

CHALLENGING MINDS • DEVELOPING CHARACTER • LIVING JESUS

Dear Families,

What a joyful week! Didn't the kindergarteners, first, and second graders do a fabulous job in their musical last night? Many thanks to everyone; teachers, parents, and staff for making this opportunity possible for our students! Being able to offer every student the opportunity to perform in a musical every year is a unique and special school experience that we really want to continue.

However, it really does "take a village" to make this type of production possible. We would love to be able to offer this experience to our intermediate and middle school students this year. I know we have many talented parents, teachers, and staff who are willing to jump in and help make this happen for our kids. All we need is one or two parents who are willing to take the lead. Could you be the one we are looking for?

Our next Spirit Day will be on Friday, December 22 and will be Wacky Christmas Outfit Day!

Uniform skirt/jumpers - We are seeing quite a few too short jumpers and skirts. The hem of your daughter's jumper or skirt should extend to the knee. Please check your daughter's uniforms as it might be time to let the hem out or order a longer one. Thanks!

Have you purchased your Calendar Raffle tickets yet? The Calendar Raffle is like a year long lottery ticket. When you win, your name goes back into the drawing, giving you multiple chances to take home some CA\$H. Calendar Raffles make great stocking stuffers for friends and family! To participate, you must turn in your tickets to the school by December 22, or to the parish office by December 29. Act now so you don't miss out!!

As we light the third candle in our Advent wreaths this Sunday, we are reminded that the true joy of Christmas is not about the gifts, parties, and celebrations we usually associate with Christmas. The true joy is found in Christ. In this third week of Advent, let Mary's joy be our joy as we wait for the birth of Jesus.

Faithfully,

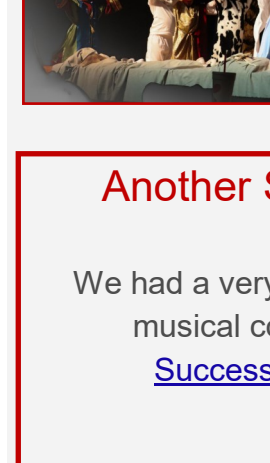
Linda Joyner

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 22**
Spirit Day: Wear your Wacky Christmas Outfit
- Dec. 22**
Calendar Raffle Tickets due to School Office
- Dec. 23 - Jan. 2**
Christmas Break
- Jan. 9**
5th - 8th Grade Spelling Bee
- Jan. 15**
Home & School Meeting 7pm
- Jan. 18**
8th Grade Photos
- Jan. 26**
Early Release at 11:30am
- Jan. 28**
St. Mary School Open House
- Jan. 29 - Feb 2**
Catholic Schools Week
- Feb. 2**
School Day Fun Fair
- Feb. 9**
No School
- Feb. 12**
No School

[View Full Calendar](#)

January Hot Lunch Ordering Portal: Orders Due Dec. 21



The Hot lunch ordering portal for January is now open. We know it's early, but with Christmas coming up, we want to make sure you have enough time to place your orders! **Please place your orders here. Order deadline is Thursday, Dec. 21st at 12pm.** We will not be able to accept orders placed after that date and time. Thank you.

[January Hot Lunch Menu](#)

Daily Playground and Lunchroom Volunteers Needed

Please see below for our daily volunteer needs for the next two weeks.

We currently still need more help!

We greatly appreciate your time and assistance!

Week of 12/18/23	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchroom Servers (Need 2)	Jessica McDowell	Meria Schmeizer	Kristin Staneik (Costco)	Chris Stueland	Christa Kieba
Playground Helper	Josh Hall	1 Parent Needed	1 Parent Needed	Jorge Segura	1 Parent Needed
	Jorge Segura	Becky Leupl	Nathan Ambrose	1 Parent Needed	Karen McCallister

Week of 1/1/24	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchroom Servers (Need 2)	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	1 Parent Needed (Costco)	1 Parent Needed	1 Parent Needed
Playground Helper	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	1 Parent Needed	1 Parent Needed	1 Parent Needed

Here are the links to sign up:

[Lunchroom Sign Up](#)

[Playground Sign Up](#)

*Please note, all volunteers must have completed the Safeguarding Training. If you have not done so, please contact Steve at scosentino@stam.church.

"Away In a Mango" Musical & Nativity

We are so proud of our K5, 1st and 2nd grade students who put on a great show Thursday with St. Mary's production of "Away In a Mango," and our Nativity. The students put in many hours practicing to make this musical come to life, and their hard work paid off as they all did an amazing job! Mrs. Halverson shared how proud she was, saying "the singing, dancing and acting were top notch," and "everyone I talked to said they loved the show." What a way to get into the Christmas Spirit! Great job, students!

Check out some amazing photos of the performance [here](#).

Photo Credit: Ann MacGillis and Andy Wiesner.

Thank you both for sharing your talents with us!



Another Successful Production in the Books!

We had a very long list of people to thank that helped make this musical come to life! Please click [here](#) to read "Another Successful Production in the Books" on our website.

Teacher's Favorite Things!

Christmas is almost here! If your family is wanting to get your child's teacher a gift and are in need of ideas, check out this [list of all of our teachers' favorite things!](#) Of course, gifts are never required or expected, but they sure do appreciate any gesture to show our appreciation for all they do for our students!

Merry Christmas!

Advent Service Project, Grades 6-8 More Item Donations Needed

As you already know, our students are participating in Advent Service projects. Students in grades 4 - 8 will be making lunches for guests at the Guest House and at Pathfinders. **We are still in need of items from 6 - 8th Grade Families to make the sandwiches for the needy.**

Without all the supplies, we won't be able to provide complete lunches. If you haven't already done so, please [sign up for items here](#).

Important Note: All donations for 4th - 8th grade should be brought in on **Thursday, Dec. 21** and be clearly labeled with the **student's name and grade.**

Thank you for your help and support!

Our St. Mary Teachers are the Best!

We're proud of our St. Mary teachers and want to show how wonderful they are and how much they're appreciated! This week we are highlighting the amazing work of our new Gym teacher, Mr. Wallace! Take a look at what some students and families had to say about him:



Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Wallace - Physical Education

"Mr. Wallace has been a great addition to the team. He is kind and calm and he greets all the students that come in through the drop-off doors by the gym every morning and teachers too!" - Senora Vega

"Mr. Wallace is always positive and very patient with us. He also comes up with very fun and new tag games every week." - Nate K. (M.S.)

"The things that we do in gym are really fun! I am always looking forward to going to gym. One of my favorite things was the soccer unit." - Grace S. (Gr 4)

"Mr. Wallace is cool and knows how to play so many games that we get to play so know how to play it. We play cool tag games every start of class." - Blake (M.S.)

Caroline said that Mr. Wallace is a really good gym teacher and he's really nice. She loves the soccer of the day and she liked the unit of session, pickle ball and when they played tag! - Susan M. (parent)

"Mr. Wallace is a great and kind teacher because he plays a fun tag game and his students want and that makes a good teacher." - BK (M.S.)

"I love when we play banana tag in his class! He has such a good variety of activities for us to do. He brings fun energy to the school." - Grace, Grant and Reid H.

"Mr. Wallace is very good at playing and teaching pickleball in gym class, and making fun tag games." - Lucas B. (M.S.)

"Mr. Wallace always teaches us fun new games." - Jason K. (K5)

"Mr. Wallace is very nice and takes things very calmly. He also takes his time and doesn't get mad or shouts. He makes up fun tag games and enjoys what he teaches. He takes time and does what his students want and that makes a good teacher." - BK (M.S.)

"Mr. Wallace, thank you for helping us when we are sad. He taught us to go to the conflict corner and figure out our problems." - Izzy K. (K5)

"Mr. Wallace is always trying his best to make the gym games fun for everyone and include everybody." - Claire (M.S.)

Mr. Wallace is inspiring and helps us whenever we need it. - Catherine (M.S.)

"Mr. Wallace is fun and cares about what we do during Health, and gym class. He makes all his lessons fun in Gym and Health class." - Logan R.

Is fun and makes good games to make us have fun he also told us how good we are at sports - John H. (M.S.)

"Mr. Wallace shows Jesus through praying at the beginning of every class and at the end." - Sadie (M.S.)

Mr. Wallace: Makes gym fun and teaches us how to play different sports. He is a great gym teacher - Theo (M.S.)

"Mr. Wallace is very calm, nice, and he is super organized. He also tries to include everyone and class is usually really fun." - Chloe W. (M.S.)

Mr Wallace is very calm and makes gym fun. I also like the tag games we also do at the start of class. - Cole (M.S.)

"Mr. Wallace tells us how to handle problems as adults using rock, paper, scissors." - Chloe R. (M.S.)

Mr Wallace makes the games we play fun and interactive like the tag games and pickleball. He makes sure we give our all in all we do. - Tommy (M.S.)

"Thank you for teaching us banana tag! We love it!" - Cal P. (K5)

Mr. Wallace is very kind, because he spends his time teaching the youth, and showing them how to be active. - Logan J. (M.S.)

"Thank you for keeping us safe." - Charlie S. (K5)

Students had so many great things to share about Mr. Wallace that we had to create a page two! [Click here](#) to read more of what our students had to say!

Home & School Updates

Volunteer Spotlight:

Our volunteer spotlight will be back next week! Keep an eye on your email as we will be sending out requests for quotes.

If you have anyone you would like to nominate, please email a quote with the volunteer's name to Heather at mccabeh@smcps.school and we will reach out to additional families for more kind words to share.

Thank you!

Musical Director Needed!

Our Spring Musical is tentatively planned for March 21st, but we are still in need of a director or possible co-directors to help us continue our long standing tradition of musical productions.

You won't get rich, but this is a paid position.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please have them contact the school office. This is a rewarding role and encourages our students to showcase their talents and gain confidence, while entertaining parents and families.

Calendar Raffle Reminder: Deadline to school office is Dec. 22

Please turn in your calendar raffle tickets as soon as possible! They are due to the school office by **Dec. 22nd** or to the Parish office by **Dec. 29th** at the latest. (Calendars make great stocking stuffers!)

Thank you!

Athletics Updates

6th and 8th Grade Boys' Basketball Teams Victorious at Recent Tournaments!

Last weekend, the 6th grade boys came away victorious in the 6th grade boys basketball tournament hosted at our St. Mary Activities Center. The boys beat St Mary Hales Corners, St. Dominic and then Blessed Savior in the tournament finale. They outscored their opponents by a combined 79 points over the 3 games. The boys played with great energy and teamwork. The team is 5-0 to start the season and is looking forward to resuming play after the holidays. Way to go boys!

We also need to give a big congratulations to our 8th grade A boys basketball team and coaches for their recent championship win at the St. John Vianney tournament on December 2nd. What a way to end 2023! Looking forward to seeing what these teams accomplish in 2024. Great job boys!

Parish Updates

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Obligations

This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on the same day as Christmas Eve, with Christmas Day on Monday. Your Catholic obligation is to attend Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas. To fulfill this obligation, attend one Mass from each box below:

FULFILL YOUR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS OBLIGATION
Attend one Mass from **Box A** and one from **Box B**

A	B
4th Sunday of Advent Mass Options ST. MARY Saturday, Dec. 23: 5 pm Sunday, Dec. 24: 7:30 am Sunday, Dec. 24: 9:30 am ST. ANTHONY Saturday, Dec. 23: 4:30 pm Sunday, Dec. 24: 8:30 am Sunday, Dec. 24:10:30 am	Christmas Mass Options ST. MARY Sunday, Dec. 24: 4 pm Sunday, Dec. 24: 10 pm Monday, Dec. 25: 7:30 am Monday, Dec. 25: 9:30 am ST. ANTHONY Sunday, Dec. 24: 5 pm Monday, Dec. 25: 8:30 am Monday, Dec. 25: 10:30 am

Calendar Raffle Winners

Congratulations to these \$30 winners drawn on Dec. 13th: Leon and Louise Rinke, Maria Broick, Kylee Staneik, Kirchoff (Preston) Family, and Joshua Bridgeman

Thank you for your support and participation!

In the Community

Pius XI Winter Youth Dance Clinic: Friday, January 19th. Join Pius XI's award-winning Varsity Poms team for a winter youth clinic from 4:30—8pm at the Pius XI Field House. Click the logo for more info!

Upward Baseball League 2024: Open to Grades K5—4th, boys and girls. Begins April 18th. Early bird discount now through Jan. 14th. Deadline to register is March 12, 2024. Click the logo for more information.

Child Development Day: Germantown School District invites those interested to Child Development Day, offered Jan. 8th and April 8th. Appointments required and will offer developmental screening to confirm the progress of children and to possibly identify children who may show a need for a follow-up assessment. (for children age 2 years, 9 months through age 5. [Click here to view the flyer.](#)