepting of other grades and students and you can be friends with people of all ages and feel welcomed....There is a 'family feel' in our school."

"Students seem to have a higher level of respect for their peers and their friends. Drama and bad attitudes don't come into our classrooms."

"We have smaller class sizes. This allows for more 1 on 1 teacher time for the students, more supplies and materials for the students. We are able to be closer to our friends and make lasting friendships."

"This school has a very friendly environment that makes us feel good about ourselves. We are able to have in-class instruction five days a week, so we get to come to school every day."

The above quotes are from the upper grades (five and up). Next week I will share more from the other grades. The students from all the grades really gave a "tone" to what was important for them. Yes, one said "St. Mary's School provides a great education for the students." However, the words overall deal with the factors that the students are known, individually, with a sense of caring, respect and love. And isn't that what all human beings want and crave? And when they have it, there isn't anything that they cannot achieve! We are truly blessed to have the staff we have and we are blessed, parents, to have you and your children here at St. Mary's Parish School. It is our gift to work with you in the education/formation of your child(ren)!

NOTE about Lent

Lent starts next week: please note that **Mass (and therefore uniforms) will be Wednesday, February 17th**.

There will be NO Mass on Friday, February 19th.

The Spelling Bee will be that Friday, February 19th.

Stations of the Cross will be held weekly (during Lent) starting on the 19th at 6:00 p.m. **Our Parish School children and families are responsible for the Stations on Friday, March 5th.** If you are planning on attending the Stations on March 5th, would you call the office and leave a message for Sister Margaret? Thank you!



To our staff born in *February*:

Lori Johnson, (*Childcare Coordinator substitute and aide*) February 23
Taylor Bieker, (*upper grade teacher*) February 25

Monday, Feb. 8:

Tuesday, Feb. 9:

Wednesday, Feb. 10:

Thursday, Feb. 11:

Friday, Feb. 12:

baked ham + mashed potatoes + broccoli+ corn bread

Little hot dogs in a tater tot casserole

Sausage, cheese biscuit cups + green beans

Tacos + corn

Chicken pasta + peas



IGNITING *faith, knowledge, creativity and service*