

St. Mary's Parish School Newsletter  
Week of January 23, 2022



*Where Respect, Resourcefulness  
and Responsibility is Lived*

Can you assist us during the week of Accreditation of the School with some jobs? We need help with the following items:

- Be present to visit with the Team as they are having breakfast snacks/coffee (7:30 to 8:00 a.m.) Wednesday and/or Thursday and/or Friday (Feb. 2, 3 or 4) in the faculty lounge.
  - Cook and bring a meal for the 6 persons on the Team on Thursday, Feb. 3 by **5:00 p.m.**
  - Take one the of the Team Members to the Pullman Airport leaving school by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 4
  - Donate breakfast/snack items (bagels, cream cheese, etc.) for the Team's 3-day visit
- If you can help, please let Sister Margaret know by calling her at the school. Thank you!

*what's happening  
this week*

Please call the school office OR talk directly with Ms. Lori Johnson, Childcare Director **on/by Tuesday, January 25** to sign up for childcare on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**Monday, Jan. 24:** Lunch: Pancake Casserole (*imagine breakfast in a casserole—new recipe*)

Family Rosary at 5:30 p.m. ALL are invited to come and pray together. We gather on the stage area of the school. Hope you are able to come.

**Tuesday, Jan. 25:** Lunch: Mac n' Cheese (special new recipe)

**Be sure to sign-up for childcare on Friday, Jan. 28 by today.**

**Wednesday, Jan. 26:** Lunch: Pizza Skillet Pasta (imagine pasta with all the ingredients of a pizza...super tasty and good)

**Thursday, Jan. 27:** Lunch: Fish Sticks + Tater tots (imagine just fish with no fillers! Very good and tasty)

***End of the First Semester of the school year!***

**Friday, Jan. 28:** **No School** TEACHER Work Day **Childcare is available**

**REMINDER: Monday, January 31**, St. Mary's School does **HAVE SCHOOL** on Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. (MSD does not have school)

### Some Questions That We Have Been Asked:

**Q. We know that this is the last week of the first semester. When and how will we receive report cards?**

A. Report cards will be **mailed** February 7<sup>th</sup>. Be on the lookout for them.

**Q. Is there a Spelling Bee this year?**

A. Yes, there is. Our annual Spelling Bee will be on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at 12:45 in the Music Room. The top two winners from our local Spelling Bee will go to the Regional level in Lewiston on March 12, 2022.

To help your child be prepared for the Spelling Bee, the teachers have given students a list of words. Also available online at **2022-Spelling bee.com** is a 28-page document of Words of the Champions that would be good to use too.

**Q. Will the school participate in the POLAR Walk this year scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> ?**

A. Yes, we will again participate in the annual winter walk to school known as Polar Walk! It is scheduled for Wednesday, February 2. As normal, we will walk from the Parish Center parking lot (by St. Mary's Church). Any child riding a school bus, the bus will drop the child(ren) at the Parish parking lot so they can walk to school from there. The Newsletter next week will have exact times and further information. Thank you to all who make this such a good and annual event for the students in Moscow!

**Q. Is the school open to having volunteers (i.e. parents) in the classrooms yet?**

A. Yes, we are under certain circumstances:

1. contact the teacher(s) with whom you would like to volunteer to see the need(s) s/he may have that you would be able to assist with as well as day(s)/time(s) for volunteering.
2. All volunteers must go through Safety Environment training. This is required by the Diocese of Boise. Sister Margaret is one of the certified trainers by the diocese. She is happy to set-up training sessions (lasts about two hours) for anyone who wants to be a volunteer (or drive students). Please contact her at the school (208-882-2121) or via email: [sisterm@stmarysmoscow.com](mailto:sisterm@stmarysmoscow.com)

**Q. We understand the government is providing free COVID test kits to households. Do you have any information on how we can get on the list for them?**

A. You need to sign for the four free kits to an actual residents (no PO boxes) at the following site: <https://special.usps.com/testkits>

**Q. Any update on masks?**

A. Here is the updated guidance on masks: <https://www.cde.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.htm>.

An employee at Gritman warned her family that the ratio of persons getting sick in our area these days with the virus is one in three!

A parent gave us some K-9 masks. If you'd like one, please call the office. The parent also gave us a link to a YouTube video that shows how best to fit the masks for the best protection: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=UaoHiTDbCZ4> The parent also wrote that her children "wear them 4-5 times each rotating them so they can "self-sterilize".



The same week that we have the Accreditation of our school, it will be the national celebration of Catholic Schools. It starts on Monday, January 31 and ends on Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Our students look forward to this week too for the "fun" and meaningful activities that will be happening at St. Mary's as we celebrate the theme for the celebration:

***"Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service."***

The events planned by our Student Council for the week are the following activities:

*(Note: there will be more details next week's Newsletter from the Student Council---this is just to give you the parents some "advance" notice)*

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|-------------------------|---|
| January 31: (Monday)    | Sports Day: students are invited to wear their favorite sports team or favorite sports wear for the day   |
| February 1: (Tuesday)   | Become a "twin" or "triplet" with others in your class by wearing the same clothes  |
| February 2: (Wednesday) | Polar Walk to school day<br>Wear a crazy hat for the day or do your hair in a crazy style<br>Will be a day for service opportunities in the classroom |
| February 3: (Thursday)  | <b>Mass will be today—Thursday---at 9:00 a.m. led by the Student Council---UNIFORMS required (note the change from Friday)</b>                        |
| February 4: (Friday)    | <b>RAD and PJ day: (Read All Day and can come in your PJ's, slippers with blanket and pillow day). Day focused on reading</b>                         |



In addition to Catholic Schools Week next week, the school has been working these past two+ years on discussing and writing a document for the Accreditation of our school. St. Mary's has been an accredited school since the 1970's.

Our school will be visited this coming February 2-4 by a Team of six persons (Superintendents, teachers, principals) from Spokane, Boise, Grangeville and Montana areas. By the time they visit us, they will have read our Self-Study document and all accompanying documents the school has provided as “evidence” what we have been doing since our last Accreditation (2015) and the key areas which we see that we need to do moving forward in the next six years. The document we used was from the accrediting agency for Catholic Schools: Western Catholic of Association Schools (WCEA) for our Self-Study was called *“The National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools”* (NSBECS). This document had “four domains” on which strong, effective, Catholic schools are built. These Four Domains are:

1. **Mission and Catholic Identity**
2. **Governance and Leadership**
3. **Academic Excellence**
4. **Operational Vitality:** this area focuses on the schools: finances, human resources/personnel, facilities, and institutional advancement.

When the Visiting Team is here, they will be visiting classrooms, investigating the written evidence of responses to the WCEA criteria, holding interviews with the members of the school community, and preparing a written report on its findings. The Visiting Team also writes a recommendation for the Accreditation Status of our school based upon factors relative to the school community’s successes and growth needs. These recommendations will serve as an “Action Plan” for the school as it moves forward the next six years.



One of the members of our school community is in the position of hiring three persons for his place of work. They are the following: prep cook, front desk ordering, bartender. Are you interested? If yes, please send your response to Sister Margaret ([sistterm@stmarysmoscow.com](mailto:sistterm@stmarysmoscow.com)) and she will forward your response to the owner.

**IGNITING** *faith, knowledge, creativity and service*