



ACADEMY NEWS



St. Mary's Academy Weekly Newsletter

February 7, 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

Jesus said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." for astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching me." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

REFLECTION

Often we can feel as Peter must have felt. Our labors seem to bear little fruit. Yet the waters that we fish in are deep and Jesus is in charge. There is no end to the wonders we will draw forth from each other if we take Jesus' advice.

Important Dates:

- For Valentine's Day this year we will be making a donation to the Ronald McDonald House. In order to do this we will be having a "red" dress down day on Friday, February 15th. This means that each student/faculty member may pay \$2.00 to wear red or pink as part of their dress down day in lieu of their regular uniform.
- On Wednesday, February 13th, the Parents' Association will have an Ice Cream Social for our students. Students will be called down to the gym by classes to enjoy an ice cream party in honor of St. Valentine's Day
- We will be leaving for our Winter Break at the end of school next Friday, February 15th. We hope that everyone has a wonderful vacation and that we all find time to be with family and friends. May we also take time to rest and gain strength through prayer as we have many great and exciting things in front of us upon our return on Monday, February 25th. God Bless you all and stay safe.

Principal's Message



- We have had some issues with our robo call system lately. If you do not receive a call, as technology isn't always reliable, please follow the Longmeadow School closings. If Longmeadow has a delay, we do too. If Longmeadow is closed, we are. When in doubt, follow Longmeadow. Thank you for your patience as we look to resolve these issues.
- Thank you to everyone who has returned their forms for re-enrollment for next year. It is important that we have the enrollment papers back as soon as possible. Please make sure to get your re-enrollment paper in to the office soon. Now that open enrollment is open to the public, many new families have been sending in applications for their children which is causing some classrooms to be almost at full capacity. It is important that our current families have the opportunity to ensure their child's place in the next grade here at the Academy. Please take care of this as soon as possible.

Fair Share Opportunities:

Spelling Bee:

We still could use a few volunteers to help out at our Annual Spelling Bee on March 7th. If you need hours and want to volunteer, please contact Jenna 413.567.0907 or jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org.

ACE Gala

Our Annual Gala will be here before you know it and the committee has been working hard at securing sponsorships, donations and program advertisers. If you know of a business or family that might be interested in sponsoring our event with a program ad, event sponsorship, or an in-kind donation, please contact Jenna 413.567.0907 or jbanaitis@stmaryslongmeadow.org

Another big piece to our Gala are our class baskets. Last year, this table raised \$6,340! Here's how it works – each classroom has been assigned a theme. Please contact your room parent (or organizer) for specifics, but families can choose to *either send in an item based on that theme or contribute money to purchase a larger item (whatever is easiest)*. The classroom whose contributions are auctioned off for the highest price will **win a special lunch party!** As an added incentive, **for every \$100 raised at the event from your class, the class will receive (1) dress down day with a maximum of 5 days.** Don't miss out on this opportunity to support YOUR school! This is really a fun way to get involved. *Please send in items by MARCH 1, 2019.* For questions, please contact your room parent or Jenna Banaitis at 567.0907.

ACE tickets are now on sale in the school office or online. Tickets are \$60/each with a small processing fee if you purchase online. Invite your friends and enjoy a fun night out! Click through the home page of our web site to purchase online. In addition, be sure to like our event page on Facebook as we will be highlighting some of our incredible auction items!



A Teacher's View:

The junior high students are beginning their unit on Poetry. In honor of our poetry unit the 7th graders wrote an acrostic poem about St. Mary's and being in 7th grade. The students were asked to come up with 1-3 words to describe how they feel about St. Mary's and about 7th grade. Below is our class creation which offers some wonderful insight into our days at the Academy!

SMA Seventh Graders

S - Students

M - Magnificent

A - Amazing

S - Successful

E - Excellent

V - Very good education

E - Excellent teachers and staff

N - Never better

T - The helpfulness and kindness

H - Happy

G - Good & respectful students

R - Really fun

A - Awesome environment of students

D - Dynamic

E - Education

R - Right to pray

S - Supporting



- Thank you to all of our faculty and staff. They all worked so hard last week to help make our Catholic Schools Week activities so amazing. There were many changes to our regular schedule and they worked to fit in curriculum along with the wonderful activities. They also had many wonderful things going on in their own classrooms in celebration of Catholic Schools Week.
- Thank you to our many grandparents and special guests who came out in the cold weather to be with their grandchild or special child during Grandparent Luncheon. It was so wonderful to have so many join us!
- Thank you to our Jr. High students who also worked very hard last week. At times, we needed many hands to make the activities possible and our Jr. High students were willing to help out.