



ACADEMY NEWS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

1967 - 2017

St. Mary's Academy Weekly Newsletter

January 11, 2018

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

Gospel

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" - which is translated Christ. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" - which is translated Peter.

Reflection

We are so often in the role of Andrew – bringing our brothers and sisters to meet the Lord. Together we teach each other to understand what discipleship means and how to develop our relationship with Jesus Christ. We pray: Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, guide my words and actions so that everyone I meet might know you as the Christ. May my witness always be an invitation to come and see you, living in our midst, beckoning us to become your disciples.

Important Dates:

Catholic Schools Week

- Students will be greeting, reading, and speaking at our weekend Masses on January 27th and 28th. Then our Annual Open House on Sunday, January 28th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Please come and see all the wonderful things your children are doing and check out next year's classroom. Also please feel free to bring a friend or neighbor. There are so many things we are proud of at St. Mary's Academy and we enjoy sharing them with others.
- Grandparent's Luncheon is a wonderful time for our students to have their grandparents or special guest come to school and enjoy lunch with each other. It is also a wonderful time for our students to show their classroom and visit our Book Fair. Please encourage all grandparents or special guests to join us Tuesday, January 30th. Please note that students eating lunch that day will eat at no cost. A flyer will be sent home asking for a count of who will be having lunch so that we can get it the City of Springfield. The cost for grandparents is \$3.50 per person. Thank you

Principal's Message



Push Up Challenge:

- Students should have come home with a calendar for the push up challenge in Gym. This is a GRADED assignment so please remind your student each day to do their 10 push-ups. The incentive behind the push up challenge is to motivate kids to move their bodies during the month of January. It's a cold, long, difficult month to get outside and play, so why not move indoors more than the remote control. It also brings families together as parents need to record the kids pushups. Parents are also encouraged to be involved and their push up numbers will be included in the SMA final count because they are part of the SMA family as well. Hopefully by February 8th, students that could not do push ups will be able to master the right movement and gain some confidence. Teachers are also participating in the fun challenge.
- We are looking forward to another successful Catholic Schools Week. We have so many events happening that demonstrate what a wonderful school family we are. We begin with the Thunderbirds Game on Saturday evening, January 27th. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please use the link below. This will help the staff ensure we are able to sit in the same section together. We have been asked to purchase the \$12.00 tickets. Thank you

<https://springfieldthunderbirds.formstack.com/forms/catholicschoolsnight2018>

• Big Y Education Express:

Beginning February 1, 2018, Big Y will once again, be offering their Educational Express program. This is where our school receives points for every dollar you spend at Big Y. Points are then redeemed for classroom school supplies. When registering your card, please use our school code, 6179.

After registering your card at BigY.com or telling your local store you want your points to go to SMA, you don't need to do anything else. Points will automatically be earned for the school after every purchase. We have participated in this program in the past and have been very successful. Thank you in advance for taking the time to register your card.

- We are quickly approaching the end of the second quarter which will be next Friday, January 19th. Report Cards will go home on Friday, January 26th with your child/ren. There will also be an update of each family's Fair Share Hours to date.
- The Parent's Association will have their 2nd Movie Night on Friday, January 19th. The movie will be "Moana". Please join us if you are available.

Fair Share Opportunities:

Open House Flyers:

Does your local library, coffee shop and/or grocery store have a community board? If so, grab an Open House flyer from Mrs. Banaitis' office to hang up. This is a great way to spread the news about our school in your local town.

ACE NEWS:

ACE Gala: Save the Date!

Save the date cards went home this week for our upcoming ACE Gala and Auction. This year the Gala will be on Saturday, April 7th at Storrowton Tavern in West Springfield. This is a fun evening filled with dinner/dessert stations, 2 hour open bar, silent and live auctions, and of course a DJ and dancing! Mark the date on your calendar! This is not only our largest fundraiser, but also a very fun event for both SMA families and their friends.

The Gala is not only our largest and final fundraiser of the year, but requires the most work. To make sure this event is once again a success, we are looking for sponsors, advertisers and of course donations for our live and silent auction. If you can help with any of these items (or know someone who can!), please contact Jenna at jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org or stop in her office. Attached are our sponsor and advertiser forms for 2018. Thanks in advance!



A Teachers View:

As the second marking period comes to a close, it is time to begin to think about preparations for our Catholic Schools Week celebration once again. It is a time for reflection, too. Not so very long ago, the Eighth Grade entered homeroom on that first morning in August and wondered just how they would fare as the Eighth Grade this year! Their sense of commitment and enthusiasm has been overwhelming! They have helped organize and run numerous events so far this year: Carnival, Cruise Night, Funfest, Selected Shorts, Breakfast with Santa, Carols and Candlelight, and *A Christmas Carol*. They have led the school in two Rosaries and four Masses. Whew! And when I asked this week who would be able to volunteer as a server for the reception after Mass to honor our Academy volunteers, the hands were in the air once again.

This sense of community in Grade 8 is contagious. 7th and 6th grade students feel free to try bell choir, explore drama in the Play, sing in the choir for Carols and Candlelight, lead a shuffleboard game on Cruise Night after reading the instructions, learn to make balloon animals for Funfest, and help with crafts and activities having donned a Santa's Helper apron. And **every time** there is a junior high student who is celebrating a birthday, (as there was again this week) **THE OTHER STUDENTS**, initiate the singing of 'Happy Birthday!' at lunch. **Every time**. In the midst of devouring the packed lunches or the cafeteria entré of the day, they take time to sing.... to remind that Birthday Student that he/she is cherished for their friendship. To celebrate each other. To remember that we are one. Junior High - what an exciting place to be!



Thank you to everyone who has brought in Box Tops for Education. We have received our check for this year in the amount of \$442. We are so grateful for everyone's participation. Thank you to Miss Leclair for collecting them and sending them in for us.