

September 28, 2011



St. Mary News

www.saint-mary.us

Main Campus: 586-468-4570 Primary Campus: 586-465-5471

Support Cultural Awareness
Proclaim the Gospel
Instill Catholic Values
Respect All Life
Integrate Community Service
Teach Academic Excellence

From the Desk of Mrs. Miscavish

Dear Parents:

This week we celebrated our first Mass at Primary. It was wonderful to have Fr. Mike back in the building and wonderful to bring our 1st graders together in prayer. It was their first time as the "brain trust" of Primary campus! They did a wonderful job preparing for their parts and Emerson McKale was brave enough to even read the petitions at our first Mass! I'm sure that Thursday's group will do an equally good job and Tiffany Nguyen is the brave soul reading the petitions for that Mass. It never ceases to amaze me what a beautiful job our students do participating in Mass at both campuses. It takes a great deal of self-confidence and courage to read in front of a large group of people and our students rise to the occasion every time they are asked!

Our Children's Choir is up and running and once again they are making our Mass celebration even more special. Under the direction of John Dickson, the choir members not only have the opportunity to sing on Fridays & Saturdays, they are also invited to sing every Tuesday or Wednesday depending on which day is their Mass day.

Let's talk SPORTS! Just so you know, we are in the revamping stages of our athletic program. It has been a program with "sports related" issues for as many years back as I can remember, for a variety of reasons that are only found in the athletic world.

Our program is a great program that serves a large percentage of our student population, but it certainly is also another area of St. Mary's that needs some tweaking. If you are unhappy with the current changes, see me, because chances are, I'm to blame. The complaints I hear the most: My child is new to X and doesn't get to play in games as much as others who have been playing for years, my child isn't with his/her friends, my child wants short spandex for volleyball not long ones, why don't we have more snacks in the concession stand? Why can't we sell everything short of the kitchen sink at the concession stand out at the cemetery? Can you buy us new socks, hoodies, jackets, hats, etc. every year? These uniforms are old – why do we always get the worst uniforms? Practice time is not at a good time, practice time is too short, and practice time is too long. Why didn't you force the printer to have the other sign ready? Why didn't my child get to hold the sign? Why were we announced last? Why does my child have to have a physical to play? What do you mean my child has to sit out part of the game because they didn't come to practice all week? Primary's gym is too small, Main's gym is too small, the gym is too cold, the gym is too hot, the gym has no ventilation, the gym is a mess (OK I'll give you that one – I'm going to have to find that mom who wanted to organize a cleaning the gym party), and so on and so on.

I know we all want everything to go our child's way, but at times it just cannot. The questions or concerns above are black and white for me, they have simple answers. I am more concerned about issues that are inconveniences to our parents and protocol that needs to be followed. I'm concerned with our organizational skills, making sure our coaches understand their role and the philosophy of our program, making sure our parent volunteer component is affective and a list of other things that take time to put into place. If you realized the number of students, the number of teams, the number of practice schedules, the number of games scheduled, the number of games that have to be rescheduled, the number of uniforms to organize, the number of parent volunteers you need to make this work, the number of referees to pay, etc. you might be a little more patient and a little less demanding on getting what you want for your child or your child's team.

Rich Roskopp, Susan Everhart, Chris Fischer, Jackie Manczk, Jeff Davis and Jim Biernat are working with me to make the necessary improvements. They have put a great deal of time and effort in the last few months and will continue to do so until we get it right. If you are truly a St. Mary Mountaineer supporter you will volunteer to help the cause, instead of taking cheap shots from the bleachers at them. It all goes back to the old saying, you are either part of the problem or you are part of the solution. Criticize away, but make it constructive and with your criticism offer a way that you can help to solve the problem. Our A.D. & Assistant do not even make enough money to put their children through this school – we need to keep that in perspective. As long as people are trying to improve, we need to work with them, not against them. We need to remember what the C in CYO stands for and to make sure that we are acting accordingly.

I would like to say THANK YOU to Margaret Feskorn for organizing the Indoor Soccer Program through Total Soccer. Please note this program is not a part of our CYO sponsored athletic program. It started as a small program and has turned into a major soccer program. Please keep in mind, that this is a program run through Total Soccer and not St. Mary. Under my guidelines, the teams were put together this year in the fairest manner possible, which is the way it should be. Margaret with her soccer expertise did a great job putting together the most competitive teams to play against other Catholic schools in our area. Yes, our teams should be built to be competitive and not just a group of friends who play soccer together. There is nothing wrong with wanting to be competitive; everyone else in the league comes to the field to beat us, why are we not doing the same? We have gained a reputation as a little "power house" over there, but not with all our teams. This year, we all have a chance to be the best because of the way the teams were chosen. Yes, we all want everyone to have fun, but let's face it; we all want to win too! No one on any playing field or court is playing to lose and just have fun. It may not be politically correct to say it, but the truth of the matter is the grin on everyone's face is always bigger when the higher number is on the scoreboard in on their side! Once again, please watch your criticism; it is extremely unfair to people who are working so hard to make a program happen for your child. Without these people, your child would not have these opportunities.

October 12th there is an Athletic Booster Club Meeting. Please submit questions, submit your help, and submit your commitment to do your part in making our sports program better. Submit your commitment for all student athletes and put your personal agenda aside. Everything we do at St. Mary's needs to be done in the best interest of the children we serve.



OVER →



Congratulations to our newly installed Altar Server Co-Captains:

Daniel Bobick

Sara Femminineo

Alexis Forsythe

Jonathan Miscavish

Thank you for assuming the responsibilities of co-captains.

Uniforms – some are perfect, some “not so much!”

Please take a good look at your child and make sure they are wearing what they are supposed to be. We have given them an opportunity to get adjusted to school, now it's time to dot the i and cross the t. If you receive a note from Mrs. Miscavish in regard to a violation, please take care of it ASAP. Please remember every time your child's teacher has to stop to discuss a uniform issue, they are taking away from everyone's education.

Problems to look for:

- Short skirts. (No shorter than two inches above the knee.)
- Girls in jumpers – you may not wear the uniform sweatshirt over your jumper. (Navy or red cardigan or pull over uniform sweater is acceptable.)
- Boys hair that is too long or too Justin Bieber in style.
- Headbands & barrettes MUST be blue, black, red or white or uniform plaid – this includes the sport headbands. They also should not have flowers or other decorations or glitter on them.
- Boys with untucked shirts need to tuck! This task takes first grader boys the entire month of September to figure out – so they should have it down by Saturday!
- Is it a belt or a slingshot – dangerous spot for a slingshot – so please speak to your boys about leaving their elastic belts alone – it's all new to them in first grade, I understand!
- Boys - t-shirts under your polo shirts are fine, but please button up, we should not see them.
- Socks on boys must match the color of their pants.

95% of our students are just fine, it's that 5% of our student population that is in need of some uniform adjustments. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Main Campus Dismissal Etiquette

If you opt to pick-up using the “drive-thru” lanes in the afternoon, you **MUST stay in your vehicle**. All those people behind you are in a hurry to get somewhere. If you are not in your car to move up or drive away when it is your turn, you are slowing everyone down and causing gridlock on Market Street! If you wish to chit chat with your fellow parents, that is great, but in order to do so, you must park along the street or in the public lot across from St. Peter.

Please be considerate of others and stay in your vehicle if you are in the parking lot lanes at dismissal – **thank you for your cooperation.**



Lunch Money & More...

If you are going to send in lunch money daily instead of putting a larger amount on your child's lunch account at either campus, please put their lunch money in an envelope, baggie, or coin purse with their name & teacher's name clearly marked with a Sharpie pen. Students using the coin purse method will get their coin purse back every day from the cafeteria. We have gone to this method to speed up the line particularly at Main campus on the popular lunch days. This has been a long standing complaint; we are trying to fix it. We will do our part, but we need your help with the daily lunch money.

If the reason you are not sending a larger amount of money for your child's account is because you are afraid they will spend it on snacks, you can send a note to the cafeteria staff that explains exactly how your child is allowed to spend their money. No depleting their funds on chips/pickles or other snacks if that is what you stipulate!

Just a reminder at Main: The front parking lot is partitioned off for lunch recess every day from 11:00 – 1:00, please remember to park further down the lot or on the side of the gym if you are going to be in the building or at lunch duty during this time.

IOWA TESTING

Testing begins October 10th and will end on October 20th. Since testing takes place throughout the day, please try to avoid scheduling appointments for students during the school day.



Save the Date!

November 17th

For the St. Mary Annual Holiday Party & Raffle

***Weekly Highlights**

Sept. 26-29

Book Fair -Both Campuses

Sept. 29

Gr. 2 & 8 Spiritual Brothers
Children's Choir 2:55-3:45

Sept. 30

12:00Noon Dismissal (MC)

12:10PM Dismissal (PC)

\$1.00 Jeans Day

St. Mary Dinner Dance

6:00PM at MacRays

Oct. 5

Progress Reports

Information Going Home

- ◆ Wednesday Pink Note
- ◆ October Activity Calendar
- ◆ October Lunch Menu & Volunteer Calendar
- ◆ Booster Meeting Flyer
- ◆ High School Night Flyer - (Gr. 7 & 8)
- ◆ Chess Club (Gr. 5-8)
- ◆ Newspaper Club (Gr. 4-8)
- ◆ Liggett Scholarship (Gr. 8)
- ◆ Scrip Information Flyer
- ◆ Sports Pass Flyer



HIGH SCHOOL NIGHT

Parents, and students in grades 7 & 8, please mark your calendar and save the date for our annual High School Night. Come and see on Thursday, October 20th at 6:30PM what the various Catholic High Schools in our area have to offer.