

Saint Mary School

February 2017 Newsletter

Note these calendar dates ...

- February 2nd—Catholic Schools Week continues! Students are welcome to dress as their “future profession”. 1:30 p.m. talent showcase (stage/gym). 3:10 p.m. Grade 5-6 Jazz band practice. (also 2-9, and 2-23) 7:00 p.m. OGJH 6th grade parent night.
- February 3rd—10:00 a.m. All city Catholic Schools Mass (Elmen Center). Bishop Swain is the celebrant. We dismiss at NOON. THERE IS NO PRESCHOOL THIS DAY.
- February 6th-7th—Preschool DIAL 4 testing (optional). This is a screening tool regarding your child’s readiness for kindergarten.
- February 16th—parent teacher conferences as scheduled. Please make sure you have returned your conference preference time request by Monday, February 6th. There is no school February 16th-20th. School resumes Tuesday, February 21st.

Looking ahead:

- March 1st—Ash Wednesday Mass.
- March 8th—7:00 p.m. St. Mary parish First Communion parent meeting.
- March 9th—12:10 p.m. Anointing Mass (grade 4 attends).
- March 16th—no school staff Inservice. No School March 17th.

Dear Families,

Communication and staying connected to our school families is very important to the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools. We do this in several ways—“ClickRain” emails, monthly newsletter, Twitter posts, summary notes/postcards/flyers, reminders in the student planner, SFCS calendar (on website) and more. We strive to make these timely and informative to assist you with knowing what is going on in our school.

Please note:

1. **Registration for the 2017-2018** school year will be open February 15-26th for current families. New families registrations open February 27th. This needs to be completed online (<http://www.sfcss.org/>).

By completing this in a timely manner it will help our budgeting and staffing projections. We very much need and appreciate your help. Tuition assistance information will be available. If you have concerns regarding the costs, please call.

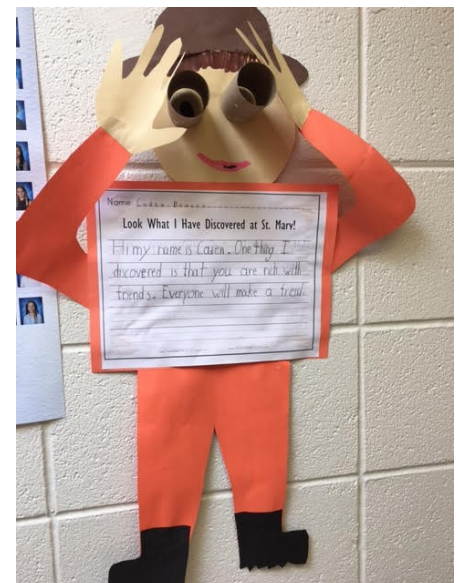
2. **School safety and crisis planning.** We continue to update practices and procedures to continually promote a safe and secure environment. We pray we never face intruder issues. Please help keep our school safe by making sure you sign-in the office and that you follow basic safety practices when dropping off and picking up your child. Before school super-

vision starts at 7:40 a.m. After school supervision concludes at 3:15 p.m.

3. **SFCS “Virtue of the Month”** - compassion is defined as being KIND and helping others in need. Thank you for your compassionate outreach to the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House during Catholic Schools Week. We are grateful for your response with towels and hair products.

You know you are at Saint Mary

1. You see faith witnessed in so many ways—a crucifix in every room, understanding the Liturgical calendar, students singing at Mass on Wednesdays, weekly Adoration, praying the Rosary on Mondays, and you see the love of God working in every classroom.
2. You see joy, humor, concern and a caring staff.
3. You have excellent access to technology.
4. There is academic excellence and an emphasis on the ARTS .
5. You sense community, great communication AND your children tell you they like school.



Faith opportunities in February ...



An important part of our school week is our weekly liturgies. The students and staff benefit from the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist together. Please consider joining us for the following:

- Wednesday, February 1st—8:30 a.m. Planned by Mrs. Grogan's (first grade) class. Preschool attends.
- Friday, February 3rd—10:00 a.m. All City Mass (Elmen Center—Augustana University campus).
- Wednesday, February 8th—8:30 a.m. Mass is planned by Mrs. Hoffmann's class.
- Wednesday, February 15th—8:30 a.m. Mass planned by the Kindergarten classes (preschool attends).
- Wednesday, February 22nd—8:30 a.m. staff planned Mass.
- Wednesday, March 1st—8:30 a.m. Mass plan by Mrs. Finnegan's class. Preschool attends. This is Ash Wednesday and we begin our 40 days of Lent.

Our school has many reflective and prayerful ways recognizing this church season.

We will pray the Rosary each Monday, at 8:15 a.m. in the church plus families pray the Rosary before Mass on Wednesday. The staff Rosary is Friday morning before school. Please forward your prayer requests to—bbasche@sfcss.org or by calling the school at 334-9881. Your prayer requests are also honored our school prayer board.

School lunch news

Thank you, thank you parent volunteers who make the lunch-room run so smoothly. Please remember to arrive around 11:00 a.m. to help with the first shift.

Thank you to everyone for their prompt attention to lunch account balances. If your family would benefit by receiving free or reduced price lunches please

make sure you avail yourself of that opportunity. Please call if you have questions regarding the application or need assistance.

Thank you Mary Beth Piatt, Rosie Hammond, Ramona Lewis, and Deb & Jeff Finnegan for the great management and operation of our lunch program!!!!



Thank you ...

1. **Bendaly s** for the donation of Tylenol and a forehead thermometer.
2. **All** who contributed Christmas gifts to the Benedictine Sisters. S. Penny Binham and all the Sisters of the Sacred Heart Monastery write—"The Sisters in Yankton once again enjoyed the gifts shared with them through the generosity of people of Saint Mary School. Please accept our thanks. Your kindness is greatly appreciated by us. We will hold you specially in our prayers this year. God's bless you in the new year."
3. **Edith Liu, Rory Kelly, Julie Fischer, Jeff Heavlin, Jim Rysavy, and Fr. Dave Desmond** for your continued leadership and commitment to our SFO executive committee.
4. **Erin McManus** for taking our all school picture.
5. **Saint Mary School Boy Scout and Girl Scout troop leaders.**
6. **Edith Liu and Jenni Struck** and all who are coordinating our staff luncheon during conferences.
7. **Finnegans, Boetels, Theobalds and Strucks** for helping serve parish rolls/ coffee to kick-off CSW.
8. **Parents** for choosing our school and your support of our SFCS.

Conferences ...

Our second conferences of the year will be held on Thursday, February 16th (all day). A time preference sheet has been sent home and needs to be returned by February 6th.

We are proud and pleased with the long-standing tradition of excellent parent attendance and we look forward to this opportunity to communicate directly with you regarding your child's progress.

Due to our conference schedule, there is no school on Thurs-

day, February 16th, Friday, February 17th We also do not have school on Monday, February 20th in observance of Presidents' Day.



Girls on the Run...

Forms were sent home alerting you of our Spring enrollment. This is a great program to teach healthy living and confidence building. It ends with a fun 5K run.

It will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:15-4:30 p.m. The cost is \$106.50 but there is a sliding fee according to income. Only 16 participants of girls in grades 3-5 will be able to enroll (LDBUA@ebe.org or 336-3662 ext. 227). Volunteers are also being sought to assist with the sessions.



Congratulations ...

We love to share the good news about our students, their families and staff. Please let us know of special recognition, awards, births, etc.

This month we congratulate -

*Our Geography Bee champion—**Tommy Tobin**.

***Maya Jamous** for being selected for SD middle school all state band.

*1st place students in the Knights of Columbus Free throw contest—**D'Angelo, McCoy, Kennedy Reents, Mark Tribble, Ava Tobin, Jase Muller, Ava Schuler, Zach Heineman, and Mirtalem Czarnicki**



Our Sympathies to ...

The **Fitzgibbon family** on the loss of Mrs. Travis's grandmother.

Joanie Olson on the loss of her mother.

You remain in our school prayers, intentions, and Rosaries.

Meeting the needs of all students....

Saint Mary School continues to meet the needs of all students through:

- ⇒ Differentiated classroom instruction.
- ⇒ Directed and need specific pull-out programs.
- ⇒ Strong counseling and peer relations instruction.

- ⇒ Extra-curricular and school-based clubs .
- ⇒ Speech/language therapy.
- ⇒ Access to occupational therapy.
- ⇒ Academic services to address learning delays, gaps, and specific instruction benefits.

- ⇒ Enrichment and acceleration instruction in content areas.
- ⇒ Faith enriched environment that is Christ centered.
- ⇒ Innovative use of technology matched with strong foundation skill development .

Saint Mary SFO

Please see the attached SFO newsletter and minutes from our last meeting are attached. The election of officers process and timeline is detailed in that. Please contact the school office, Fr. Dave Desmond, or one of the SFO executive committee members if you have questions. Your engagement to our school benefits our community!

February - "Counselor Connection" - Mr. Jeff Heavlin

February 12-18th is Random Act of Kindness Week. At Saint Mary kindness is not relegated to only one week!

The classes are continuing to build on these concepts:

Kdg.—transitioning to self-esteem and self management.

1st grade—Character Counts pillar of caring plus utilizing the story of the Good Samaritan.

2nd grade—"bucket filling" continues as they discuss compliments.

3rd grade—working on assertiveness and practicing saying "no" in a variety of ways.

4th grade—Stephen Covey—6th habit—synergize = teamwork, openmindedness, and the adventure of finding new solutions to old problems.

5th grade— building on problem-solving skills and applying them toward conflict resolution and time-management.

6th grade—discussing transition to 7th grade and what that will entail.

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Presentations Sisters will generously be awarding 40- \$750 tuition assistance scholarships to students in grades K-12.

Selections criteria:

- *Family has financial need
- Student achieves a "C" average or better
- Student and family values Catholic education and is registered with a Catholic parish in the Sioux Falls Diocese.

Application procedure: Applications are available in the school office and require an essay to be written by the applicant if they are in grades 6-12 or the parent/guardian for those in grades K-5. This topic is "the importance and value of a Catholic education and how the scholarship would financially impact my family". The application needs to be return to: Presentation Sisters Scholarship Committee, 1500 N. 2nd Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401 and must be **post-marked and or hand delivered by Friday, March 3rd (no faxes or emails please).**



*Please follow us on Twitter
@SaintMarySchool—there are always
good news, fun pictures and reminders.*

Circle of Grace ...



Each year during or right after Catholic Schools Weeks our classroom teachers provide "Circle of Grace" lessons to our students. This program was selected for use by the Diocese of Sioux Falls. It is a philosophy that can be used throughout the year as a concept that reinforces God's real presence in our lives, respect, and skills of how to make good choices.

It focuses on the sacredness of each person and how rela-

tionships are called to be experiences of divine love. It goes beyond the "safe- touch" models by addressing the whole person thus is able to teach how boundary violations can occur and how to take action if any boundary is threatened or violated.

Through the Circle of Grace lessons children/young people will understand they are created by God and live in the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Children/young people will be able to de-

scribe the Circle of Grace which God gives each of us.

Please visit with your child's teacher if you would like to review the materials that are used at that grade level. Know that as Catholic school educators we are committed to your child's safety. We will continue to work with you to educate our young people in ways that respect that their physical, faith, social, and emotional growth and maturation.



Thank you to all the parents and students that adhere to our prompt school day start at 7:55 a.m. Starting on time helps the day start well.