



CHALLENGING MINDS ● DEVELOPING CHARACTER ● LIVING JESUS

Dear Families,

St. Mary Parish School has a long history of providing quality Catholic education for families, thanks to the teachers and staff at the school, and the dedicated involvement and committed support of our parents, families, and parishioners. We would not have this legacy without you – and we are incredibly blessed and grateful. We are wrapping up our strategic planning process and are already beginning to work on its goals! We look forward to sharing the plan with you.

One goal that needs immediate attention is to reinvigorate the School Advisory Committee (SAC). In addition to serving as an advisory committee to the school's leadership, this group is also responsible for ensuring the implementation of the strategic plan. **Your help is needed.** To better assist us, [please complete this survey](#) by Friday, March 10. If you have questions about membership on the SAC, please reach out to me. Thank you in advance!

LENT 2023 - Our Lenten theme will be focused on Loving Like Jesus. Each student received an envelope that contained puzzle pieces and a sheet with prayer, fasting and almsgiving activities that can be completed each day of Lent. Older students will also engage in some reflection and journaling about the activities they choose.

Please join us on Thursday, March 16 at 4:30 PM to pray the Sorrowful Mysteries and on Tuesday, April 4 at 1:00 PM for Living Stations of the Cross.

The **END OF THE SECOND TRIMESTER** is fast approaching (March 7). **Please reach out to your child's teacher(s)** if you have any questions or concerns regarding his/her progress.

WHAT'S GOING AROUND? Several more cases of Strep throat have been confirmed this week. The most common symptoms reported include stomach aches and minor cold-like symptoms. [Click here for information on Strep throat.](#) We have been busy sanitizing classrooms, reminding students to wash hands, and to not put things into their mouths. Please reach out to your child's doctor if you suspect your child might have Strep throat. Children who are ill should stay home from school and may return once they have been fever and symptom free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducers.

UNIFORMS - The benefits of school uniforms are plentiful and well-documented. This includes improving cohesion and commonality which as a result demonstrates a clear message of equality. They can also help children develop a strong concept of group identity, reduce the potential for bullying, streamline morning preparation for school, create a less distracting learning environment and encourage students to learn the importance of dressing for success. Putting on the school uniform helps a child get into the right mindset, preparing them for a day of working hard and focusing.

During COVID, we had so many other things to worry about we sort of let things go when it came to the uniform code and we have been trying to work our way back to the established standards of dress and appearance. However, we are still noticing a lot of uniform violations and some misunderstandings when it comes to what is expected. Next week, homeroom teachers will review the uniform policy with their students. I am also asking you to [review the policy](#) so we are all on the same page. Moving forward uniform violations will result in a note home that must be signed by you and returned to school. As a parent, you agreed to follow the policies in our [Family Handbook](#) which includes specific standards for appearance and dress. I'm sure I don't need to tell you how unfair students perceive things are when dress code issues are allowed to linger on uncorrected. I am asking for your assistance and cooperation in helping your child follow the dress code and I thank you for your support.

Faithfully,

Linda Joyner

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 27**
Theatre Guild Meeting
Conference Room
7pm
- Feb. 28**
STEM Challenge
- March 2 - 22**
Iowa Testing
(Grades 3, 5, 7)
- March 7**
End of Trimester 2
- March 7**
Home & School Meeting
St. Clare Conf. Room
7pm
- March 10**
Middle School Social
- March 17**
M.S. Retreat/Service Day
- March 21**
[Chick-fil-A Night](#)
4 - 9pm
- March 23**
Lion King Musical
(Grades 3-5)
Doors Open 5:30pm
- March 27-31**
Spring Break
- April 7-10**
Easter Break
- April 14**
Movie Night
- April 17**
MAPS Testing begins
- April 17- 21**
Scholastic Book Fair
- April 21**
Grandparents Day
- April 26-29**
Washington D.C. Trip
8th Grade
- April 28**
Trivia Night
(new date)

[View Full Calendar](#)

Open Enrollment is happening now!

February 1 - April 20, 2023

[Apply Now](#)

STANDARDS BASED GRADING IN A MINUTE

Imagine bringing your car to the mechanic, and they say, "your car is in B+ condition." Not very helpful. Instead, what you want is a checklist of what is working and what is not working. Everything is good except the brakes are broken? Now, that would be good to know.

Traditional Grading	Standards-Based Grading										
	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Engine</td><td>Great!</td></tr> <tr><td>Battery</td><td>Great!</td></tr> <tr><td>Transmission</td><td>Great!</td></tr> <tr><td>Brakes</td><td>Needs Attention</td></tr> <tr><td>Tires</td><td>Okay</td></tr> </table>	Engine	Great!	Battery	Great!	Transmission	Great!	Brakes	Needs Attention	Tires	Okay
Engine	Great!										
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Tires	Okay										

SBG offers you the same clarity for your student's academic progress. A letter grade offers little insight as to what might be going right or wrong in the classroom. In contrast, standards based grading shows you exactly where your student is both excelling and struggling. Understanding your student's strengths and weaknesses can help you better support your students' learning. (source: otus.com)

St. Mary Track and Field Team: 5th - 8th grade

Registration is Open; Sign up deadline is March 1st.

[Click the image for more info!](#)

Disney's Lion King Jr. Musical

Thursday, March 23

Doors Open 5:30pm

Please mark your calendars and join us! Our students have been working hard and can't wait to show off this wonderful performance!

Sponsorship Opportunities

Acknowledge the cast, crew and directors while helping underwrite production costs by taking part in our sponsorship opportunities!

Sponsorships and ads are due Feb. 26th. [Click HERE](#) for additional information on how to place an ad for your child or be listed as a sponsor.

Volunteers are still needed!

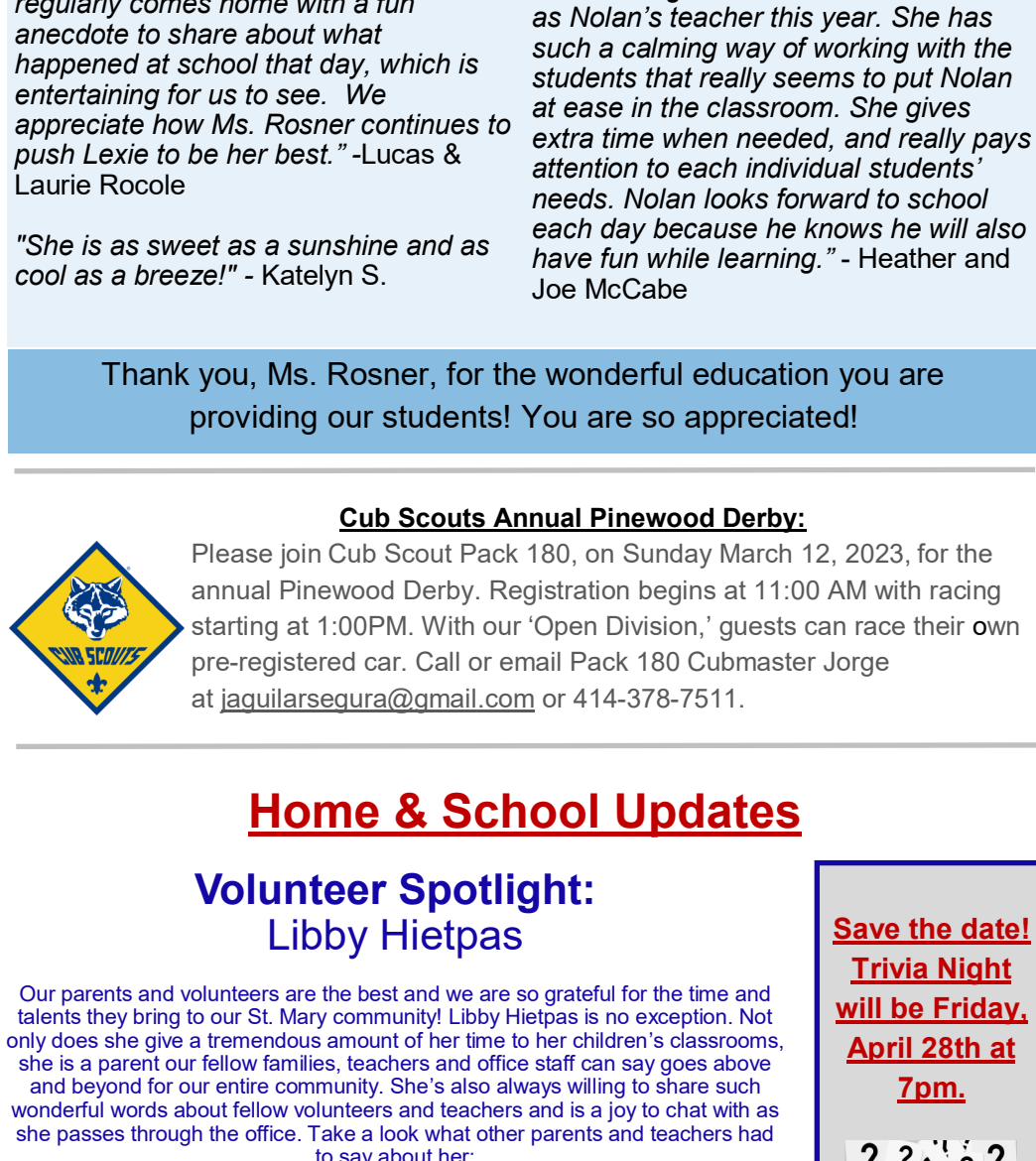
The Theatre Guild is still looking for anyone willing to help with the production and has plenty of "at home" costume and prop related projects to assign. Many make-up helpers will also be needed to transform the faces of our students into animals! No theatre experience necessary! Please reach out to Ann MacGillis at annmacgillis@gmail.com if you are able to help in any way.

Thank you!

Students Practice Imagination, Critical Thinking, Teamwork Skills and More While Making Props

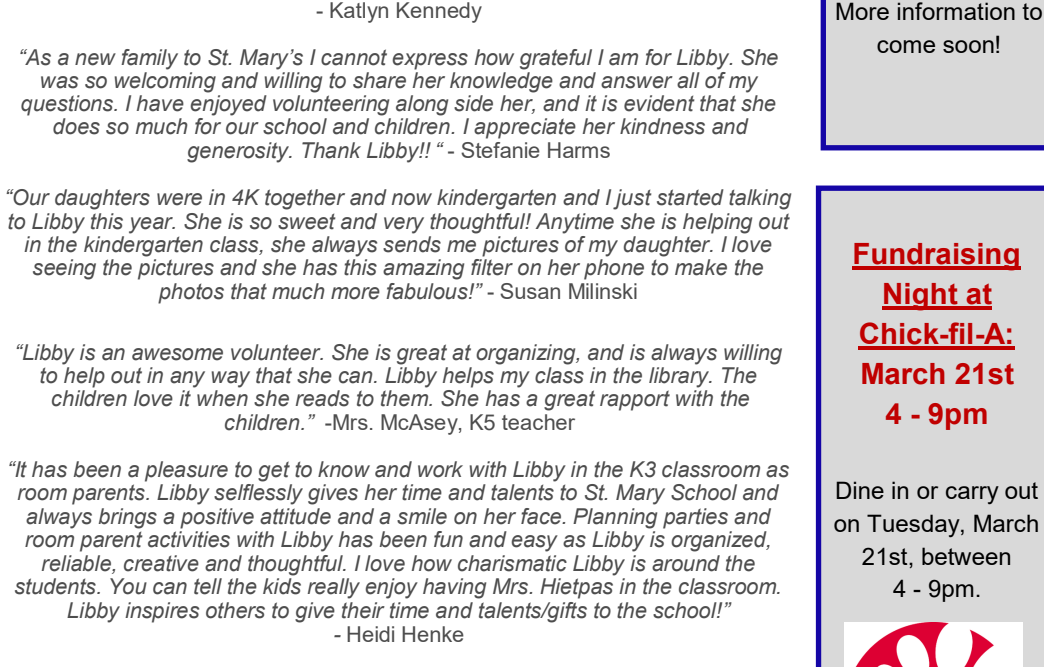
The fifth graders were busy making props for the upcoming production of Disney's The Lion King Jr! Did you know that putting on plays and having a regular creative outlet is not just part of a well-rounded education, but it is essential for a child's emotional health and well-being? Besides being fun, musical theater helps young people develop many of the skills that are necessary to be successful in today's world.

By creating these paper maché bones for the play, the students practiced their imagination, critical thinking/problem solving, curricular integration, and teamwork skills. More on that [here](#).



DSAHA Girls Leadership Conference:

Several 7th grade girls took part in the Divine Savior Holy Angels Girls Leadership Conference. Students participated in sessions including Community Service, Leadership, Goal-setting, and Public Speaking. Students were able to work with other students from around the metro area to develop their communication skills. A fun assembly and lunch was also enjoyed. The students are working on ways to bring their new-found skills back to St. Mary's.



Kids Heart Challenge Update:

Our Kids Heart Challenge is wrapping up next week with donations due. Special thank you to the students who have registered and completed Finn's Mission! If you haven't had the opportunity, there's still time.

Join us today at [here](#).

If we have 50% of the students to sign-up online, we'll get a \$25 Amazon gift card.

Thank you for making an impact in building healthier lives!

Top class for dollars raised	Top class for registered students	Top grade for dollars raised	Top grade for registered students
#1 McAssey \$593 Amount Raised	#1 McAssey \$593 # 0 Other Students	#1 \$593 Amount Raised	#1 9 # 0 Students
#2 Halverson \$397 Amount Raised	#2 Barenz 8 # 0 Other Students	#2 \$449 Amount Raised	#2 8 # 0 Students
#3 Stretler \$283 Amount Raised	#3 Halverson 7 # 0 Other Students	#3 \$441 Amount Raised	#3 8 # 0 Students
#4 Kleinmann \$264 Amount Raised	#4 Rosner 4 # 0 Other Students	#4 \$335 Amount Raised	#4 4 # 0 Students
#5 Rosner \$186 Amount Raised	#5 Curran 2 # 0 Other Students	#5 \$223 Amount Raised	#5 4 # 0 Students

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, Ms. Rosner! Take a look at what some students and families had to say about her:

Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Rosner—3rd Grade

"Miss Rosner has been a wonderful 3rd grade teacher for our son Joey this year. She is extremely engaging and puts a lot of effort into teaching in a way that is fun and interesting for the kids. She puts extra time into providing additional help when needed as well. You know your child has a fantastic teacher when he comes home smiling everyday excited to tell us about what he has learned. Her engagement with teaching fosters a wonderful learning environment!" -Kevin and Kari Pollard

"I appreciate Ms. Rosner's calm and gentle personality and the warm and welcoming environment that she creates in her classroom. Grace looks forward to going to school each day because Ms. Rosner makes learning fun and engaging!" -Kim Schmitt

"Miss Rosner always teaches us in fun ways - like practicing our spelling words in shaving cream! She loves our sports and she always asks us how our games went on the weekends. She helps and guides us through our work if we need help too." -Joey P.

"I love Ms. Rosner because she laughs at my jokes and always makes me feel special." -Lexie R.

"Ms. Rosner has the innate ability to bring out the best in Lexie, both academically and emotionally. Lexie regularly comes home with a fun anecdote to share about what happened at school that day, which is entertaining for us to see. We appreciate how Ms. Rosner continues to push Lexie to be her best." -Lucas & Laurie Rocole

"She is as sweet as a sunshine and as cool as a breeze!" - Katelyn S.

"I think Ms. Rosner is a great teacher because she teaches us math strategies to make it easier to learn. She also lets us practice our spelling words in shaving cream! And I love it when she shows us pictures of her dog." - Hazel S.

"She is a very great teacher and she teaches me really well. Ms. Rosner is really nice, and I like when she teaches me math. We like talking about sports together. She's the best teacher ever!" - Nolan M.

"We are so grateful to have Ms. Rosner as Nolan's teacher this year. She has such a calming way of working with the students that really seems to put Nolan at ease in the classroom. She gives extra time when needed, and really pays attention to each individual student's needs. Nolan looks forward to school each day because he knows he will also have fun while learning." - Heather and Joe McCabbe

Thank you, Ms. Rosner, for the wonderful education you are providing our students! You are so appreciated!

Cub Scouts Annual Pinewood Derby:

Please join Cub Scout Pack 180, on Sunday March 12, 2023, for the annual Pinewood Derby. Registration begins at 11:00 AM with racing starting at 1:00PM. With our 'Open Division,' guests can race their own pre-registered car. Call or email Pack 180 Cubmaster Jorge at jaguilarsegura@gmail.com or 414-378-7511.

Home & School Updates

Volunteer Spotlight: Libby Hietpas

Our parents and volunteers are the best and we are so grateful for the time and talents they bring to our St. Mary community! Libby Hietpas is no exception. Not only does she give a tremendous amount of her time to her children's classrooms, she is a parent our fellow families, teachers and office staff can say goes above and beyond for our fellow community. She's also always willing to share such wonderful words about entire volunteers, she's and is a joy to chat with as she passes through the office. Take a look what other parents and teachers had to say about her:

"Libby is an AMAZING volunteer! She is beyond generous with the amount of time she spends volunteering in my K3 classroom and our school. She is always willing to help out in any way that she can! Besides volunteering almost weekly in my classroom, she is also one of my remarkably creative room-parents! She helps to plan such fun and memorable parties for my K3 students! Thank you, Libby, for all that you do for St. Mary's; we are so incredibly blessed to have you as part of our St. Mary's family!" - Mrs. Schmitt, K3 teacher

"Libby is an incredibly dedicated, kind, and fun-loving volunteer and the kids absolutely love her. I have never been in a classroom with her when she doesn't get at least 5 hugs! She is a bright light in every classroom that she helps in and is someone that teachers, students, and other parents can count on. St. Mary Parish School is lucky to have her!" - Anne Dolph

"Libby is an amazing friend. Her caring heart and friendly demeanor are bound to make anyone feel welcome. She is always willing to help and lend a hand inside and outside of school. Last year Libby and I partnered as Room Mom for first grade and it was a truly memorable experience. Working with Libby is always fun because of her positive attitude and outlook on everything. The St. Mary school community is better with her in it and we are blessed to have her." - Katelyn Kennedy

"As a new family to St. Mary's I cannot express how grateful I am for Libby. She was so welcoming and willing to share her knowledge and answer all of my questions. I have enjoyed volunteering along side her, and it is evident that she does so much for our school and children. I appreciate her kindness and generosity. Thank Libby!!" - Stefanie Harms

"Our daughters were in 4K together and now kindergarten and I just started talking to Libby this year. She is so sweet and very kindhearted! Anytime she is helping out in the kindergarten class, she always sends me pictures of my daughter. I love seeing the pictures and she has this amazing filter on her phone to make the photos that much more fabulous!" - Susan Milinski

"Libby is an awesome volunteer. She is great at organizing, and is always willing to help out in any way that she can. Libby helps my class in the library. The children love it when she reads to them. She has a great rapport with the children." -Mrs. McAssey, K5 teacher

"It has been a pleasure to get to know and work with Libby in the K3 classroom as room parents. Libby selflessly gives her time and talents to St. Mary School and always brings a positive attitude and a smile on her face. Planning parties and room parent activities with Libby has been fun and easy as Libby is organized, reliable, creative and thoughtful. I love how charismatic Libby is around the students. You can tell the kids really enjoy having Mrs. Hietpas in the classroom. Libby inspires others to give their time and talents/gifts to the school!" - Heidi Henke

"I worked quite a bit with Libby on the costume committee for the Christmas Yarn play. She's not only a hard working and reliable, I really appreciate how much fun she brings, too! She donates so much to St. Mary's, whether that being a room parent, 3K classroom helper, or field trip chaperone. She is a wonderful person to be around and I have enjoyed my time volunteering with her!" - Kari Pollard

"I would like to share that Libby is very involved in all three of her kids classrooms. She is a joy to be around and I know all the kids feel the same way too! Thank you Libby for all that you do for our kids and school!" - Lucy Koslo

March Home and School Meeting Update

All parents are invited to the Home & School meeting on Tuesday, March 7, at 7 PM. Please enter the school for the meeting by using the Blue Doors in the alley off of Hayes Ave (underneath the Activity Center). Ms. Barenz will begin the meeting with a presentation for parents on the Foundations program by Wilson Language Basics. The presentation and Home & School meeting to follow will be held in the St. Clare School Conference Room. **Child care will be available** across the hall in the Youth Room by middle school volunteers.

Please RSVP by clicking this [link](#).

Parish Updates

Men of Christ Conference

Attention men: You're invited to join the 2023 Men of Christ conference - Living Your Vocation Courageously - which will be held at St. Anthony on March 11, with both virtual and live elements. The morning will feature well-known speakers, Mass, Adoration, Confession and fellowship. [Click image for more details.](#)

Altar Server Training

Our seminarians will be holding an Altar Server training next week Sunday, March 4, from 9 to 10:30 am at St. Mary Church. All students in 5th grade and older are invited to this training session. Please contact the parish office to register. [Click here](#) for more info.

Enrich Your Prayer Life

Parish Faith Formation is hosting an event all about the [Liturgy of the Hours](#) next weekend, Saturday March 4, at St. Mary. It's one of many ways to enrich your prayer life this Lent. Learn more [here](#).

Ministry Fair

We are excited to be hosting a Ministry Fair and our first post-Covid 19 Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast! Join us between 8 am and 12:30 pm on March 5 to learn about the opportunities to get involved in the parish (Besides attending Mass), enjoy a breakfast with other parishioners, and support the Knights of Columbus. Check out the [flyer here](#).

Blood Drive is Feb. 27

The St. Anthony & St. Mary Parish Blood Drive will take place on Monday, Feb. 27, at St. Mary Parish School. Many appointment slots are open. Sign up info can be found [here](#).

Calendar Raffle Winners

Congratulations to these \$30 winners that were drawn on February 22nd: Kathy Weaver, Bella Lipski, Ambrose Family, and James Lenahan.

And special congrats to this \$150 winner drawn Feb. 24th: Megan Phillips

Thank you for your support.

In the Community

Curcuit Baseball Camp Summer 2023 is open for registration: Open to children ages 6-12. [Click the image for more information and to register.](#)

Summer Camp at Dominican High School (Entering grades 2-4) July 10 - 14, 2023: Three sessions include STEM and Critical Thinking, Arts and Creativity, and Soccer Skills. [Click the image for more information, and here to register.](#)

Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (MACCW) 8th Grade Girls Scholarship Opportunity: MACCW will be offering three \$1,500 Scholarships to three deserving young girls who are planning to enter a Catholic High School in the Fall of 2023. Application forms and details are available [here](#). All applications must be postmarked by Friday, April 1, 2023 and winners will be notified by May 1st.

Support St. Mary at J.K. Lee Taekwondo Help Support St. Mary and sign up for one month of classes, OR sign up to celebrate your child's birthday at J.K. Lee. All proceeds go back to St. Mary! [Click here for more info, and complete the survey to sign up/get more information!](#)

Boys and Girls Soccer Skills Clinic at Dominican High School: Grades 6 - 8: Held Sunday, March 12. [Click image for more information and to register.](#)

Pompeii Men's Club Catholic High School \$2,500 Scholarship Award: Must be a Catholic Grade School student to participate. [Click on the image to the right to learn more and to access the full award application.](#) (Applications due July 1st with full, final report card).

[March Hot Lunch Menu](#) [Change of Dismissal](#)

[2022-23 Academic Calendar](#) [Inclement Weather Policy](#)

[2022-23 Home & School Calendar](#) [Lunchroom Volunteer Sign Up](#)

[Updated Guidelines for COVID-19](#) [Playground Volunteer Sign Up](#)

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