



# Saint Mary School News

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## Celebration Corner

This month we want to celebrate the hard work of Yvonne Claucherty and her helpers in organizing the Salsa Sale. This PTG fundraiser helps to provide assemblies and other items that support the work of the school. It was a job well done! In addition, thank you to PTG, staff, parents and students who made Catholic Schools Week a great time of celebration and thankfulness for the Catholic Education our children receive at St. Mary Catholic School.

## Salsa Update

Thank you to all who helped make the PTG Garden Fresh Salsa sale a success. We had about 50 families participate which is awesome. Our profit from the sale is over \$1,100.00. That money will go into the PTG fund for activities for the children.

We do have extra items if anyone is interested. We have 3 Artichoke/Garlic Salsa, 8 Original/Pine Nuts Hummus, 1 Mild Guacamole and 1 Spinach/Artichoke/4 Cheese Dip. You can buy any of it from the office for \$4.50 per item.

Thanks again for all of your support.

## Principally Speaking....by Greg Carnacchi

It is with such sorrow that I share the passing of a special friend, supporter and staff member of St. Mary Catholic School, Mr. Kevin Linehan. As we pray for him, we also ask that you keep his wife, Katie and his two sons, Sean and Mark, in your prayers. Mr. Linehan had been our playground supervisor for the past ten years. He also coached the Hoopers and Jr. Hoopers for many years as well as volunteering for Fish Fry's and the Auction. Mr. Linehan had a genuine care for the students and was eager to help them grow as he worked with them at lunch or in after school sports. Mr. Linehan will be deeply missed.

Next week we celebrate a very important event that contributes to our school's success. On Sunday, March 1st, we will hold our annual "Open House" from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are asking our families to help by sharing two Open

House flyers with family, friends, neighbors or someone you know who may be interested in St. Mary as a great place for their child to learn and grow in a spirit-filled environment. Also, if you can help at this event, please contact the PTG (Jackie Berry or Tonya White). We ask that students helping or visiting wear their church uniforms and if possible attend the 11:00 a.m. Mass for the celebration of our CYO student athletes and our general student population. The CYO students will sit on the side of Mary and the other students on the side of St. Joseph. It will be a fun and energizing day followed at 3:00 p.m. with the Jr. Hoopers playing their exhibition game at the Fellowship Center. Please join us and bring any new and interested families.

During the week of January 25th we celebrated Catholic Schools Week with the theme of "Catholic

Schools Celebrating Service". The week was fun-filled with activities that reached out to help others. We also participated in events that highlighted the many wonderful things we gain from our Catholic Schools. One of our favorite happenings was Healthy Day with Jazzerising and the Winter Olympics. The students also enjoyed Cozy Reading Day and Game Day. Ms. Tessa Janish was Principal for the day during this week of celebration. See her article in this newsletter that highlights her day.

With Lent beginning February 25th on Ash Wednesday, which is, a Mass day as well as Friday of that week, our weekly Friday Fish Fry's will be in full swing. The first Fish Fry is Friday, February 27th. This is a great way to support the school while enjoying a delicious dinner and lively conversation with other St. Mary families.

## Tessa, Principal of the Day

This was purchased at last years Auction.  
See article on last page.

**Preschool—Mrs. Hancasky, Mrs. Dylenski, Mrs. Bala**

Where is the time going? The preschool has spent the month enjoying the season of winter and our Valentine symbols and traditions. We read many books about winter, graphed our favorite winter activities and made craft snow people and snow globes. We brought real snow into the preschool rooms and had tons of fun scooping and molding the snow and observing the snow melt from a solid into a liquid. We had additional opportunities to explore the states of matter as we painted with frozen paint! Valentine’s Day gave us a chance to think about all of the people who love us and the people we love. We are so blessed! We will end the month with our study of shapes. The senior preschoolers also focused on the letters L and F this month.

**Kindergarten—Mrs. Withee**

February welcomed us with the groundhog seeing his shadow! Looks like six more weeks of winter. We enjoyed our mini themes of Ground Hog Day, Our 100th Day of School and the light study of Japan. Ask any kindergartner how many Islands Japan has or ask them to count to ten in Japanese. We will finish off the month with the study of February Presidents, Dental Health and Nutrition.

Happy Valentine’s Day and Happy Winter Break!

**First Grade—Ms. Farrell**

First grade had a great time celebrating the 100th day of school! We brought in 100 things to share and use for collages. We strung 100 pieces of cereal into necklaces. We also played 100 Bingo, filled in hundred charts, made a class book and wrote special journal entries.



We tested ourselves by doing 100 jumping jacks, 100 claps, 100 hops, etc. As a class, we worked together and

jumped rope 100 times. Several of the first graders admitted it was their first time jumping rope!

Ask a first grader about his/her favorite 100 day activity.

**Second Grade—Mrs. Stanko**

The second graders were able to attend a Reconciliation Retreat over the break. This opportunity leads into our receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on February 28th. We’ve been busy preparing our hearts and examining our conscience in order to receive this beautiful Sacrament of Peace. We’re also getting ready for Lent to begin. This will be another time of reflection and prayers in our classroom.

**Third Grade—Mrs. Smith**

This past month the third graders have been working quite hard. We almost know all of our multiplication facts and are getting ready to multiply two digit numbers together and begin division. We have also been studying states of matter, force, gravity and simple machines in Science.

In Religion we will be talking about each Station of the Cross. Everyone will be making their own Station folder to keep the sacrifices that Jesus made for us close to their hearts. We will make Lenten sacrifices that we intend to uphold throughout the Lenten season.

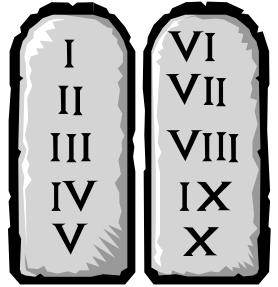
Our class is also getting ready for our Open House at the beginning of March. We are preparing by displaying some of our writing, projects and work that we have been working very hard on throughout the year. We hope everyone will stop into our room and see what wonderful things are taking place in third grade.



**Fourth Grade—Mrs. McNish**

As February continues we are preparing for Lent.

The 10 Commandments have been our study lately. Language Arts brings in the study of adjectives and the end of



persuasive writing. We have been drawing conclusions as we read. Our health unit is teaching us how to eat and be healthy. Our map unit is ending with a map project. We are thankful for all the donations for our auction basket and Valentines Party.

**Fifth Grade—Mrs. Sak**

“We the People in order to form a more perfect union...” can be heard being sung outside the fifth grade classroom. The students are preparing a musical presentation of the Constitution. They will dress up as presidents and explain the Constitution including the Bill of Rights and the Amendments. They will be presenting this production to the school on February 26, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. We would love to have you join us for this fun and educational presentation.

**Preschool Registration**

Preschool registration is underway for our current St. Mary families and parishioners of St. Mary and St. James. We offer part-time programs for children ages 2 1/2 to kindergarten entry. It is possible to arrange full-day care through our arrangement with Katie’s Kids, a Christian daycare just north of St. Mary on Lafayette. If you would like more information, please contact Gaby Bala at 248.545.2140 ext. 230 or at [gbala@st-mary.org](mailto:gbala@st-mary.org).

### Sixth Grade—Ms. Kassab

Math has been getting interesting in the middle school lately. The sixth grade has moved into more exploration of fractions, seventh grade has been getting deeper into algebra and the eighth grade has started to reach into some geometric figures. All students are busy in Science as they begin to decide on their project ideas for the Learning Fair. The sixth grade will be displaying experiments, the seventh models and the eighth a variety of both. Projects are due the morning of March 25th. Be sure to stop by the Learning Fair on the evening of March 25th between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. to see their brilliant displays.

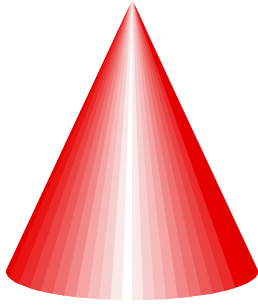
God Bless!

### Seventh Grade—Mrs. Martin

Have you every wondered how to properly re-pot a plant? Do tricks with a yo-yo? Make a paper balloon? These are just some of the interesting topics of the seventh grade demonstration speeches that we've enjoyed this month. Our unit on public speaking has taught the class many helpful tips about presenting our best self and organizing ideas.

The eighth grade is learning some real-life writing skills. They've written complaint/opinion letters, thank you notes and memos. Hopefully, they'll make use of this life skill in the near future!

With the season of Lent comes term



papers—every eighth grader's favorite part of the school year. They'll choose a notable person from history on which to complete an in-depth research report. Throughout the project, they'll learn proper techniques of note taking, citing sources and documenting bibliographies.



### Eighth Grade—Mrs. Irwin

It is the month of Love and here are a few thoughts that the eighth graders had on Christian love: Love never weakens. Christian love never fails you. Strengthens day by day. Real love is honest. It has no lies or secrets. Christian love is pure.

I hope everyone had a wonderful mid-winter break!

### Seventh Grade—Mrs. Peterson

The sixth and eighth graders have just begun their study of poetry. The sixth graders are learning about rhyme scheme, repetition, alliteration and figurative language. In English, they are focusing on capitalization rules. The eighth grade is working on meter and feet in a poem. They will be putting together a book of poetry.

Love never weakens.

Christian love never fails you.

Strengthens day by day.

Real love is honest.

It has no lies or secrets.

Christian love is pure.

By: Nikki

Jesus gave to all,

And expected nothing in return.

Jesus forgave everyone,

And expected nothing in return.

Jesus healed the sick,

And expected nothing in return.

Jesus died on the cross,

And expected nothing in return.

He did this out of love,

For all the world to see.

Agape is the word he used,

Three hundred and thirty-three times.

Agape is the word he used

Meaning a deep love of another's soul, heart, mind and life.

It is Christian love,

The example set by Christ.

By: Michael

Love

Compassionate, selfless

Understanding, trusting, caring

Happiness, truthfulness, hostility,  
devil

Destroying, despising, resenting

Hurtful, rude

Hate

By: Danielle

Love is a cherry tree

It begins small, a seed with no meaning

When planted and cared for it grows

It is beautiful, giving its' gifts

Becoming stronger and stronger

Like Christian love it gives you what it has and offers beauty to all

Sitting there peacefully judging no one

Providing shade on the hottest days

Fruit as refreshment

And flowers as a gift

Whet the tree dies it does not die

The seeds it planted continue in love

By: Claire

Let's all spread a little Christian love this year.

*Open Registration for St. Mary Catholic School will begin on Sunday, March 1st. Remember to register your child to ensure a spot for next year.*

**“Pennies for Peace” continues until the end of February**

## AUCTION NEWS

### ◆ AUCTION DONATIONS

#### **The White Form** (with yellow and pink carbons): Due March 6

Donations! They're coming in, but we need more. Can you help us reach

our "two donations per family" goal?" Package up your own gifts and talents. Can you cook, bake, clean, teach, motivate? The gift of time is worth a lot.

### ◆ AUCTION PROGRAM ADVERTISING

#### **The Blue Form:** Due March 20

Business ads cost from \$40 to \$150 and will be featured in the Auction Program. Let the auction attendees know your line of business. Put a coupon in if you like. Can you sell an ad? Ask around. Remember to patronize those businesses who DO advertise in our program.

### ◆ AUCTION SPONSORSHIP

#### **The Yellow Form:** March 20

Sponsorships cost from \$250 to \$1,000. Benefits include: full-page ads in the Auction Program; having your name on signage at the entrance to the auction; you or your company's name displayed in the Auction's PowerPoint presentation; name on the St. Mary Website . . . and much more.

### AUCTION NEWS & FORMS

Visit the auction page at [www.stmaryroyaloak.org](http://www.stmaryroyaloak.org) for copies of all of the forms and more exciting news! Forms are also in the flier racks near the main office.

### My Day as Principal

By: Tessa

When I woke up on Friday, January 29th I was so excited that I got to be principal. First I got to help with the caravan. Mrs. Carnacchi helped me since Mr. Carnacchi had a very important meeting. (He came out and helped us at the end.) I loved greeting all of my friends. Then Mr. Carnacchi and I did the morning announcements and I really liked talking on the loud speaker, it was fun! Then we went into Mr. Carnacchi's office and I was so lucky because I got to see the huge book of learning! It showed me all of the things the teacher's have to teach us! Boy did it have a lot of things in it. I was going to ask Mr. Carnacchi if Mrs. Stanko could have a day off because she works so hard, but after I saw that big book I decided that we needed her here at the school more than she needed the day off, sorry Mrs. Stanko. We then got to go and visit all of the classrooms. It was very exciting because I got to see all of my favorite teachers. We got to go to the law office to drop off some things and I met a very nice lady. Lunch duty was next and it was fun too, but my favorite part of the day was going out to lunch with not only Mr. Carnacchi but with one of my favorite teachers in the whole world, Mrs. Carnacchi. We went to my favorite restaurant Noodles and Company. I hope they enjoyed it too. After we returned from lunch I got to help pass out hot chocolate, and I even got to have a cup too. It was delicious! Oh and by the way, I loved getting to read a story called "The Berry Big Storm" to kindergarten. I think they really liked it too. Mrs. Withee please let me know if you need me to read anymore stories to the kindergartners because I really enjoyed it. I would like to thank Mr. Carnacchi for a wonderful day. After spending the day as principal with Mr. Carnacchi I can now see that a principal's job is way harder than just walking around the school all day. I thought I wanted to grow up and be a veterinarian but after working with Mr. Carnacchi all day I think I may look into becoming the principal at St. Mary after he retires. Thank you Mr. Carnacchi for all of the hard work you do for our school and don't worry if you ever need a day off, I can step in and be principal since you showed me what I need to know, I will just need Mrs. Carnacchi to help me cross the street if I need to run any errands.

A chance to win

**4 Red Wings Tickets!**

**Red Wings vs. LA Kings**

**Friday, February 27, 2009, 7:30 pm**

**Joe Louis Arena, Section 104, Row 10, Seats 1-4**

*These GREAT lower level seats are valued at \$85 each!!*

**Raffle Tickets For Sale:**

**Feb. 23, 24 & 25 from 7:45 – 8:15am  
in the school lobby or anytime at the  
office**

**Questions call Anne Snyder at 248.584.0175**

**Cost: \$5 each or \$20 for five**

