



Saint Mary School

24 DODGINGTOWN ROAD · BETHEL, CONNECTICUT 06801 · 203-744-2922 · STMARYBETHELCT.ORG

October 2017

Dear St. Mary School Families,

Thank you for an excellent start to the 2017-2018 school year! There is great energy around our building as we welcomed almost fifty new students into our community last month. I am so very proud of the warm welcome our families have given to all of our new students and parents. The spirit of St. Mary School remains vibrant and alive!

The month of October is an important time to assess the start of the year. Indeed, with an entire month of school already completed, now is a great time to communicate concerns, make changes, and prepare for the rest of the First Quarter. I invite you to reach out to our teachers, who are so completely dedicated to your children, to voice any concern, thought or question you may have. Let's set the proper foundation now so that we have a great school year!

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, our teachers have been discussing this Catholic tradition with our students.

Terra Nova Update

We are happy to report that the Terra Nova results have arrived. We are processing the reports and will send a copy home along with an informational letter. If you have any questions, please let us know in the Main Office.

October 9 & October 10

School will not be in session on October 9 (Columbus Day) and October 10 (Faculty Retreat Day).

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"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."

Thank You

You have heard me say it before, but I continue to be amazed at the dedication that our parents have for our children and school. In particular, I am so very grateful for the evenings and weekend work that our parents accomplish, going above and beyond their own personal responsibilities in order to benefit our great school!

I especially would like to thank Mrs. Friscia, Mrs. Ranallo and Mrs. Mulligan for all of their work on our wonderful Magazine Drive. This is a smooth, well-planned and excellent fundraiser here at SMS - all thanks to our wonderful parents.

I also want to thank the Zinzi Family for all of their work and efforts to make our first Movie Night such a smashing success. As with the Magazine Drive, this was an excellent event that saw many families from the entire community come out to our great campus.

Thank you to all of the parents on our Home School Association Board as well as our Athletics Board - there is much work going on in the background and, as a school, we thank you for all of your work.

Pig Race

Please know that the Prize Store will take place on October 12 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!

After-School Activities

Our Fall offerings will be sent out next week. Please review and sign up for any activities that interest your child(ren).

Dance

Please note that the next parochial school dance will take place on Friday, October 20 at St. Gregory the Great School. (Reminder: the November parochial dance has been rescheduled to January 19.)

Safe Environments

The scheduled presentation from the Safe Environments office of the Diocese of Bridgeport had to be canceled, as the presenter was in a minor car accident the day of our visit. We are awaiting the new date and will present that to you in a future communication.

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After-School (Club) Phone Line

Families - if you need to call the after-school club after the main office is closed, please dial our main number (203) 744-2922 and select Option 4. The phone will ring in both the First Grade classroom as well as the Pre-K 3 classroom (which are both after-school Club rooms.)

Knights of Columbus - Pasta For Priests Dinner

Join us for an evening of pasta and fun celebrating our own Parish Priests and all they do for us. Proceeds will go to the St. John Fisher Seminary in our clergy's name. The dinner will be held in the school gym on Friday, October 27, 5:30 to 8pm. The cost is \$10/person; \$8/children & seniors; or \$35/per family. (Please bring any gently used coats, in any size, for the Coat Drive.)

Early Morning Care

Please know that our preschool Early Morning Care takes place from 7:10AM through to 8:55AM. There is a fee associated with using this service, regardless of your arrival time. If you have any questions, please let us know in the Main Office.

Pumpkin Display

10/23 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. ***Please do not carve pumpkins.***

Halloween

10/31

Costumes:

Students in **Grades K-8** 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.

Students in the **Pre-K** program should not come to school in costume, but rather bring their costumes in a bag with every piece labeled.

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Halloween Movie:

We will continue our tradition of watching Charlie Brown movies for specific holidays and seasonal events. And so, on October 31, we will watch *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* at 10:30am.

Halloween Parade:

At 1pm, we will start our parade of students outside of our building. Families are highly encouraged to attend and take pictures.

Open House

Fall Open House: Sunday, November 5 (9:30-11:30am)

Please share with friends or family who may be interested in joining our wonderful school! If you have any questions, please contact our Enrollment Director, Mrs. Garvey, at LGarvey@StMaryBethelCT.org

Tuesday, December 19

On this day, we are inviting everyone within our community to join us at 5:00PM at St. Mary Church for a special Advent Service. With Christmas approaching, this will be a wonderful time for us to gather as one body during the Advent season. More information to come, but please mark your calendars and save the date.

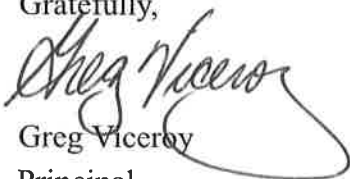
Communication

Families, please contact us at the school if you have any questions or thoughts. We are always here to discuss any situation that might concern you. I can be reached directly at: GViceroy@StMaryBethelCT.org

May our Virgin Mother continue to guide and protect us during this month of October.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to you do I come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Gratefully,



Greg Viceroy
Principal