Parent Memo

From Ms. Lorie

St. Mary’s Grade School

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Friday, February 16, 2024

*Dear St. Mary’s Families:*

*This week is the middle of the 3rd Nine Week Grading period. We are no longer sending home mid-term reports in a paper copy. You will need to monitor your child’s grades through the use of the Family Portal in FACTS. The directions for this have been attached to our memo for several weeks now. I am attaching it again today. Please complete this process so that you can monitor your child’s grades!*

**Reminders:**

**Lost/Broken iPads:** We have had many iPads damaged by water, cracked screens and lost. The cost for replacing a damaged or lost iPad this year is $260, as per the Technology Use Agreements signed at the beginning of the year. This will be billed through your FACTS account. Please help your child care for these iPads at home. We want to get the longest use out of them as we possibly can. Thank you.

**HOPE Scholarship recipients:** The renewal window opened on Jan 3 and will extend to June 15. We highly recommend that you begin the renewal process now for the 2024-2025 school year.

**TAPS** – Tuition Assistance Program opens February 1, 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year.

This year there will be 3 phases of awards. Phase I is open to Catholic families only. Enrollment is Feb 1 – April 30, 2024. Awards announced in late May.

Phase II is open to ALL families. Enrollment is open until July 14. Awards announced in August.

Phase III is open to All families and enrollment is available until August 23, 2024. Awards are announced in September.

Please see the attachment for further information.

**Girls On The Run:** This program will be open for all girls in grades 3-6 staring in March. The first meeting will be Th, Feb 29. Practices will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30-4:00 at the school. This is a great program that combines physical activity with the building of self esteem. Scholarship money is available to help cover the costs of the program. Contact Lisa Thompson with questions at thompslsm@gmail.com

**ND and SMS Elimination Dinner:** Our schools will be hosting an Elimination Dinner on Feb 24th in the Notre Dame Gym. Cash prize of $1000. All funds benefit ND and SMS. Tickets may be purchased online or with a paper form sent home last week. Questions? Ask Ashley Vernon at avernon@stmaryswv.org.

**Congratulations** to the following student for winning in the **Catholic Daughters Education Contest**. These students will receive awards at a later date.

Photography I – Andrea Mitchell, 3rd place

**Eat Wings, Support Our 6th Grade Class**

Looking for a way to celebrate President’s Day with your whole family without having to lift a finger? Head down to Buffalo Wild Wings (Bridgeport location only) for dinner and a portion of your bill will support the 6th grade class trip to Washington, DC. Participation is easy: Dine in or call ahead for pick up between **4:00pm-9:00pm on February 19th**. Give your golden ticket (attached) to your server and your family night out will help our students while you enjoy a great meal. Thanks in advance for your support!

**Congratulations** to the following students for winning the **WV Young Writer’s Contest** at St. Mary’s:

1st Grade: Amelia Caputo – 1st place, Hank Maddox – 2nd place, Nora Light – 3rd place

2nd Grade: Avery Stanton – 1st place, Ryder Moore – 2nd place, Maci-Mae Murrell – 3rd place

3rd Grade: Declan Berry – 1st place, Emma Vernon – 2nd place, Alexey Nardelli – 3rd place

4th Grade: Kateri Plywaczynski – 1st place, Justin bowen – 2nd place, Joseph Yost – 3rd place

5th Grade: Jackson Griffith – 1st place, Michel Gigliotti – 2nd place, Mila Vernon – 3rd place

6th Grade: Blaire Moore – 1st place, Annabelle Kennedy – 2nd place, Anthony Morris – 3rd place

Of these winners, the following **3 students will advance to the Harrison County** contest:

Avery Stanton for Grades 1-2

Declan Berry for Grades 3-4

Blaire Moore for Grades 5-6

**HandS Reminders:**

Valentine’s Day Dances will be held at the St. Mary’s Gym this weekend!!
Mother/son Valentine’s Dance - Friday February 16 @ 6pm
Daddy/daughter Valentine’s Dance - Saturday February 17 @ 5pm
Dress Attire is semi-formal.
\*If you have any Valentine decorations, please drop off at the school
\* You may sign up to volunteer for the dances on the HandS Facebook page (the sign up will be posted soon)

**\*\*\*\*\*\*CALENDAR \*\*\*\*\*\***

**Watch for changes each week!**

**Upcoming Dates and Events:**

Feb 16: Application for new students opens for general public

Feb 16: Mother – Son Valentine’s Dance …see HandS notes above

Feb 17: Daddy-Daughter Valentine’s Dance…see HandS notes above

Feb 19: President’s Day – NO SCHOOL, Support the 6th Grade field trip by eating at Buffalo Wild Wings!

Feb 24: ND and SMS Elimination Dinner…see notes above

Feb 29: Girls on the Run begins, 2:30-4:00

March 14: End of 3rd Nine Week Quarter

March 15: Shamrock Messages delivered by 6th Grade

March 16: Parents Night Out – sponsored by the 6th Grade for their field trip

March 20: Report Cards home

March 24: HandS Easter Egg Hunt @ Compton Park 1:00-3:00pm

March 25: Field Trip for 3-6 to 4-H Center, Walking With Dinosaurs

March 26: Field Trip for PK4-2 to 4-H Center, Walking With Dinosaurs

March 27: Easter Party for PK3-6 @ 1:30 pm

March 28: Tech Day, no students in school but work will be assigned

March 29: Good Friday, Holiday

April 1-5: Spring Break

April 8: Students return to school

April 9: Picture Day, students may wear regular clothing

April 10: ARK Testing for grades K-6, Assessment of Religious Knowledge

April 20: Kids Night Out by HandS, Camp 4 Real program

April 22: End of Year MAP testing week begins

April 25: Mid-term of 4th Nine Week Quarter, check grades regularly in FACTS Portal

April 29: Class Picture Day

April 30, May 1, and May 2: Book Fair

May 3: SMS Carnival for kids during the school day, back parking lot

May 6: Teacher and School Staff Appreciation Week

May 9: St. Mary’s Spring Play at Robinson Grand Theater

May 10: Tech Day for SMS only

May 13: PK3 and PK4 last day of school, 6th grade field trip

May 17: Kindergarten and 6th Grade Graduations…in school auditorium

 Kindergarten at 8:30 am

 6th Grade at 10:00 am

May 23 and 24: NOON dismissals

May 24: Students in grades 1-5 last day.