

Principal's Newsletter

Volume 6

February 2012

Special points of interest:

- Parent Night is Tuesday, January 31
- GeoSchools on display Tuesday evening and Wednesday during the school day
- Patriots Dress Down Day on Friday, February 3
- Vacation club calendars due February 13

Faith. Academics. Service.

Catholic Schools

Catholic Schools Week

Next week is Catholic Schools Week. The theme this year is Faith, Academics and Service. It is an annual national celebration highlighting the important role catholic schools play in the intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical and social education of our students. The purpose of Catholic Schools Week is to build community awareness of Catholic schools throughout the country and to accentuate the life-long benefits of a catholic education. Research has proven that students in Catholic schools achieve higher and have greater success economically in future jobs.

Farewell to Father John

On Monday, January 30th we will have a special liturgy in honor of Fr. John Sullivan. Father John has been here at St. Mary's Parish for twelve years and has left an indelible mark on every person he has met. Please join us in celebrating all that Fr.

John has done for us. A reception for parents will be held in the lower church hall immediately following the Mass.

So that he will never forget us, we have purchased a vestment and stole with the children of

the world. A school scrapbook made by each classroom will be presented. The PTO will give him a chalice from the parents. Fr. John will be remembered fondly by all of us whose lives he touched.



Open House

St. Mary's will have an open house on Sunday, January 29 from 1-2:30. Registration for next year will be open on that day. Please let your friends and neighbors know about the outstanding faith based education that your children receive here. All St. Mary students should be re-registered at this time to ensure a spot for the 2012-2013 academic year.



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Re-Registration for 2012–2013

Registration forms for all present students are now due. A non-refundable family deposit of \$400.00 which is applied to next year's tuition is due before March 1st. This enables us to plan and project for the next

academic year. If you have a sibling who will be coming next year a registration fee of \$200.00 is due upon his/her registration. If you have questions, please feel free to call the office for clarification.

Important Events Scheduled

Tuesday night, January 31, is our Parent Night. We invite all parents to come with your child to his/her classroom and spend an hour with your child's classroom teacher and experience our interactive learning centers and Smart-Boards. Class will start promptly at 6:30 and finish up at 7:30. Students will stay in their own classrooms for the hour. We hope to see you on Tuesday night. Since space is limited, NO siblings should attend. This evening is set aside for you and your child.

GeoSchools will be open from 6:30 -8:00 pm for all to visit in the lower Church Hall.

On **Wednesday**, students in Grade 8 will be presenting GeoSchools in the lower Church hall from 8:30 -1:30 pm.

On **Thursday**, Grade 6 will be presenting Women in Math & Science from 8:30 -1:30. Please stop by and enjoy the accomplishments of our hardworking students.

On **Friday** we will have a dress down to celebrate the New England Patriots. Students can wear red & blue. Donations will go to A Servant's Heart Food Pantry.

Thank You

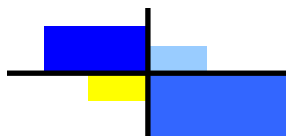
Thank you to all who so generously supported our Dress Down Day in memory of Clara Sexton. We raised over \$1500.00 and will be forwarding a check to the Alagille Syndrome Alliance. It was a wonderful tribute to Clara, her family and our supportive St. Mary's community.



IPads for Teachers

St Mary's teachers and staff are now equipped with iPads. This tool will enrich the learning experience of all St. Mary's students. iPads will be used in the classroom for one on one and small group instruction. During the next few months the teachers will be trained on the use of this device. iPads seem to help students connect better with the content.

The iPad can also be used in conjunction with the Smartboard for whole group instruction. Hopefully this is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of how we can integrate this tool of technology into the classroom.



Vacation Club

Our extended day program has been alive with the interactive activities of the children. During February vacation the Vacation Club will be offered Tuesday thru Friday – half or full day for anyone needing child-care or a place for your child to have a fun-filled day. Calendars for the vacation club are due by Monday, February 13 and can be found on the website.

Great Vacation Activities

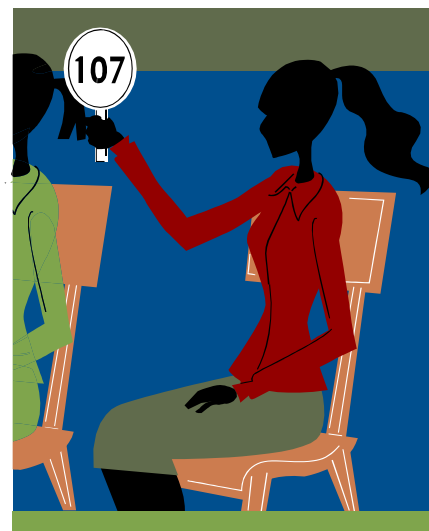
February vacation is usually filled with great outdoor activities. Skating, skiing and snow-tubing are among the most popular sports. But there are many other activities your family might enjoy.

The public library has a number of free passes to local museums and attractions. You need to sign up for the passes, so you might want to check out this service soon!

Auction

Planning for our annual auction on Friday, March 2 is well underway. Donations of all categories are needed. Please contact Illona Sullivan at isullivan.is@verizon.net to arrange a pick up and drop off of donated items.

Also, don't forget to order your tickets! This event always proves to be a fun night for all. And of course, it is our largest fundraiser of the year.



Enrichment

St. Mary's School has recently received a donation of \$5000.00 from Mr. & Mrs. Steve Toti to be used for enrichment activities for the students at St. Mary's School. We have scheduled a well known author David Biedrzycki, The Museum of Science and Historical Perspectives to come to the school in coming weeks to support and enrich the learning experiences of the students. Special thanks to the Toti's for making these experiences possible for our students.

Why Catholic

Small group sessions for 90 minutes each week will be starting the week of February 19th. These small groups will be reflections on scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Sign-ups will be after all Masses Jan. 28 & 29th. This is a wonderful way to make the Lenten journey more meaningful.