



ACADEMY NEWS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

1967 - 2017

St. Mary's Academy Weekly Newsletter

October 18, 2017

Our Mission Statement:

St. Mary's Academy promotes academic excellence within a Christ-centered Catholic community. Students from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8 learn acceptance and appreciation of others and develop to their full potential within a nurturing, family environment."

Gospel Reflection

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cock crow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Sunday is the beginning of a new liturgical year. Forced to ponder the end-time as we read this Gospel, we also can't help but ponder our own endings in life. Rather than being morbid, our attitude as Christians is one of hope. We watch and wait for the Lord. What could mean more delight for us than reaching our destiny? Pray: Lord Jesus, may our anticipation for you never diminish. Keep us alert, full of eager hope and ready to greet you when you come again.

Important Dates:

December 1st:

We will begin to draw the winning tickets for the Advent Calendar Raffle at Morning Prayer.

December 4th:

We will begin collecting hats and mittens for our Giving Tree. All collections will go to those in need at the Gray House located in Springfield, MA. Thank you.

December 7th and 8th:

The Drama Club production of "A Christmas Carol" will be at 7:00. Please get your tickets in the Main Office.

December 16th:

Breakfast with Santa and Candles and Candlelight. A paper will come home soon to sign up for Breakfast with Santa. Please join us.

Principal's Message



Dress Down Reminder:

Thank you to those who have turned in Advent calendars. If your family turned in *all 24*, each student in your family can dress down on Monday, December 4th. If you did not turn in your calendars, you can do so by turning them in tomorrow so they will be included in our first drawing on Friday.

Spelling Bee Participants:

Thank you for those who have turned in their parental consent paperwork for our Spelling Bee. We have reached capacity at 25 students. If you turned in your form, you are all set. If your student wants to participate, but you did not turn in the paperwork, please feel free to send it in, as we will start a waiting list.

Brick Campaign Christmas Present:

Last year, SMA launched a very successful legacy brick campaign selling 144 personalized bricks. These bricks are now displayed beautifully in front of our building and many were purchased in memory of, in honor of or just to commemorate a student's time at SMA. It is not too late to purchase your first brick, or purchase another one as a Christmas present. This end of the year gift is tax deductible and makes a wonderfully unique present for anyone in your life. We already sold 10 bricks for next summer's installation and would love to include your family's brick as well. If interested, please fill out the attached form with a check for \$125 and send it into the main office. Thank you.

Junior High Chorus at Morning Prayer:

Join us this Monday morning, as our Junior High Chorus performs a song from their play, The Christmas Carol, at morning prayer. They have been working hard practicing late each night and are excited to share a piece of what they have been working on.

Fair Share Opportunities:

Open House Signs:

We have 20 Open House lawn signs that we would like to put up around our surrounding areas. If you live on a busy road, or a neighborhood that has many children, please consider putting up a sign. You will receive 2 fair share hours for putting up a sign on your lawn. If you don't live on a busy road, perhaps you have a family member who does and wouldn't mind helping out in this way. If you would like a lawn sign, please contact Jenna at jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org or stop in her office. This is a great way to advertise our upcoming Open House on January 28th. This is an easy way to earn hours. We would like all signs up in early December and it is first come, first serve. Thank you.

Santa Shop Volunteers Needed:

The Parent's Association is still looking for volunteers to help out at our Santa Shop on Dec. 13/14. This is a such an exciting event for our students. Seeing their faces light up as they purchase gifts for their family is priceless. If you can help out click here - <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4badab29a5fb6-secret>.

Athletics Programs:

We need all of our families who are interested in our Ski Club to sign up now! Please find the paperwork attached in today's email.

Thank you



A Teachers View:

Hello St. Mary's family,

My name is Diane McDonald and I have been the librarian here at St. Mary's Academy for twenty-five years. It is my responsibility to provide current popular reading material to the children. In addition to taking care of the library collection my teaching duties is to also provide library skills to each grade.

Each week I meet with Pre-K through sixth grade to learn alphabetical order, how to use reference books, the Dewey Decimal System and research.

Grade three and four are currently learning how to use library books to do research in the "enrichment program". The third and fourth grade teachers provide a topic for each student to research. They come to the library and then go to Mr. Barrows, the computer teacher, to find the answers.

Elementary school librarians do more than check books in and out. I am responsible for the purchasing of books and materials, all of the inventory and weeding out old books, as well as teaching five classes a day on library skills, shelving books, and finally planning and running two book fairs each year.

Why have I been doing this for twenty-five years? I love my job.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Mrs. Diane McDonald (Mrs. Mickey)



Thank you to all of our Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2 students for their participation in Trick or Treat for Unifcef. The money has been counted and sent off. Our students and their families raised \$261.25. Thank you and congratulations!

Thank you to everyone who brought in canned good donations. Combining all canned goods from Family Frolics and those collected during our classroom competition, we were able to raise \$1,107.13 worth of canned goods for the Mayflower Marathon. All donations through the marathon will be distributed to local food pantries. Thank you for your support.