THE CONNECTION

It's been a busy week of waiting and celebrating as we wrap up the last week of Advent before Christmas break. Our Catholic faith calls us to care

Dear Families.

for the poor and vulnerable in our community so this Advent, our students participated in service projects, giving to the Guest House and Pathfinders, two

Calendar Raffle Tickets due to Parish Office

Dec. 29

UPCOMING EVENTS

Weekly Newsletter

Dec. 22, 2023

third, made hygiene bags for the Guest House employees to hand out to those in need. Older students spent the afternoon assembling over 350 bag lunches to give to guests at the Guest House and Pathfinders. Read more about this outreach on our website. Good News! I received official notification from the Archdiocese yesterday that our grant application to the Love One Another (LOA) Campaign was accepted and we will be receiving \$25,000 for the playground project. This is in addition to the LOA funds we are receiving from our parish, getting us

one step closer to a build day in the spring!

SAVE THE DATE: Open House — Jan. 28, 2024 Our annual Open House will again be kicking off

Catholic Schools Week in January. If you love St.

Mary Parish School as much as we love being a part of your family, feel free to share this video

about our school with anyone you think might be

participated in making this video which helps

interested and invite them to our open house, Jan. 28, 2024. Thanks to our teachers and students who

local non-profits. Kindergarten students collected hygiene products to give guests who stay at the Guest House, while students in grades first through

Dec. 23 - Jan. 2 Christmas Break Jan. 9

5th - 8th Grade Spelling Bee Jan. 15

Home & School Meeting 7pm

Jan. 16 Qdoba Restaurant Night

4 - 8pm View flyer here Jan. 18 8th Grade Photos

Jan. 26 Early Release at

11:30am

St. Mary School Open House Jan. 29 - Feb 2 Catholic Schools Week

Feb. 2

Jan. 28

Spirit Day: Dress in your Wackiest Today students showed off their Christmas spirit and dressed in their

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! **Daily Playground and Lunchroom**

Volunteers Needed

Please see below for our daily volunteer needs for the next two weeks after we return from Christmas break. We greatly appreciate your time and help!

NO SCHOOL

NO SCHOOL

NO SCHOOL

Tuesday

1 Parent Needed

1 Parent Needed

1 Parent Needed

Wednesday

1 Parent Needed

1 Parent Needed

1 Parent Needed

Wednesday

1 Parent Needed (Costco)

1 Parent Needed

1 Parent Needed

Thursday

1 Parent Needed

2 Parent Nee ded

1 Parent Needed

Thursday

1 Parent Needed

Week of 1/1/24

Lunchroom Servers

(Need 2)

Week of 1/8/24

Playground Helper

Playground Helper

Monday

NO SCHOOL

NO SCHOOL

NO SCHOOL

Monday

1 Parent Needed

1 Parent Needed

1 Parent Needed

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.

K5 "Starbooks" Café

Here are the links to sign up:

Last Sunday in church we lit the candle of JOY. The K5 class and their parents celebrated the joy of the season Tuesday as they transformed their classroom into the "Starbooks" Café. As we wait in anticipation of Christmas Day and the Greatest JOY, they celebrated the simpler joys in life such as reading with a loved one and enjoying a hot cup of cocoa served by the cutest K5 baristas. Check out our St. Mary Parish School Facebook page to see more pictures as well as posts about other school happenings! **Optimist Club Student of the Month:** Addison Roesch

she isn't afraid to ask questions and seek help. Her willingness to learn and grow is a testament to her dedication to her education. In addition to her individual

Our St. Mary Teachers are the Best! We're proud of our St. Mary teachers and want to show off how wonderful they are and how much they're appreciated! This week we are highlighting the amazing work of our 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Kleinmann. Take a look at what some students and families had to say about her:

always willing to help anyone out, by teaches us our Lap Book." - Madelyn B. making a duty schedule, taking a recess or lunchroom duty. St. Mary's is blessed to have Sarah be a part of this family!" "Mrs. Kleinmann is very kind. I like math... she makes it fun. She also hands - Mrs. Halverson out a lot of candy." - Julia C.

"Mrs. Kleinmann is a great teacher. She

has a nice smile. I like when she talks to

us at 2nd recess! I really like when she

wonderful! Our daughter comes home

routine. She gushes about fun Fridays

good works. We love having her in 3rd

"Despite having some things going on in

ago. She was out there bowling with the kids, laughing, smiling, and having so

much fun. It was a true joy to watch the

"There are so many good things I can say about her! Her kindness and how clearly

she teaches are my favorite things about

"Mrs. Kleinmann is one of the most kind

hearted, fun and patient teachers we have

met. She goes above and beyond for her

students. We are so blessed to have her

kids interact with her outside of the

classroom!" -Libby Hietpas

her." -Grant H.

her personal life, Mrs. Kleinmann has

been so engaged with the students in both teaching and fun. I joined the class for their bowling field trip a couple weeks

happy every day and loves how her daily

and the classroom "money" they earn for

"Mrs. Kleinmann has been

grade!" - Sarah Harenke

 Stella M. Thank you, Mrs. Kleinmann for all you do for St. Mary and our students! You are so appreciated! **Home & School Updates**

as part of the St. Mary's family. Thank you for all that you do for us!!" - Marie Welch teacher and role model. She goes out of her way for her students and is "Mrs. Kleinmann is kind, caring, nice, and passionate about her students." Braun family

Volunteer Spotlight:

Heidi Gold

St. Mary School is blessed with many amazing volunteers and we are so grateful for each of them. This week we're highlighting Heidi Gold who has been a wonderful parent volunteer over the years! Not only does she help with the SMPS Theatre Guild, she has also been a huge help helping serve lunch to our students over the years. See what others had to say!

"Heidi is a wonderful person to have on the theatre guild. She has great ideas for props and has put a lot of time in to ensure the stage looks fantastic for our productions! I'm so grateful to have her as a friend - she is one of the many reasons I love being a part of St. Mary's!" - Kari Pollard

productions and has come up with some of the most creative and memorable props, taking our plays to another level! She balances all of her volunteer work with a full time job and is always willing to put in the extra work to perfect her contributions. Appreciate her hard work and kindness and we are lucky she is part of SMPS!" Ann MacGillis "Heidi is always a great help, supportive and a really amazing person all around. My family hasn't been part of St. Mary's long but she was the 1st parent I met and our daughters volleyball game and I see her helping out a lot at the school." - Beth Arends "Heidi is such a positive presence in our school community. She always has a smile and encouraging words to share! Her creativity is a gift to our theater guild." - Beth Hartwig

the championship at the St. Joe's Tosa Winter Basketball Classic this past weekend. Way to go, boys!

Please turn in your calendar raffle tickets as soon as possible! Tickets are due to the Parish office by **Dec. 29th** at

To fulfill this obligation, attend one Mass from each box below: FULFILL YOUR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS OBLIGATION

Parish Updates

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Obligations

This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on the same day as hristmas Eve, with Christmas Day on Monday. Your Catholic obligation is to attend Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas.

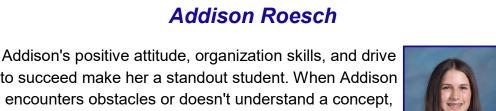
Upward Baseball League 2024: Open to Grades K5—4th, boys and girls. Begins April 18th. Early bird discount now through Jan. 14th. Deadline to register is March 12, 2024.

School Day Fun Fair showcase our wonderful school! Feb. 9 Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a No School New Year filled with blessings! We look forward Feb. 12 to welcoming back students on Wednesday, No School January 3rd. Faithfully, View Full Calendar Linda Joyner

Christmas Outfit

"Wackiest" Christmas outfits! Check out more pictures here.

Lunchroom Sign Up



strengths, Addison is a valuable team player who excels in group settings. She collaborates well with her peers, listens to others' ideas, and contributes her own unique perspectives. Addison is always asking her teachers how they are doing and how their day is going. This may seem small, but it means a lot to us teachers. Overall, Addison is very deserving of this award. Congratulations, Addison!

"Sarah is always willing to help in any way "We are blessed to have Mrs. Kleinmann at St. Mary's, and I am grateful that my she can. No matter if her plate is already daughters get to experience having her as full, she will always offer to take something off of mine. Her constant their teacher this year. It's easy to see support and positive attitude is something that she truly cares for each of her I am very grateful for this year. students, and she puts their needs before - Ms. Curran her own. My daughters love her and I am so appreciative for her hard word and her dedication to our students and school. Thank you, Mrs. Kleinmann. You are so appreciated!" - Heather McCabe "I love that she is fun, nice, and always makes me smile. I love Kleinmann cash and desk pets." - Lucas B. "Sarah is a rock star teacher and

colleague. She cares about her students

and wants the best for them. She is

"Mrs. Kleinmann is the definition of a

caring teacher who goes above and

beyond for her students, no matter how

much she has going on. I loved helping

her as she directed the incredible Lion

them to gain so much confidence and pride in their performance. I also appreciate the gratitude she shows to

parent volunteers. It goes a long way!"

"Mrs. Kleinmann is kind and helpful."

she always helps us." - Caden S.

us do fun things." - Campbell K.

"I like that Mrs. Kleinmann is so nice and

"Mrs. Kleinmann buys us candy and lets

"I love that she lets us watch movies.

loves us all. She's so nice and she's

"Mrs. Kleinmann has been an amazing

"Mrs. Kleinmann is a great teacher. She

blessed to have a good classroom family."

She's a great teacher." - Nolan R.

- Ann MacGillis

- Ava H.

Lilah M.

Ling production last year and witness how

well she engaged the students and helped

Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Kleinmann - 3rd Grade

so smart. I like how she teaches us science and I like learning from her. I like that Mrs. Kleinmann cares for everybody."

"I had the pleasure of working with Heidi in the school Christmas play this year. She was a great and creative collaborator! She spent late nights helping me build the palm trees and fire. I love seeing her passion and excitement for all the students at St. Mary. I look forward to volunteering with her more!" - Katie Weiske "Heidi has done a fantastic job with helping the plays to be magical through sharing her talents for creating different props over the years. She is also very generous with

her time to help in any volunteer capacity that is needed. Thank you Heidi for all you do to support our school community!" - Angela Bonner

"Heidi always comes with a positive attitude and creative ideas! She makes the I mpossible happen. We are so lucky to have her!!" - Marie Welch

"Heidi is so helpful and creative. She's really stepped up in our last few theatre

"I always enjoy working with Heidi whether it's building elephants and palm trees for the theatre guild or selling hot dogs at concessions. She is creative/artistic, has a "can-do" attitude and she's always smiling – we are lucky to have her at St Mary's." - Rick Stelpflug "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." - Elizabeth Andrew Calendar Raffle Reminder:

Last Chance! Due to Parish Office by Dec. 29th

"Working with Heidi (and Katie) on the theater props was very rewarding. Part of what they were assigned to do were the palm tree's and fire pit. Rick and I had the materials to help with the palm tree bases and Heidi and Katie had the vision to make it more realistic than anyone could have done. They turned out great! It was nice bouncing ideas back and forth with Heidi as we brainstormed the logistics and materials on these props." - Chris Leonard

Attend one Mass from **Box A** and one from **Box B** 4th Sunday of Advent **Christmas Mass Options**

In the Community

Calendar Raffle Winners

Congratulations to these \$30 winners drawn on Dec. 20th: Tappa Family, Hietpas Family, Graeme Nygaard, Lemminger Family, and Pat Gagnon.

Thank you for your support and participation!

the latest. Thank you to those who have already turned them in. We appreciate your participation. Thank you! Athletics Updates 5th Grade Boys Win Championship at St.

Congratulations to our 5th grade boys' basketball team who took home

Joe's Tosa Winter Basketball Classic!

Mass Options ST. MARY ST. MARY Sunday, Dec. 24: 4 pm Saturday, Dec. 23: 5 pm Sunday, Dec. 24: 10 pm Sunday, Dec. 24: 7:30 am Monday, Dec. 25: 7:30 am Monday, Dec. 25: 9:30 am Sunday, Dec. 24: 9:30 am ST. ANTHONY ST. ANTHONY

Saturday, Dec. 23: 4:30 pm Sunday, Dec. 24: 5 pm Sunday, Dec. 24: 8:30 am Monday, Dec. 25: 8:30 am Monday, Dec. 25: 10:30 am Sunday, Dec. 24:10:30 am

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!

PÓRT 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.

2023-24 Academic Calendar 2023-24 Home & School Calendar Change of Dismissal Scrip Raise Right App

<u>Lunchroom</u> Volunteer Sign Up <u>December Hot Lunch Menu</u> January Hot Lunch Menu Connect with us on Facebook and Instagram!

Playground Volunteer Sign Up