



# ST. MARY SCHOOL

## Parent Notes

January 8, 2018

### Midyear Tuition Payments are due January 16.

If you chose to make two tuition payments this school year, the second payment is due by Tuesday, January 16. Statements went out in December.



Second Quarter ends this Friday, Jan. 12. This is extended from December 22 to

allow time for students who were absent to complete make up work. As a result, **report cards will not go out until Thursday, Jan. 18.**

No school next Monday in observance of MLK Day. Third quarter will begin Tuesday, Jan. 16, and will end as originally scheduled on March 9—if all goes as planned!

### Please make sure your students are ready to get out of the car at morning drop off!

Coats, hats & gloves on. Book bags & lunches ready to go. Band instruments in hand Monday/Tuesday for 5th & 6th.

**Students are marked tardy if they are not in class by 8:20 a.m.** Allow plenty of time for your child to get to their classroom before the 8:20 bell. Doors open at 8:05 a.m.



### Catholic Schools Week 2018

will begin with Mass at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 28. This will be an All School Sing. **Students are asked to wear school uniforms to this Mass.**

Open house in the school will be held after Mass with all classrooms open to visitors. Please invite any families that have expressed an interest in St. Mary's. This would be the opportune time to showcase our new school. Also invite any relatives, friends, and graduates to join us.

A complete agenda for the week, including a lunch schedule, will be ready next week. Plan for Grandparents' Day, a day that students can sit with grandparents or family members at 9:00 Mass, on Thursday, Feb. 1. Irish musicians "Switchback" will provide music for this Mass. Grandparents are invited into the classrooms after Mass and a reception featuring a performance by our Band will be given in their honor. School will dismiss at 11:30 on Feb. 1. The students will go bowling, have a pajama day, and a special swim day at the YMCA! Lots of fun and some surprises are in store!

### Children's Mass

Gr. 6 will go to Taylorville Estates tomorrow for 10:30 Mass with the residents.

Thurs., Jan. 11 at 9:00—Grade 1 will lead our school Mass.

Please join us!

### Tuition Statements for 2017 Taxes

I will prepare documentation of 2017 tuition payments and send statements out by Jan. 29 to all school families. You will need these statements in order to claim the \$500 (limit) tuition tax credit allowed in Illinois. You do not need to request this information as I send it to everyone.

Statements for child care deductions for Before & After Care will also be sent home to all families in that program. They will be included with the tuition tax information.

**Reminder: If you pay tuition in 2 installments, the 2nd payment is due January 16.**

Preschool Christmas Program January 18

6:30 in the gym  
Rescheduled from December due to germs!!



**Booster Club Meeting**  
**Monday, Feb. 5**  
**7:00 in the cafeteria**  
**Babysitting available for school age kids**

**Preschool Registration for 2018-19**  
**in March**  
**An Open House for interested families**  
**will be held in February. Date to be**  
**announced.**

Registration for Preschool 2018-19 will begin on March 12 with our currently enrolled preschool and big school families. Registration will then open to the public on March 19.

**Uniform Policy on Boots**

Boots are not a necessity, but may be worn to and from school only in inclement weather. Children wearing boots must have gym shoes to change into.

**Coming Events**

- \*School Reconvenes—January 8
- \*Board of Ed. Meeting—Jan. 11, 6:00, in the library
- \*MLK Day—Jan. 15—No School or Preschool
- \*Report Cards for K-6—Jan. 18
- \*1st Penance Parent Meeting—Jan. 18, 7:00, Library
- \*Jeans Day for Students—Fri., Jan. 26
- \*Catholic Schools Week—Jan. 28 thru Feb. 2
- \*Booster Club Meeting—Feb. 5 at 7:00 p.m.
- \*1st Penance—Feb. 12, 7:00 p.m.
- \*Spring Fling—April 21!

**No School Monday, January 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.**

**DIBELS TESTING**

We've reached the midyear mark and it is time to make sure all our students are meeting the established benchmarks for skills that are formative for reading and math. Later this month, we will begin the three day process of administering DIBELS Reading Benchmark tests to all of the students. DIBELS screens for mastery of certain skills at each grade level that must be in place for a child to read well. Students who have difficulty with these skills receive additional instruction through our Title I Reading Program taught by Mrs. Alsbury. Results of the DIBELS aren't distributed like achievement test scores. They are intended to be a quick check that either assures us the students are progressing as they should or readily identifies problems a child is experiencing with basic reading skills. You will be notified of any problems. Progress in school relies on success in reading. Therefore, it's imperative that we keep tabs on our students, congratulate them on their progress, and work to help them with any difficulties they encounter. DIBELS Math benchmark tests are given in the computer lab. Results are intended to be a quick check of progress. If concerns are identified, your child's teacher will inform you.

**Water fountains in the parish center are off limits until further notice.** The water from these fountains tested beyond the threshold allowed for lead in drinking water. The fountains have galvanized pipes. These pipes corrode from the inside over time. Water in the pipes picks up particles from this corrosion. Because these fountains get very little use, water sits in the pipes for long periods of time resulting in higher concentrations of particles. For the time, preschool, before and after care, and the lunchroom have coolers of water. These coolers are filled from the kitchen sink which tested below the threshold and is perfectly safe. I am working with the testing lab and IDPH to resolve the problem. I'll keep you informed.

