

Saint Mary School Newsletter

January 2017

Dear Families,

Among my most treasured aspects of my position is to witness the love that each of you have for your children. Your investment in their faith formation and education affirms the strength of family and the sense of community. We are a community and members of Christ's family through the rich treasures afforded us through His love and witness.

May your Christmas celebrations and gatherings bring you precious time with friends and extended family. I look forward to time with my immediate family (which is quite small -I'm one of

three kids and as my parents were only children, I have no aunts, uncles, or cousins). Fortunately, my husband comes from a family of nine children. Over the years they have grown closer and truly have learned to appreciate and make time to be together. Family dynamics are so interesting!

As a new year approaches and the time honored tradition of making resolutions, I resolve to continue embracing others (both physically and emotionally). I will show my concern for them by the gift of time, presence, and prayer.

The miracle of the ever present Christ made known to us at Christmas touches each of our lives throughout the year. Jesus' humble servitude and love for us, His family, is a model for each of us and those that have been placed in our lives.

I wish you Joy, Peace, love, and gift of good friends and family throughout the New Year.

Mrs. Courtney Tielke

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Snow Day—Fun in the Forecast...



We have a special fun event planned for our students. Winter can be a bit long but we see it as an opportunity to

celebrate with our school community.

On Friday, January 27th we are hosting our second annual SNOW DAY—FUN in the FORECAST. Students are welcome to wear pajamas (or “cozy wear”) as well as a hat. We will have an all school “hat parade” at 9:00 a.m. Following recess at 10:15

a.m. we will have hot chocolate and board games with the book buddies plus create and decorate paper pajamas.

At 2:00 p.m. we will have all school Bingo plus popcorn. During the day classrooms will read “bedtime or sleepover books”.

Faith opportunities in January ...

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

- Wednesday, January 4th—8:30 a.m. Planned by the staff.
- Wednesday, January 11th—8:30 a.m. Planned by Miss Mac's class.

- Wednesday, January 18th—8:30 a.m. Planned by the 6K.
- Wednesday, January 25th—8:30 a.m. Planned by specials.

Parents pray the Rosary in church each week before our school Mass. Please join them as they pray for our school families, community, intentions, and staff.

The staff and students pray the Rosary each Monday morning at 8:15 a.m. in the church. Please forward your



prayer requests to us (we will recognize your intentions with a prayer certificate. Students participate in Adoration each Wednesday.

Catholic Schools Week ...

We will be planning special events for our annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week and sending home a special flyer. This year, it will be held Sunday, January 29th and runs through Saturday, February 4th. This is a national event that focuses on the uniqueness and faith-based education in our schools.

Please note these events already scheduled: (more to come!). Our theme is follow-

up to our artist in resident "Do Something" by Matthew West.

- January 29th—Donut serving between the Masses.
- January 30th—Living Rosary, wacky hair day and hair product collections for the Bishop Dudley House.
- January 31st—OG spirit wear day. 6th grade versus staff volleyball game.
- February 1st—school Mass (1G) and school-wide art

project.

- February 2nd—Dress for future profession. 1:30 p.m. talent show. Create cards for seminarian and priest cards
- February 3rd—SFCS Mass at the Elmen Center—10:00 a.m. Parents, families, guests, are welcome and encouraged to attend. School dismisses at noon.

Thank you ...

1. **All families** who supported and generously assisted in our Christmas Service project. A special thanks to **Amy Kusmak and Michelle Bruns, the Peters and Ortmann family and all who** coordinated the tags and sorting deliveries.
2. To **all** who brought in holiday treats and extended many gifts and kindnesses to the staff.
3. **Parent Rosary leaders** for providing

special prayer time before our school Masses.

4. **Emily Glatt and Jodie Barnett** for helping in the school office.
5. **Jana Sweetman, Becky Greble and room parents** for coordinating the specials and teachers Christmas project.
6. **Renaee Pekas** for Wells Fargo

Reading First program book donations.

7. **Lunch program volunteers** for your assistance in the lunch room. You greatly enrich our positive lunchroom experience.
8. **ALL** who helped with program set-ups and receptions. Great hospitality = builds community.

Saint Mary School belief statements...

- We believe that we encourage community service to promote stronger Christian values.
- We believe we create a safe environment where we embrace the uniqueness of individual students.
- We believe in instilling an acceptance and respect for all individuals and their learning needs.
- We believe that an important element of education is respect. Our students learn to respect others and have self respect.
- We believe our students receive an exceptional education to prepare them to be globally competitive and prepare them for dedicated citizenship.
- We believe that by having Gospel values woven into the curriculum and the whole school experience, that our students and staff actively live their faith.
- We believe that staff development broadens and updates the skills, knowledge and attitudes of our staff. It is an important element of ongoing school improvement.
- We believe ongoing collaboration and communication between home and school facilitates a stronger learning community.

We exhibit a commitment to excellence by –Providing exemplary instruction and assessment. Stressing character development and faith formation. Promoting and embracing parent support and involvement. Selecting, training, and retaining staff that show compassion, care, fun, discipline, and excellent knowledge of instructional practices. Sustaining a strong relationship with our parishes.

Thank you for partnering with us and choosing Saint Mary School!

Congratulations ...

This month we congratulate -
*2016-2017 SD Elementary Honors Choir members: **Maya Jamous, Isabella Savage and Maria Glatt**. Their talents will be showcased on February 9th in Brookings, SD.

We joyfully announce the birth of two babies to school families. The Mahrous family welcome Gavin and the Jacela family welcomes Antonio.

We love to share the good news , births, successes and accomplishment of our fami-

Stay up-to date

lies. Please send your information for our publications.

Please follow us on Twitter to see what is happening in our classrooms and throughout our school.

@Saint MarySchool



Feisty Fighters...

Several of our school families are involved with Feisty Fighters. We applaud especially the work of Christie Lloyd Ernst and Mary Lloyd Huber in supporting families with cancer.

Last year when Olivia Slocum was battling cancer, we created a school-wide art piece by

auctioned with the proceeds going to help the Slocum family. They were also given the original piece of art.

The Feisty Fighters are offering various print sizes and items of a professional copy of this artwork with income raised to support families with cancer (Make a Wish and St. Baldrick) . If you

Facebook page at -
mary@feistyfighters.com



We hope to see you at our SFO meeting on January 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.