



ACADEMY NEWS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

1967 - 2017

St. Mary's Academy Weekly Newsletter

December 7, 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

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: / *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; / he will prepare your way./ A voice of one crying out in the desert: / "Prepare the way of the Lord, / make straight his paths."/* / John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledge their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Reflection:

John the Baptist is a model for catechists. He redirected the spotlight cast on him to the one he announced. How easy it would have been to claim some of that, but instead he humbled himself. Ask God for the humility to proclaim the Good News of the Lord faithfully. Do this not to be recognized for your efforts but for the glory of the Messiah.

Important Dates:

- This Thursday and Friday at 7:00 p.m. our Jr. High will perform their interpretation of "A Christmas Carol". Tickets may be purchased in advance through the Main Office or at the door each night. Please join us.
- **Breakfast with Santa** will be Saturday, December 16th from 8:30-10:00 a.m. Also, **Candles and Candlelight** will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 16th. This is a wonderful evening to celebrate the Advent Season in preparation for Christmas.

Principal's Message



- As we anticipate the “snowy season” of winter it is important to know how everyone will be contacted for Delays, Early Release, and Snow Days. The Town of Longmeadow determines when we will have one of the days mentioned. Once I am contacted, I send out a message through Rediker to all families. We usually do not have early dismissals. But, if it was determined that we needed to do this, I would do an emergency message through Rediker that reaches out to all telephone numbers and emails. If you have changed your telephone number or email since the beginning of the school year, please make sure to contact the office with your new information. Also we ask that your child has a hat, gloves/mittens, boots and a warm coat as we are now in the cold weather season. We will continue to go outside for morning and lunch recess as long as the temperature is 20 degrees or above. They will also need to bring their sneakers with them to change out of their boots when they go to their classroom.
- We are thrilled to announce that we exceeded our goal this year **raising over \$20,000 by selling Advent Calendars!** We are so grateful for each family who sold to their friends and family and those who helped out at the many Masses. Without the support from our families, we would not have hit our goal and for that we are grateful. All money raised from this event goes back into the school to enhance our academic programs. Thank you! Thank you! Good luck to all those who participated!
- **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.

Fair Share Opportunities:

OPEN HOUSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Jan. 28th:

Our Annual Open House is fast approaching on Sunday, January 28th. There are many volunteer opportunities available starting at 10 a.m. that morning and going until about 3:30/4. This is a great way to earn fair share. We can keep you busy for that entire time or from 12:30-4:00. If interested, please email Jenna at jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org or 413.567.0907. There are limited slots to fill so if available, please contact Jenna ASAP. Thank you.

At-Home Project:

We have another “at-home” fair share opportunity available. You must be able to transport 5 large boxes to/from your home OR you are welcome to come to school during the day to work on it. If you would like to work on this project at school, it would need to be completed in one visit due to the space it will take up. If interested, please email Jenna at jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org or 567.0907. Thank you.

Special Announcement:

We continue to bloom!!!

We are excited to announce that in the Fall of 2018 we will be offering a three-year old program for preschool students. This program will be half days only and will run Monday/Wednesday/Friday. In order for a student to participate, they must be three by Sept. 1st and be toilet trained. **We are making this special announcement first to our SMA families as we are giving priority registration starting now.** We will only be taking 15 students in this class and will open registration to the public at our January 28th Open House. If you are interested in signing up your child, or you would like more information, please contact Mrs. MacDonald at jmacdonald@stmaryslongmeadow.org.



A Teachers View:

The 2017/18 school year has started off with a lot of energy in gym class. All grades have worked on their soccer skills by manipulating the ball with their feet in various drills. Jr High students played games after perfecting their skills and learning area coverage. Elementary students learned ball skills using both their dominant and non-dominant sides.

Students in 5-8th grades moved into a flag football unit for 5 weeks. Hand eye coordination, throwing a spiral, hugging a catch, agility in running and positioning was the focus. Our first annual Turkey Bowl was the result as 7th grade played 8th grade students in a flag football game on Thanksgiving week. Students that were shy in showing off their football skills for the game were enthusiastic in making posters, cheerleading and supplying snacks for all involved after the game.

Eighth grade enthusiast Megan Smith entertained the Jr High grades with her baton twirling for a half time show. Many positive aspects were achieved in bringing community together for this event.

Elementary students celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday while playing a variety of "Turkey Games" using some of our new equipment.

Currently, all students are working on manipulations in class using hula-hoops, juggling equipment and our new foxtails. Routines are being put together so that students can show off their "new found" skills to other students.

We will continue to go outside for warm ups until it becomes too cold or there is snow on the ground. Please send your child to school with proper attire on gym days. The fresh air is good for them and the outdoors expands our play area.

Thanks for entrusting us with your children!

Tammy Keeney

PE Teacher



- We are so grateful to our SMA families and everyone who sold Advent Raffle Tickets this year. Not only did we hit our goal of \$20,000 but we exceeded it! This would not have been possible without the participation of many of our families. Thank you! Thank you!
- Thank you to Miss Leclair for the outstanding Craft Day for our Kindergarten students. They had a wonderful time with their parent making all kinds of amazing projects for home.