



***Imagine your child...***

Increasing in respectfulness, resourcefulness and responsibility  
 Focusing on God's loving presence  
 Being guided by devoted and professional teachers  
 Being equipped to excel and growing in confidence  
 Becoming dream makers and world changers....  
*Imagine your child changing the world...*

**St. Mary's Parish School Newsletter**  
**Week of March 28, 2022**

**From Father Joe McDonald, our Pastor and Local School Superintendent:**

To All the Families at St. Mary's Parish School,

After searching for the right person to lead our parish school, it is my pleasure to tell you that we found the person to be our school principal. She is not a stranger to any of us since she has been teaching at our school for over five years. I am talking about **Mrs. Sandra Izzo** who is presently our third-grade teacher. Mrs. Izzo brings to this new position many qualities that will assist our school in its growth for the years to come. As the local superintendent in our school I have witnessed the respect Mrs. Izzo has from the other teachers for both her professionalism and abilities. She is a problem solver, effective listener and a good communicator. Our school is blessed that she has said "yes" to this new position/calling in her life. Her new duties start August 1, 2022.



**From Mrs. Izzo to All the Families at St. Mary's,**

Over the last six years, the community of St. Mary's Parish School has become very special to me. I look forward to serving our parents, students, faculty, and staff in this new role, and continuing to share laughs, memories, and wonderful experiences as a school community in the years to come. I feel called to this position and believe that incredible things can happen in a school where together we grow in knowledge and faith, work with servitude and creativity, and strive to know and teach the whole child.



To parent, Dawn Overstreet, who won \$250 off her April's tuition for the early drawing for procurement. Dawn had all her items from her procurement packet in before the official end of procurement, which was the *25th*. Congratulations Dawn!

To two of our students recognized as earning awards for their art work in the recent *Martin Luther King* Contest held locally:

Nola Johnson, Grade 3 and  
 Elaine Meerten, Grade 2

**MATHCOUNTS update:** as you all know our upper grades took 1<sup>st</sup> place for the Regional contest. However, two of our students took State placements:

1<sup>st</sup> place = Hannah Johnson-Leung and  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place = Matthew Ristine



Friday, April 1: End of Third Quarter  
Talent Show at 1:00---parents are welcome to come

**Soup/Bread Super + Stations of the Cross SCHOOL families are responsible hfor this event.**

Saturday, April 2: Happy Birthday to Nikki Crathorne

**Women's Lenten Retreat:** “The Gift of Forgiveness” A Gift to Yourself is the theme of this retreat by Sister Barbara Jean Glodowski , osb, at St. Mary’s Moscow, Saturday, April 2nd, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Cost for Sister Barbara Jean will be covered by the CWL, but donations for St. Gertrude's will be accepted. Sign up by calling St. Mary’s Church office at 208-882-4813. All women are invited and bring a friend.



From Dianna Spellman, Fundraising Co-ordinator for the school: wants ALL FAMILIES to know that ALL our families are invited **free of cost** to skate at the ice link from 5:30-7:00 p.m. It is recommended that all who attend wear helmets and gloves. Skating aids are available if needed and a table will be set up if people want to bring food. This was won for taking first place in the downtown Christmas Parade. Thank you, Dianna, for making this happen for all families!!!

**FOR ALL FAMILIES**

## Financial Questions We’ve Been Asked Regarding Tuition Plans for 2022-2023 School Year

### Questions Dealing with Sibling Discount

- Q. I currently receive the sibling discount, but not any additional aid. Will I need to apply for aid to keep the discount?**
- A. Yes. We are asking families to complete the financial aid process to continue to receive the sibling discount.
- Q. We have many children and were counting on the discount. How can we afford St. Mary’s School?**
- A. We remain committed to being an affordable school for families but believe reduced tuition for multiple children can best be managed through the financial aid process.
- Q. Why did you remove the sibling discount?**
- A. We desire to prioritize all discounts and aid based on financial need and can better allocate discounts through one process. We remain committed to being a school for families but believe discounts for multiple children can best be managed through the financial aid process.

**Q. I currently receive a sibling discount but I don't think I will qualify for financial aid. Should I apply?**

A. Current sibling discounts will continue to be honored for current families regardless of need. But we are asking all families receiving discounts to apply for aid through our process. This will help the school have a better understanding of the needs of each one of our families. We want to work with each family to assist them in the education of their child(ren).

**Q. I currently do not receive a sibling discount but will be sending my other children to St. Mary's in the following years. Is the entire family grandfathered into the sibling discount policy?**

A. The plan is to only grandfather in current students that are on the discount. We encourage families that were counting on the discount to apply for financial aid.

### **Questions dealing with Financial Aid or FAST**

**Q. How do I apply for financial aid?**

A. The FAST-financial aid application is available [here](#). The application will require you to include your financial information and provide a copy of your tax return. Only one application for each family is needed. Divorced parents can apply separately. The FAST application website provides more detailed instructions.

**Q. Why does the school need my taxes?**

A. Taxes are the most reliable way to verify income and ensure our limited financial aid is allocated based on need. Your taxes information will be maintained by FAST and the school will never have access to your personal identification

**Q. Who qualifies for financial aid?**

A. We have not set a specific income threshold but holistically evaluate each family based on income, assets, ability to pay, mission-fit, number of children, and extenuating circumstances. We encourage any family that would struggle to pay tuition to complete the financial aid process. As noted above, we will continue to honor existing sibling discounts regardless of need.

**Q. I am currently receiving financial aid, will my tuition rate go up?**

Generally, all families will see an increase in tuition rates. However, each family will be evaluated for aid based on their individual financial situation.

**Q. The financial aid application feels intrusive. Why do you need so much information?**

A. The new financial aid process is very thorough but ensures that the school has accurate and consistent financial information so that we can prioritize aid based on need. Financial aid funds are limited and come from our fundraising and donation efforts.

**Q. What if, on FAST, there is not a section for specific expenses necessary for our family?**

A. There is a question at the end of the application that allows families to add any additional information for consideration that they feel is relevant to their situation

### **Questions Dealing with Tuition and School Finances**

**Q. Should we expect to see more tuition increases next year?**

A. The school and school board remain committed to keeping tuition affordable while ensuring the school is financially solvent. As with all schools, tuition increases are likely to be necessary at regular intervals to maintain pace with inflation.

**Q. What is the cost to educate a child at St. Mary's?**

A. The cost for the school to educate a child is about \$7,500. This varies based on enrollment.

**Q. Does the school receive money from the Diocese or the Roman Catholic Church?**

A. No. The school must generate all of its operating funds which is from:

Tuition & Registration	= 38%
Fundraising & Donations	= 27%
Foundation	= 13%
St. Mary's Parish Subsidy	= 7%
Grants	= 7%
Other Services (lunch, afterschool, etc...)	=8%

**Q. Is there someone I can talk with the questions I have regarding this whole process?**

A. Yes, there is. Rasheen Acree, one of our Business Manager is more than willing to speak with anyone who wishes. Please call her on her cell phone 208-310-5555 to speak or set a date to meet.



Monday,	March 28	Students' Delight (noodles, hamburger, tomatoes, cheese casserole)
Tuesday,	March 29	Hot Dogs/Chips
Wednesday,	March 30	Nacho Cheese Chili Dip with tortilla chips
Thursday,	March 31	Tacos
Friday,	April 1	Fish sticks + tater tots

**Please let your family and friends know the family---spread the word.....**

**Teaching and Aides Positions at St. Mary's Parish School in Moscow.** The school is accepting **applications** for full-time teachers and aides for the 2022-2023 School Year. The salary is based on education and experience. The position is open until filled. If you would like more information, the job description, and/or an application, please visit the website at [www.stmarysmoscow.org](http://www.stmarysmoscow.org) or contact the school at (208) 882-2121 or [sistterm@stmarysmoscow.com](mailto:sistterm@stmarysmoscow.com)



Does anyone have a State's Park Pass that the school could use? If yes, please let Sister Margaret know. Thank you!

*In an earlier Newsletter we had mentioned that the Visiting Team for our Accreditation Process did a great presentation about their experiences and about the document we wrote about the school. Attached is what the Team gave us at the end of their meeting with us. We will be told in June what our accreditation status is with the accreditation agency. We wanted to share with you the Visiting Teams comments. Please let us know if you have further questions about the process and our long-range planning.*



### *Some Dates to Note in the Days/Weeks Ahead*

Thursday, April 7 and  
Friday, April 8:

**Parent-Teacher Conferences;** childcare is available.

Thursday, April 14:

**Holy Thursday retreat day** for the entire school. This has been a tradition for our students for the past 25+ years. The day is filled with activities/prayers and

devotions focused on the days leading up to Easter. It is a beautiful and meaningful time for students and teachers. We do activities that involve the buddies. We also need parent volunteers to assist the teachers in the activities they will be doing in their rooms with their students. Look for their letter to you saying what they need.

Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

All young people are invited to come to the Parish Center to paint a rose bouquet for Mother's Day...*Paint 'n' Soda event* at 6:00 p.m. Please call 882-4813 to register.

**For your reflection:**

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Help us to recognize the evil latent in a communication that does not build communion.

Help us to remove the venom from our judgements.

Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters.

You are faithful and trustworthy; may our words be seeds of goodness for the world:

where there is shouting, let us practice listening;

where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;

where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;

where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;

where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;

where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions;

where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;

where there is hostility, let us bring respect;

where there is falsehood, let us bring truth.

Amen.

*(Adapted from the Prayer of St. Francis by Pope Francis)*

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