



ACADEMY NEWS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

1967 - 2017

St. Mary's Academy Weekly Newsletter

September 13, 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:

(Jesus) began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Reflection:

What does it mean to think as God does? Jesus' rebuke of Peter suggests it has something to do with how we view inexplicable suffering. To see a good person suffer for no reason – a person with cancer, a family of refugees driven from their home because of the brutality of war, a person punished for speaking the truth – is perhaps the greatest temptation to despair.

All of us have questions about inexplicable suffering. Some of us have been personally touched by inexplicable suffering and some have come to question God's love because of a strong sense of compassion for and solidarity with others. Let us share our questions with one another so that we can help each other understand that it is possible to carry such doubts yet still experience God's love. We need to remind each other, as Jesus demonstrates on the Cross, there is no evil so dark that God cannot transform it into light

Important Dates:

September 18th New Family Social

9-18 Just a reminder we will be hosting our 2nd New Family Social on Sept. 18th in the Parish Center after morning prayer. This is a great opportunity to grab a coffee, ask questions and meet new families. It certainly isn't mandatory, but beneficial to make sure you are keeping up with all the happenings around your new school. No need to RSVP – just show up when you can, for as long as you can.

9-11 – 9-26 The Parent's Association has begun their fundraiser, the Magazine Drive. There are important turn in dates that are listed in the student packet. Tomorrow, Friday, September 14th is the first turn in date.

9-21 Please find attached our Family Game Night flyer. We are really excited with the "Cruise Night" theme! Please make sure to send in your RSVP so that we can get your "Boarding Pass" to you. We hope to see you there.

Principal's Message



- CORI/Virtus—Many of you have filled out the Cori paperwork and submitted your license to the office! Thank you. This is part one of a two-step process. Please remember you MUST still go online and complete the Virtus training. Click on the link here - www.virtusonline.org; then first time registrant, then select Springfield MA Diocese; St. Mary's Academy. Create user ID/Password and follow directions to register for online training. You will not be able to volunteer in the school before completing both steps of the Cori process.
- Big Y and Stop and Shop Rewards—Have you registered your Big Y and Stop and Shop cards for educational rewards? Both supermarkets give St. Mary's Academy rewards so be sure to go online to register or talk to your local store. Thank you in advance.



A Teacher's View:

These are some of the most exciting weeks of school. We are about becoming a Junior High. While the students are learning to handle responsibility and academics in the classrooms, they are also learning about each other and themselves. As students take those first steps – raising their hands, volunteering, voicing ideas – they are learning how to work with each other. Each Junior High, each year, is different and develops its own group personality while each member develops his/her own response within that group. Students have participated in Carnival and are working on Cruise Night (September 21) and Selected Shorts (a program for October), *The Bells of St. Mary's* (the fall drama production) and the first Funfest for our younger students.

But the first tentative step as a Junior High was taken at the first dance. Students were dancing, and in small groups or pairs.....but 5 songs from the last song, one of the grade 8 students shouted for students to gather around. They did. Everyone. Arms around shoulders, they danced together. In that moment, it did not matter the grade or the ability. In that moment they all knew they belonged and were cared for. In that moment, the new Junior High was born.

CASH RAFFLE SPONSORSHIPS:

We are gearing up for our Advent Calendar Raffle and are looking for sponsors to cover the cash giveaways. If you or someone you know owns a company and would like to market their business to a targeted audience, please contact Jenna at Jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org or 567-0907. Sponsorships range from \$75 - \$500 and the form is attached. This is a wonderful, cost effective way to support Catholic Education. All sponsorships are 100% tax deductible!

Interested in lowering your tuition?

By purchasing physical gift cards or e-cards for already budgeted expenses or gifts, you can lower your tuition while raising money for your school. It's a win-win and so simple!

Follow the three simple steps in the attached flyer to start the savings!

Many families have already signed up to take advantage of this great program.

1. Go to Great American Scrip Program <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/>
2. Create an account
3. Sign up for Presto Pay
4. Begin shopping

Remember: All orders must be entered by Monday evening at midnight. Orders will be ready for pickup by Thursday afternoon of each week

Wish Lists:

Enrollment is up this year and we are so excited! Before we start shopping for a few extra play toys, we thought we would reach out to our SMA family to see if anyone had excellent, used condition toys around their homes in which they are not using anymore. Below is a list of items, but basically we are looking for items for our Pre-K friends.

Train Table
Trains
Garage w/ cars (or separately)
Toy dinosaurs or Farm Animals
Wooden Puzzles
Magna tiles
Large LEGOS
Hard cover books for Pre-K
Dress up
Pretend Play Toys



- Thank you to Mrs. Banaitis and her many volunteers for orchestrating our Parent's Night last week. The organization was amazing!
- Thank you to our faculty for being here at our Parent's Night. So much excitement and enthusiasm as we discussed the year that is in front of us.
- Thank you to our parents for joining us for Parent's Night. It is always so exciting to see such an exceptional group of people join together to celebrate the new school year.
- Thank you to the Parents Association for beginning of what promises to be another successful Magazine Drive! So many students are out and selling magazines.