



Saint Mary School News

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Celebration Corner

We want to celebrate our incredible Auction that was a most successful gift from God. The site and organization was wonderful and pleasing to all. This great accomplishment could only have been achieved through the hard work and dedication of so many. First, we thank the Auction Committee and their families for their leadership, guidance and hard work: Cheryl Sawicki, Christine Kenny and Anne Snyder. Other special helpers to thank are Lester Gouvia, Molly McNamara, Debbie Gonzalez, Cathy Tomsich, Carolyn Marsh, Jennifer Auerbach, Gina Kendell, Michelle Suchyta, Michele Hoch, Leah Phillips, Amy Saunders, Meg Seefelt, Stephanie Youngert, Rick Berry and the St. Mary Staff. We also greatly appreciate the work of the Knights of Columbus and all who volunteered, donated or purchased items that made the night exciting and extremely successful. Thank you and may God bless you all.

Principally Speaking...by Greg Carnacchi

As the baseball announcer says, "It's going, going and gone!" This can certainly apply to our school year. It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of the year. Our spiritual theme this year, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" has served us well as we faced many challenges this year. The economy has made all of us rethink our lives, but trusting in God helps us to figure out His will for us. Our God continues to bless us with successful fundraising, parent volunteers, a hard-working staff, athletics and successful students. The many talents of our students were showcased in the Talent Show, the Learning Fair, our after school clubs and the growth of our students spiritually, academically and socially. We are proud of them for their many accomplishments this year. God has truly blessed St. Mary Catholic School.

We will continue the tradition started last year for the last day of school. Individual awards including the Gift of God Award for

each student will be presented in each student's classroom. At 10:00 a.m. we will celebrate the end of the year with Mass and all are invited. Fr. Hall will be our celebrant and the school is looking forward to sharing Mass with him one last time. After Mass we will give out the *Spirit of Christ Awards*, the *Beth Julian Awards* and have the moving up ceremony. We feel this tradition places the focus on the spiritual dimension for the end of the year.

You will soon be receiving a letter on ordering shirts, blouses, gym wear, ties, sweaters and spirit wear from Mackellar's on-line. This letter will have your user name, password and the web address for Mackellar's. Items ordered from Mackellar's can be shipped direct to your home. We have tried to make it more convenient and timely. The pants and jumpers are still ordered from Lands End and this can be done on-line or at the outlet at Sears. We hope this makes it easier for our families. Remember, if there is a financial

hardship and help is needed for uniforms please contact the school to discuss this matter as there will be uniform funds from the jeans days to help.

Finally, in an effort to establish a safe environment for our children, the Archdiocese of Detroit has implemented a program called "Protecting God's Children". Any adult...parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc. who comes in contact with students at St. Mary Catholic School, must attend a "Protecting God's Children" workshop. This includes coming into the school to drop-off or pick-up students, volunteering in the classroom, attending field trips, coaching, scout leaders, helping in the lunchroom, etc. If you fit into any of the above categories please contact the office for information on how to register for the training session. Thank you for your cooperation.

As the summer approaches, may God bless you and your family with a relaxing time filled with rewarding experiences!

As we leave St. Mary Catholic School we would like to thank all of you for your support, guidance and the fond memories we have had during our time here.

Thank you for all of the good times!!

Saint Mary Catholic School Eighth Grade Class

Kindergarten—Mrs. Withee

The month of May has kindergarten celebrating the gift of wonderful mothers. We hope you enjoyed your cards and flowers. We enjoyed reading stories about moms and especially about Jesus' Mother, Mary. We continued the month with the study of Michigan. Wow, what a terrific state we live in. Ask any kindergartner what makes Michigan different from all the other states. I'm sure they'd be happy to enlighten you! Kindergartners are also learning how to be young authors. They have all illustrated eight part stories and are getting ready to dictate the beginning, middle and end to their stories. What creative imaginations they all have. We will end the month with the exploration of two themes—The Rain Forest and Zoo Animals. As the end of the year approaches I want to thank each and every boy and girl for all of your hard work and for all of your kind hearts. Happy Summer!

First Grade—Ms. Farrell

First grade is happy that Spring has finally arrived! We give a special thank you to Alexa's mom for donating some caterpillars to our classroom. We are watching them get bigger each day and cannot wait to see them change into butterflies! The most popular place to sit during silent reading is right beside the caterpillar jar!

We are also learning about other local insects, spiders and small wild animals to prepare for our field trip to the Madison Heights Nature Center later this month.

Thank you, parents, for a great year! It's been amazing to watch the transformation of the first graders from non-readers to readers and writers. Have a fun and safe summer! Remember to **KEEP** reading!

Second Grade—Mrs. Stanko

"I am the Resurrection...and the Life." Just as the Gospels proclaim the Good News, so do we here in second grade. We see evidence of new life as we look out our windows and see the buds and flowers growing. We see the new life

in our own classroom as we watch the caterpillars spin their cocoons, to emerge soon as butterflies. And we celebrate our New Life in Christ through our First Eucharist.

Third Grade—Mrs. Smith

As the year winds down the third graders have been working on fractions and decimals in Math, learning their states and capitals, reading the wonderful classic tale of *Charlotte's Web* and reflecting on the year.

This year has gone by so fast. I want to thank the third graders for working so hard this year. They have grown so much both academically and socially. I am very proud and grateful that I had the opportunity to be their teacher this year. I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful summer break. I can not wait to see everyone in the fall.

Fourth Grade—Mrs. McNish

Welcome to Boogie wonderland! This is the mini-society fourth grade has created to learn about economics. We have our own money system, civil servant jobs and a flag. We are currently getting paid for classroom jobs. We are trying to get money flowing in our city so we can start opening businesses. Come by and see how it works.

Fifth Grade—Mrs. Sak

Cars, trains and planes were viewed by fourth and fifth graders at The Henry Ford Museum on May 4, 2009. We had the entire day to visit the museum. Students spent time learning about inventions throughout American history. They also had an opportunity to explore the lives of past generations which included the automobile's effect on American life. After studying the Constitution this year; it was a wonderful experience to view the Liberty and Justice for All section and to sit in the bus that Rosa Park took her stand for Civil Rights in. Finally, they investigated the early aviators in the Heroes of the Sky exhibit. It was a wonderful learning

experience.

Our second field trip this month will be on May 21, 2009. We will spend the day at Oakland University attending the Clinton River Water Festival. This field trip is intended to teach fifth graders about the many ways water affects their daily lives. It should be a fun and educational day.

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

This is a bittersweet time for us in the preschool...it is so exciting to see the growth that every child has made since their first day of school, but it is always hard to say goodbye or even "see you later".

Every May we ask our preschoolers what they have learned in preschool and we thought we would share a sample of their responses:

In preschool, I learned...

- ⇒ How to share
- ⇒ How to do the monkey bars
- ⇒ How to write my name
- ⇒ We are not allowed to run inside
- ⇒ To sing songs
- ⇒ About watering plants
- ⇒ ABC's
- ⇒ About Jesus

We wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer! We still have openings in one of our Tots (2 1/2's) classes and in our Junior (3's) and Senior (4's) afternoon classes. Please spread the word, if you know of anyone looking for a great preschool! Blessings!

EBay and Amazon Sellers

St. Mary needs your expert established marketing skills as an EBay or Amazon seller. We have six new HP Laser Cartridges for various models. The cartridges typically sell between \$30 and \$100. We need to sell these cartridges, so we can fund the purchase of new cartridges for printers we have in use. Since established sellers know the ins and outs of selling on these services, we are certain to get top dollar. If you would like to share your skills or want details on the cartridges, please contact, Mrs. Schulz at 248.545.2140 ext. 224.

Sixth Grade—Ms. Kassab

Spring is in the air! The middle school Math classes have been busy at work furthering their Algebra and Geometry concepts. We have also been exploring the solar system, the human body and the study of force and mechanics. Stop by the upper hall and you may feel like you are in outer space with all the eighth grade solar system models. Have a great month!

Seventh Grade—Mrs. Martin

Once upon a time...the seventh graders endeavored to learn about fairy tales, fables, folktales, legends and myths! We spent a few weeks learning about each type of story and the elements they contained. We even got to read picture books of some of them together in class. In addition, the students wrote their own fairy tales which are on display in the upper hallway. We hope they remember this knowledge as they live...happily every after!

In the meantime, the eighth graders are finishing up their last few assignments. They are currently writing graduation reflection essays that they hope to share at their commencement service on June 3. Soon they'll take their last vocabulary test of the year, and then it's off to high school! My hope and desire for this class is that they take the lessons we've taught them to high school and beyond. Best of luck class of 2009!

Seventh Grade—Mrs. Peterson

We have been very busy the last few weeks in middle school. Eighth grade has finished *Flags of Our Fathers*. They enjoyed reading about the lives of the brave men who fought on Iwo Jima. They will be lucky to see the statue in Washington D.C. This is the last major unit for the eighth grade. It has been a pleasure watching them grow up the last three years. It will be weird not seeing them everyday next year.

The sixth graders have been working hard on a detailed character study. They had to pick a character, write a

summary in the point of view of that character and then draw a life-size picture of the character. In English, they are working on writing a biography. They had to find two different sources to use during the writing process. I am excited to read these papers.

Art—Ms. Tomlinson

Congratulations young artists! Your beautiful auction projects totaled over \$1,000.00 (Profit). Bravo! Bravo!

Kindergarten and first grade are busy making duplicates! Second and third grade will again be coordinating with Mrs. Carnacchi. We're inspired by "Wild Things" and creating our own.

The upper grades have been celebrating our glorious spring by painting flowers in water color. We looked at the painting of "Ackerman" for inspiration. We will move on to Georgia O'Keefe soon.

Library—Mrs. Carnacchi

Where did the school year go? The calendar says it's May so that means we'll be winding up the year in just a few short weeks. This week was the last opportunity to check out books from the Library for grades K-5. All books are due back in the Library by Friday, May 29th. After that, I will begin sending home overdue notices to all students with books still unreturned. Please be aware that report cards/records cannot be sent home until all books are returned or paid for, if lost. If you find that a book your child has checked out is lost, please contact me and I will inform you of the replacement cost. We do have quite a few middle school students (who came to the Library throughout the school year on an "as needed" basis) with overdue books, so if you are the parent of a middle schooler, please remind them to return their books. Thanks!

Help keep your student's reading skills sharp this summer by encouraging them to read! We have some really excellent local libraries in this area and I hope you and your child make library visits a regular summer

habit. And don't forget to take advantage of opportunities to read while driving in the car (signs, maps and billboards), eating in restaurants (menus, advertisements) or just hanging around the house (newspapers and magazines). Let your child practice reading and writing by sending postcards while on vacation. For older students, you can find some great reading lists just by going to a search engine like Google and typing in "middle school summer reading lists".

Speaking of reading, Scholastic has a great web-based reading enrichment program called "Book Flix", designed for K-3rd grade. To access go to www.wixomlibrary.org. Scroll down to "Book Flix" and click. The user name is "wixom" and the password is "library". This is a very child-friendly site and allows your student to choose a category (animals, people, places, etc.) and then enjoy listening to both a non-fiction and fiction title to go along with the category. Following the story, there are activities, games, puzzles, etc. to help strengthen your child's comprehension skills. Check it out.

God's blessings to all and enjoy your summer.

St. Mary Scrip

We will continue to process Scrip orders throughout the summer months on a weekly basis. However, instead of dropping your order off here at school, you will need to drop it off after the weekend masses. You will find a Scrip representative in the Fellowship Hall after the Sunday masses and in the back of church on Saturdays. They will have Scrip order forms available or you may visit the school website (www.st-mary.org) and click on "Scrip" to print off your own form at home. Orders dropped off (or ordered on-line) on Saturday or Sunday will be available for pick-up the following weekend. Thanks to all the families who have taken advantage of this program and helped our school financially in the process. If you're considering purchasing new uniforms for your child, don't forget to purchase "Land's End" Scrip first!! Thank-you!

Attention Kroger Shoppers

A flyer was sent home a couple of weeks ago regarding Kroger's new Community Rewards Program which began on May 1. **If you are a Kroger shopper, St. Mary Catholic School can receive 5% of your purchases as long as you have registered your Kroger Plus Card.** Please visit krogercommunityrewards.com and follow the prompts to link your Kroger Plus Card with St. Mary Catholic School. Our NPO number is 82347. Ask your neighbors and relatives if they will do the same and St. Mary will benefit! Complete instructions to register your card can be found in the rack outside of the office or call the school at 248.545.2140 ext. 229 and we'll walk you through the process. It takes about 5 minutes. Thanks for helping our school and our kids. In the fall, look for information on how shopping at Meijer and Target can also benefit St. Mary.

St. Mary Creative Club (SMCC) and Market Day—Mrs. Schulz

I would like to thank all the coach/team manager volunteers for all the hard work they put into getting their teams to competition. Great job! This year, we surveyed the K through 8th grade classes for their interest in participating in the SMCC groups (First Lego League, Destination Imagination and Future City). The results of the survey indicated an interest similar to this year. In that light, I will need your help in making next year a success.

Coach/team managers are needed to run the teams. If you would like to volunteer to be a coach/team manager, please contact me. Training for this position will be provided by the group regional organizations (Destination Imagination, First Lego League and Future City) and support will be available from the SMCC coordinator. Coach/team managers can set meeting times to meet their needs, needs of team members and facility usage (school rooms). I will also be phoning some of you, to inquire about your interest. Without coach/team manag-

ers, we can't offer the number of students the opportunity we do. Please consider volunteering.

Coach/team managers are only one part of the equation, the other part is funding. Each team is asked to fund their individual problem solution through purchases or donations. This is a small part of the funding a team needs to participate in competition. For team competition, regional and national funds must be paid. This year the combined groups' regional and national funds for SMCC were about \$1500.00. This is where Market Day comes in. Market Day provides the funds to pay these fees. Unfortunately, this year's Market Day funds were about \$300.00 short. Without these funds, we would have to assess each child \$25.00 per group per year to participate. I know that for some, making tuition can be a burden at this time of economic uncertainty. So, I am asking that you consider supporting the Market Day program, purchasing things you would ordinarily buy for your family and perhaps adding one or two new items. The Market Day program will be continuing through the summer months of July (July 15th @ 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Center) and August (August 12th @ 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Center) into the normal school year schedule, beginning in September. The order forms will be available in the church bulletins. If you can spare some time, a few volunteers are needed to assist in separating the orders and doing inventory on the delivery at the Market Day events. Please contact St. Mary's Market Day Chairperson, Melissa Tusset at 248.629.7633 and let her know when you can help. Please consider participating in the program, the children need your support.

Auction Success—\$60,000 Raised

You didn't have to come to the Auction....but you did. And we're glad you did. While the night was all about bidding, eating, great prizes and stylish hats, ultimately you helped keep education at St. Mary affordable for another year by helping

us reach the goal of \$60,000 net revenue.

Great thanks are given to all of our generous donors as well as the parents, parishioners, friends and St. Mary staff who secured these items. Please support the businesses that supported us...stop in and let them know you appreciate their donation to St. Mary!

A very special thank you to our incredibly generous St. Mary teachers and staff who donated their time and talents for some extraordinary and memorable gifts. Thank you all for your commitment and your support of Catholic education.

Fast Facts

- The Planning Committee and volunteers logged more than 750 hours preparing and working at the auction.
- There were 260 items up for bid in the silent and live auctions.
- The auction item that went for the highest bid amount was Two Tickets to the Oprah Show & Overnight in Chicago for \$2,600.
- 267 people purchased tickets to the auction.
- 910 pierogis were served.
- Lots of fancy hats were worn. Congratulations to Angela Chouinard & Bob Kendell for winning the best hat contest!

Return Paddles (and baskets) to the Office

Please return bidder paddles and wicker baskets (if you do not want them), to the front office so we can reuse them next year.

Save the Date

Next year's auction will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2010. If you are interested in serving on the planning team for 2010, please let us know!

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