



ACADEMY NEWS

St. Mary's Academy Weekly Newsletter

November 1, 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

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: / *Hear, O Israel! / the Lord our God is lord alone! / You shall love the lord your God with all your heart, / with all your soul, / with all your mind, / and with all your strength. / The second is this: / You shall love your neighbor as yourself. / There is no other commandment greater than these."*

REFLECTION

Jesus could have responded to the scribe's request by quoting the Ten Commandments and more than six hundred laws of the Torah. Instead, he concentrated all those commandment and laws to two basic ones: love of God and love of neighbor. As we work with teaching each other God's rules, we are asked to keep it simple so that we may better understand the truth.

Important Dates:

- 11-2 First quarter ends. Grades 1-8 Report Cards will be given out at Parent Conferences. (Prek-K conferences only, no report cards)
- 11-2 Jr. High dance 6:30 -10:00 p.m.
- 11-7 New Family Social in the Parish Center, 7:45-9:00 a.m. Come when you can for as long as you can. We will be going over all the upcoming events happening over November/December
- 11-8 and 9 Parent/Teacher Conferences. Please remember these are mandatory conferences in order to receive your child's report card.
- 11-8 and 9 There will be no after-school program due to the early dismissals.
- 11-12 **No School** in honor of Veteran's Day.
- 11-13 In-Service Day ~ No School

Principal's Message



- Our class pictures were taken today. Everyone looked so happy standing with their classmates. Tomorrow is individual pictures. Students may dress in dress up clothing. Please make sure to look at the handbook for the guidelines for dressing out of school uniform.
- Many families have brought in canned goods for Open Pantry. We are hopeful that many more cans will be brought in soon. It is important that we reach out to others in need especially as we begin to prepare for our own Thanksgiving feast.

•New Web Site:

Some of you may have already noticed, but we re-designed our SMA web site. Our hope is by doing this, potential families will find it easier to navigate our site to find information they need and also that our communication will be better between the school and current families. The biggest change you may notice is the calendar. Weekly events will now be at the bottom of the home page with a more detailed monthly version on the calendar tab. To make it easier for you to stay up to date, more events will be listed, along with times for each event. Finally, you are now able to add each event directly to your phone by clicking on "add event". If you want to add all the events for the month to your phone, you can, by clicking "export events." If the site looks funny on your browser, please delete all history and then log back in. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at Jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org/413.567.0907 or stop by my office anytime. Thank you. www.stmaryslongmeadow.org

Fair Share Opportunities:

Family Advent Calendar Sales:

Packets went home earlier this week with Advent Calendars. Each family was given 24 calendars to sell to their friends/family. They are \$10 per calendar or (3) for \$20. If your family **sells all 24, you will receive FOUR hours of fair share PLUS a family dress down day.** If you **sell 12, you receive 2 hours** of fair share. These are SUPER easy to sell as buyers can win cash - up to \$3,500! Not only that, but if you win, your ticket will be put back in the bucket for another chance to win more cash! Families are asked to sell during the month of November and turn in all sales by Nov. 30th as our first drawing is Dec. 1st. We will continue pulling winners at morning prayer throughout the month leading up to Christmas. We raised \$20,000 last year and hope to reach that same goal this year. With your help, we can easily hit that number. This money goes directly back into the Academy, helping enhance our academic programs here at SMA. Thank you in advance for your support.

BINGO Volunteers Needed:

Need fair share hours? Help out at BINGO this Saturday night from 6:30pm - 9pm. It's a fun way to earn some hours. You will be helping sell tickets at the door, sell raffle tickets throughout and also extra bingo cards during each round. If you can help out, please contact Beth Nolan at bethnolan@comcast.net. Thank you in advance!

Coach needed:

We are in need of a coach for our boys 5th and 6th grade basketball team. If you are interested in working with kids and getting all of your Fair Share hours completed in one season, please give the school a call at 413-567-0907 or email Mrs. MacDonald at jmacdonald@stmaryslongmeadow.org

Ski Club

We are hoping that our Ski Club will be a possibility this year. We are in need of a volunteer or group of volunteers to organize this six week activity. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mrs. MacDonald by calling the school or emailing her at jmacdonald@stmaryslongmeadow.org



- Thank you to everyone who participated in the Halloween Pumpkin Decorating Contest. All of the pumpkins were amazing! There was a lot of thought and hard work that went into the decorating of the pumpkins. The students and faculty enjoyed voting for their favorites and it was wonderful to have them decorate our stage for our Family Frolic event.
- Thank you to all of our parents who participated in the decorating, working the event, and most especially the clean up of our very exciting Family Frolics. It was a wonderful time spent together.
- Thank you to our 8th grade students for providing a wonderful new experience, Escape the Room, at Family Frolics. Thank you also to our 7th and 6th grade students for running the games, helping with Trunk or Treat, and keeping the dance floor up and moving.