



ACADEMY NEWS

St. Mary's Academy Weekly Newsletter

January 4, 2019

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

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star rising and have come to do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

REFLECTION

The Magi are "overjoyed" at seeing the star that leads the way to Jesus. To those searching for truth, Jesus is a beacon of light in the dark night. The Magi overcame obstacles and yet still found their way, bearing their gifts, to Jesus Christ. May this be an example for us: let us be guided by Christ's light. Let us always find new ways around any obstacles we might face.

Important Dates:

January dates:

- Jr. High Dance 11
- Parent's Association Meeting 14
- Martin Luther King Day ~ No School 21
- Art Night 25
- Night at the Thunderbirds Feb. 2nd

Information about Catholic Schools Week will be coming in next week's newsletter.

Open Enrollment:

Enrollment is now open for current SMA students/siblings. This is particularly important for students moving into one of our Pre-K programs as these programs do fill up. If you want to secure your spot, before registration opens to the general public on Jan. 27th, please fill out the attached form along with a non-refundable \$100 deposit, which will apply to next year's tuition. For those siblings who may be new to school, parents may pick up an application in the Main Office.

Principal's Message



Dear Parents,
What an exciting time, a new calendar year!

I would like to thank those who joined us each morning to pray before our Advent wreath. It was a wonderful experience in prayer as we waited to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope everyone had a Blessed Christmas and a restful vacation and are now ready to take on the New Year with excitement and enthusiasm.

It is very important that every child come to school prepared for the winter weather wearing their hats and mittens. We will continue to go outside for recess as long as the temperature is above 20 degrees so we need everyone dressed for cold weather. Thank you for your cooperation.

LEGO Robotics:

LEGO Robotics is starting registrations for the next session. This program is open to students in grades 2 - 5. Please see attached form.

Fair Share Opportunities:

Open House:

Our Open House is on **Sunday, January 27th from 1 - 3pm**. We are asking our families to spread the word by sharing the event from our Facebook Page to your home page. You can earn 1 fair share hour by just sharing the event! Most of our new families hear about us from current SMA families so please help us spread the word!

In addition, to general advertising, we do have families speak at the St. Mary's Masses on the weekend of Jan. 26/27. If your student can speak, in uniform, at the 4:00 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. Mass on the 26th or the 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. on the 27th, please contact Mrs. Banaitis at jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org You will be given a pre-written speech to read, fair share hours for helping out and a dress down day.

ACE Gala:

It's hard to believe but our ACE Gala is on March 30th at Storowton Tavern in West Springfield! This year, we are theming the event "The Greatest School On Earth" and have circus entertainers coming in from NYC! If you would like to help plan this exciting event, please contact Mrs. Banaitis at jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org or 567.0907. Currently, we are looking for sponsors, donations, big and small, advertisers for our program book, and of course "night of" volunteer help. This is another great way to earn fair share hours while having a lot of fun!



- Thank you to Mr. Gurt, the students, and the faculty for such an incredible Christmas performance. Thank you, to Miss Leclair and Sr. Christine for working with our students to share the Christmas Story through the Pageant. Thank you also to Mrs. Cannon for the wonderful Bell Choir. Thank you lastly to Mrs. Vazquez for the beautiful songs sung in Spanish. It was a great way to spend our last day before Christmas break together. Well done!
- The faculty and staff join me in thanking everyone for the many, many Christmas gifts given over this Christmas season. The collection from our parents gathered by the Parent's Association was so very, very generous. Thank you.