



Saint Mary School

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October 2016

Dear St. Mary School Families,

Thank you for an excellent start to the 2016-2017 school year! In a general sense, there is much more action and many more people around our building this year, which is welcomed. We appreciate your patience as we continue to grow and expand.

As an aside, I celebrated my birthday yesterday. As we each know all too well, this is our annual reminder of how quickly the time is passing. I was reminded of an old adage that I try to never forget:

“Every moment of each day is precious...”

It is rather easy to get caught up in the day-to-day issues and stresses we each face. Let us always remember these words and always thank God for *every moment of each day*.

As the beautiful month of October is upon us, let's look at some of the more important happenings and updates at SMS:

Month of the Rosary

October 7 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. As October is dedicated to praying the Rosary, we have been doing so each morning here at school (one decade). Students should arrive to Morning Assembly with their rosary beads.

Individual Pictures

Individual student pictures will be taken on Thursday, October 6. Students should dress up for these photos. Forms were sent home last week and should be sent in tomorrow. If you need a form, please pick-up tomorrow in the Main Office and return no later than Friday. Please note: the 8th Grade Class Picture will be taken on Friday, October 14.

October 10 & October 11

School will not be in session on October 10 (Columbus Day) and October 11 (Faculty Retreat Day).

Pig Race

Please know that the Prize Store will take place on October 13 from 9-11am. The annual Pig Race will take place at 12:30pm in our gym. A special Thank You to Mrs. Friscia for ALL of her work and effort!

“Saint Mary School is a Christ-centered educational community dedicated to fostering Catholic faith and Gospel values, while striving for academic excellence within a nurturing family atmosphere.”

Dance

St. Gregory the Great is hosting their school dance on Friday, October 21. This is open to students in 7th & 8th Grades.

After-School Activities

Our Fall offerings will be sent out on Friday. Please review and sign up for any activity that interests your child(ren).

Pumpkin Display

10/24 through 10/31

Open to All Students

Students can decorate their own pumpkins and bring them to school to display in the Main Lobby. Decorated pumpkins must be appropriate for school and must not depict anything that is considered scary or inappropriate. For example, feel free to create the Minion Pumpkin! Students should have their name and class on their pumpkin.

Door Decorating Contest

10/24 through 10/31

Open to All Homerooms

Students can bring in seasonal decorations for their Homeroom Door. Only one door will be decorated. Some classes may want to decorate their door based on their Patron Saint or All Saints' Day, while others may want to depict the Autumn Season or have fun Halloween decorations on display. It is up to each Homeroom and Teacher. The doors will be voted upon and the winning HR will receive a fun afternoon movie with popcorn.

Halloween Parade

10/31

Students may come to school on this day dressed in a Halloween costume. These costumes must be appropriate for school and must not depict anything scary or frightening. Some ideas include Disney characters, Sports figures, and Saints. Costumes should not be so complicated that students cannot work during the day, or move around the building easily. At 10:30am, we will start our parade of students outside of our building. Families are highly encouraged to attend and take pictures.

Afternoon Movie

10/31

Open to All Grades

We will continue our tradition (established last year) of watching Charlie Brown movies for specific holidays and seasonal events. And so, on Monday, we will watch It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown.

Open House & Informational Session Dates

Fall Open House:	Sunday, November 6 (9:30-11am)
Pre-K Open House:	Tuesday, December 6 (9:30-11am)
Kindergarten Information Session:	Tuesday, December 13 (9am)
Pre-K Open House:	Tuesday, January 17 (9:30-11am)
Winter Open House:	Sunday, January 29 (9:30-11am)

Tuesday, December 20

On this day, we are inviting everyone within our community to join us at the 5:30pm Mass at St. Mary Church. With Christmas approaching, this will be a special time for us to gather as one body during the Advent season. Those who can arrive early will be treated to Christmas Carols, performed by some of our students. More information to come, but please mark your calendars and save the date.

Facebook

Last year, we had a total of 430 “Likes” on our school Facebook page. In just one year, that number has skyrocketed to over 870! Thank you for helping to spread the word about all of the great action at SMS. Please continue to visit our school Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/StMaryBethel/

Mrs. Schlemmer Update

As you know, Mrs. Schlemmer is recovering from her September accident. I am happy to report that she is making great progress! As you can imagine, she is VERY eager to return to school. She remains grateful that we have Mrs. DeFelice and they remain in constant contact.

Please bring any cards, gifts or other items to the school that you may have for Mrs. Schlemmer. We will get them to her.

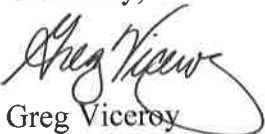
Please contact us at the school if you have any questions, thoughts or concerns.

May our Virgin Mother continue to guide and protect us.

*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb,
and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said,
"Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."*

LUKE 1:41-42

Gratefully,



Greg Viceroy

Principal