



St. Mary's Grade School



304 E. CLOUD | SALINA, KS 67401 | 785-827-4200

November 2017 St. Mary's Messenger

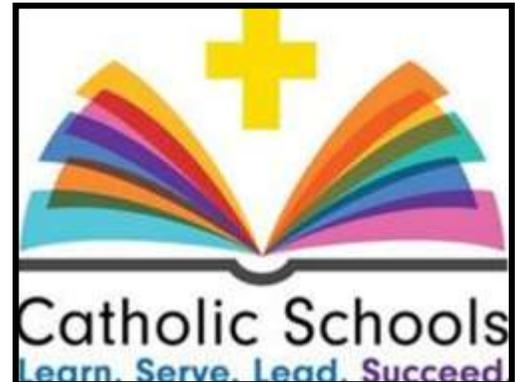
Catholic Schools

Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed

Christ is the center and focus of each and every Catholic school. Catholic school students explore and understand their faith through academic classes that focus on the scriptures, sacraments, morality, church history and traditions. Catholic identity is reflected throughout the curriculum. While not all students who attend Catholic schools are Catholic, all do share experiences of faith, values and moral character development in the Catholic tradition.

Part of that tradition has always been places where outreach to others has been evident. Catholic schools promote the understanding that through service to others in the community, students are also committing themselves to serving God. They are taught to share their time, talents and resources with others who are in need. Students are required to engage in service projects as a learning experience and a witness to their Christian faith.

Through food and clothing drives, fundraising for good causes, outreach to homeless and those in hospitals and nursing homes, students learn compassion and the importance of supporting others. Students learn to **care for all of God's creation through respect for all of life and earth's** creatures as they engage in service activities as part of their education.



School News



Congrats to all the students who finished the **St. Mary's Grade School Marathon!!** A huge thank you to all the parent **Volunteers!** We couldn't make this happen without you.

Great Lake Scrip/Dillons

- **Don't forget to get your Holiday Shopping done early!! Purchase gift cards for your holiday needs or for gift giving...** Many popular merchant cards will be available to order on Dec.18th.
- **Pre-orders will be taken, watch your 'Red Folder' for information. Also available will be Scrip Gift Certificates. Don't forget to sign up with Dillons and designate St. Mary's Grade School. A percentage of purchases will come back to the grade school. Just go to Dillons Rewards to sign up! If you would like credit for your Dillons Rewards, please print off a copy of your statement and bring it to the school office. You will only get the credit if we have your family's statement. Please print off statements for July-Sept only.**

School Council Summary

Kindergarten readiness is becoming a critical curriculum issue (along with career readiness and teaching civic engagement – which has always been a priority in Catholic schools, but is now also becoming one in public schools). Kindergarten readiness is now imperative for the accreditation process and the state is planning to mandate a screening process, but St. Mary's has been ahead of the curve, focusing on kindergarten readiness since 1984. The council watched a video module re: kindergarten screening, put on by KSDE. It is about setting standards and collecting kindergarten entry data at the state level as to how many students show up in the fall "ready" for kindergarten and how many don't. The goal is for the process to be consistent state-wide. KSDE created ASQs (ages & stages questionnaires) to look at developmental milestones.

St. Mary's will be using their own similar program because 1) SMGS screens in the spring BEFORE kindergarten, instead of administering the program in the fall, after kindergarten begins, 2) KSDE will not pay for the assessments for private schools, and 3) the new program SMGS will use not only has a parent questionnaire, but also a screening that meets the needs of our kindergarten program.

Vision Statement:

Dr. Compagnone led a discussion on the mission statement, including the six goals from the collaboration with the staff and the council. The goals will lead to asking the question "how do we meet these goals?" This will then lead to establishing measurable objectives. The purpose of all of this is to create a new school improvement plan. The goals were tabled and taken home for the council members to review and bring feedback for next month's meeting. Dr. Compagnone was planning to take the goal statements and discuss them with staff at the next staff meeting and share that discussion with the school council.

Principal's Report:

The gym is having a problem with water seepage which will hopefully be resolved between the architect and contractor.

The hot lunch program had an audit; and there were no issues there.

SMGS is looking into replacing some playground equipment. A company that came out with quotes is Sterling West. The fundraising goal for this is \$10k, and an auction item will be placed at the Extravaganza.

St. Mary's Endowment:

A generous supporter has offered a \$25,000 challenge. We are seeking five individuals to contribute \$5,000 to St. Mary's School Endowment (a total of \$25,000). In return the donor will match the total up to \$25,000 to go to St. Mary's School.

In essence this challenge would raise \$50,000 benefiting St. Mary's Grade School.

The donation must be received by December 31st, 2017 for the matching contribution. Checks may be written to St. Mary's Grade School Endowment Fun.

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

Our parent/teacher conferences were well attended. We had a 95% participation rate. It is great to have parents demonstrate such interest in their children.

Fall Fundraisers:

Thank you all who participated in the Red Wheel fundraiser and the Extravaganza (See page 6)

The Red Wheel fundraisers netted \$8,800

Thanks to Kim Cochran, Jennifer McGilvray, Theresa Gotti, Kelly Carrico, Mary Kay Thelen, Jeannette Moore, Brianna Kaumans, Sarah Torrey and Rebecca Rios for their help.

Top selling families were the Kaumans family with 76 items sold and the Garman family with 60 items sold!!

Good job to all the families that participated in this fundraiser!!



Around the School



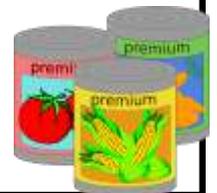
Wednesday STEM is an educational experience that partners older students with younger students. This opportunity provides hands on learning in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The students meet twice a month from October thru April. Community opportunities have been available also. Lakewood Discovery Center gave a presentation about Kansas Spiders. KWU students set up stations to teach us about Kansas animals. Students explored pumpkin activities during November.

Buffalo Wild Wings Night!

Monday, November 13th - All Day!! **St. Mary's will receive 10% from sales that day when you mention St. Mary's!!**

Canned Food Drive

During the month of November, students will be asked to collect canned goods which will be distributed to Salina Emergency Food Bank and Catholic Charities.



Announcements

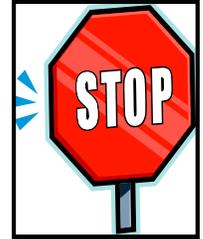
There will be no school Wednesday, November 22 - Friday, November 24 for Thanksgiving Break.

Parent Teacher Conference

Thank you for the exceptional turnout at conferences.

STOP AT THE OFFICE

All visitors must stop at the school office and get a badge to wear while in the school. It is very important that staff can easily determine if a person in the building should be here. Some faces become very familiar to the staff, but we have substitute teachers who may not know everyone, so we are asking that everyone stop at the office.



COLD WEATHER

With the cold weather season arriving, it is the parents' responsibility to see that their children are dressed appropriately to play outside, and sometimes wait outside in the morning before school. Please make sure that your child brings a coat as the weather turns colder. Remember that shorts will not be worn during the months of **Dec., Jan. and Feb.**

Please put your child's name on the tags of their sweatshirts and hoodies. Also, please check the tags of your child's items. If you find an item at your house that was picked up accidentally, with someone else's name in it, please return it to the office.

A plain, short sleeved white t-shirt may be worn under a uniform shirt, but no other long sleeved shirt. St. Mary's sweatshirt or hoodies are recommended instead.

WEATHER ALERT— School closings will be posted on our school website (<http://stmarysalina.org>), will be announced on local radio stations, and will be sent as a text message to families that have signed up for this service at the school office.

LOVE 'N LEARN

Love 'n Learn will be closed November 23rd and 24th for Thanksgiving break.



Turn TV commercials into fitness breaks.

Invent silly names for simple exercises like squats, push-ups, and sit-ups, and then do them together till the show comes back on. "Call them princess sit-ups or Bob the Builder muscle builders," You can also play "coach," in which you take turns "ordering" each other to "drop and give me five," or "follow the leader," in which one person leads the others in fun, simple moves like clapping, wiggling, and marching.

Enjoy your food, but eat less:

Take the time to fully enjoy your food as you eat it. Eating too fast or when your attention is elsewhere may lead to eating too many calories. Pay attention to hunger and fullness cues before, during, and after meals. Use them to recognize when to

eat and when you've had enough. For more information on the school's wellness policy.

Extravaganza 2017

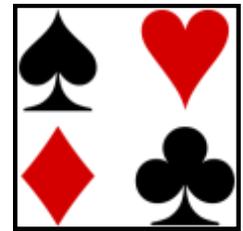


Thank you to Chris & Jennifer Yohe - 2017 Extravaganza Chairs
Eric & Danielle Brown - 2017 Co-Chairs

Thank you to all the many volunteers and faculty and staff. This event would not be possible without you.

Thank you to all the Grandparents that donated and/or attended the Extravaganza this year.

The 2017 Extravaganza netted over \$45,000. Proceeds went to the general fund. The Fund-A-Need raised \$1,100 and students raised over \$3,000 from Penny Wars. Both will go towards the updates needed for the playground.



All Saints Day was November 1st. Students were able to dress up as a saint for Mass on this day. Saints proceeded down the aisle at the beginning of Mass.



Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

November 2017

St. Marys School



Thoughtful Moments

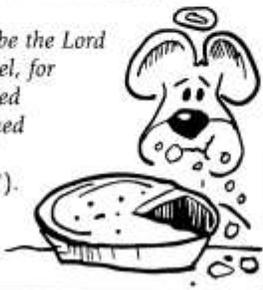
St. Catherine Labouré

Born to a large farming family in France, St. Catherine joined the Daughters of Charity. One night in 1830, she had a vision of a "shining child," who led her to the chapel, where she saw the Blessed Mother. Our Lady asked St. Catherine to have a medal of her image made, bearing the words, "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." The devotion of the Miraculous Medal continues to this day.

God's great gift

Our children really belong to God but he has trusted us with the awesome responsibility of their upbringing. "They are the children whom God has graciously bestowed on your servant" (Genesis 33:5). It's our job to teach them about God's love. That's one way we know that he loves both them and us.

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people" (Luke 1:67).



Follow God's best friends to Heaven

God wants us to get to know his best friends, the saints. In fact, the saints were such good friends to him on Earth that they get to spend eternity face-to-face with him in Heaven. Learning about God's best friends can help us to become one, too.

Choose someone new. Choose a saint you don't know but would like to meet. Research the saint whose feast day falls on each family member's birthday or learn about the patron of your diocese or parish. Discover what made him or her a saint and brainstorm ways you can imitate such holiness.

Choose a cause. Is there an event from the news that has touched you or your family? Find a saint devoted

to that cause. For example, St. Vincent Ferrer, the patron of reconciliation, might be a good choice if you are praying to end a conflict. St. Thomas More, the patron of politicians, can intercede for our elected leaders.

Choose a habit. To help practice more virtue in your family, pick one and find a saint who exhibited it. St. Teresa of Calcutta illustrates kindness, as she showed extraordinary kindness to the poor. St.

Maximilian Mary Kolbe would be a good model of generosity, since he generously gave his own life to save that of a man with a family.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

All who die in God's friendship go to Heaven. But if we haven't properly atoned for our sins, we are purified in Purgatory first. The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls Purgatory, "a final cleansing of human imperfection before one is able

Why do Catholics pray for the dead?



to enter the joy of heaven." Praying for the souls in Purgatory helps them pass through faster than they would otherwise. "Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin" (2Maccabees 12:46).

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

November 2017

St. Mary's Grade School
Salina, KS



SHORT NOTES

Practice patience

Patience is a lifelong skill that will help your youngster in school—and in life. The key is knowing how to pass time pleasantly while waiting so he doesn't feel anxious or frustrated. Together, come up with special "waiting activities" like saying the alphabet backward or counting down with the crosswalk sign.

A future job

Help your child make the connection between school and the career she could have someday. Point out workers using school subjects like a nurse writing on a chart or a TV weather forecaster describing a cold front. Also, friends and relatives might tell your child what they studied in school and how it's related to their jobs.

See that illustration!

Understanding the meaning of images in books, magazines, and newspapers will boost your youngster's reading comprehension. To build *visual literacy*, ask your youngster to explain what's happening in illustrations and graphics. He might even enjoy making up his own captions.

Worth quoting

"Adventure is worthwhile in itself."
Amelia Earhart

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What does even the most careful person overlook?

A: Her nose!



Doing my own homework

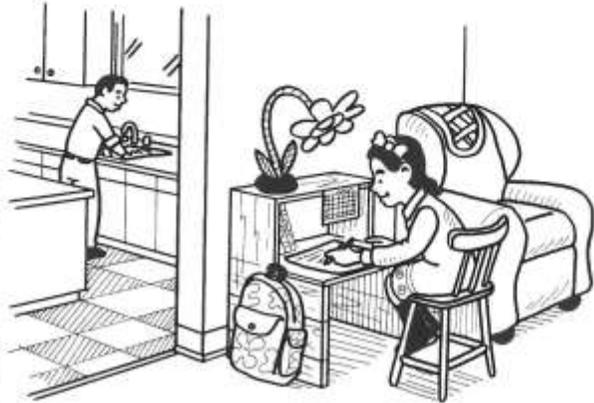
When your child is the one responsible for her homework, she will form good habits that will benefit her throughout her school career. Use these tips to help your youngster be independent at homework time.

Your child's job: Let her choose a usual place and time for homework. That will make her more likely to stick with her routine.

She may want to work at the kitchen table after school or at her desk after dinner.

How to help: Make sure your family's evening activities don't interfere with homework time. From time to time, ask your youngster whether she needs more supplies, such as pencils, erasers, markers, or glue.

Your child's job: She should tackle homework on her own. Not only will this help her learn, it will also show the teacher how well she understands the material.



How to help: If your youngster gets stuck, suggest that she reread the directions or look for similar examples in her book. Offer to play study games with her. Also, check to see that her homework is finished.

Your child's job: It's up to her to hand in completed work. She can find a way to remind herself, maybe by posting a note on her backpack.

How to help: Together, choose a visible spot to keep her backpack and anything else she needs for school.♥

An attitude of gratitude

Around Thanksgiving, people often talk about what they're thankful for. These activities can inspire your youngster to express gratitude now—and all year long.

On the calendar. Brainstorm categories of things to be grateful for, such as people and nature. On a calendar, list one category per day for a week. Then each day, have family members name something they're grateful for in that category (a healthy grandparent, a beautiful fall day).

Behind the gift. When your child receives a gift, ask him to think about what the giver put into it. For instance, if his aunt sends him a sweater that he doesn't like, he might say it was nice that she took the time to find out what style is popular with kids his age.♥



NOVEMBER 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 All Saints Day	2	3	4
5	6	7 Election Day	8	9	10 No School Staff Development	11
12	13 Buffalo Wild Wings Night	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 All School Mass & Thanksgiving Dinner	22	Thanksgiving Break		25
26	27 School Council @ 5:30	28	29	30 Stem Fair 5:30-7		



Looking Ahead

Dec 2nd 1st Reconciliation (2nd Grade) @ 10am St. Mary's Church

Dec 18th Parent Christmas Dinner—invitations will be sent home in November

Dec 18th Art Show and Bake Sale

Dec 20th—January 2nd - Christmas Break

O Gracious God, we give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for the blessings of the food we eat and especially for this feast today. Thank you for our home and family and friends, especially for the presence of those gathered here. Thank you for our health, our work and our play. Please send help to those who are hungry, alone, sick and suffering war and violence. Open our hearts to your love. We ask your blessing through Christ your Son. Amen.



Love of Learning



Learning of Love

United In Christ - Body, Mind and Spirit



St. Mary's Messenger

St. Mary's School
304 E. Cloud
Salina, KS 67401

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