



ST. MARY SCHOOL FAMILY NOTES

January 29, 2018

The 3rd Annual St. Mary's Science Day is coming in March. K-2 will take part in hands-on Science centers while Grades 3-6 try to McGyver their way through some science based problem solving. Nitro Joe will return to teach & amaze! There will be no awards or judges, just a day to cut loose with some science!

First Penance

Our Second Graders will receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on Monday, Feb. 12. Please keep them in your prayers.

Booster Club Meeting

Monday, Feb. 5, at 7:00 in the cafeteria, finalizing details for Spring Fling, on April 21. Confirmation kids will babysit school age children in the gym.

Family Night Bingo!!

Booster Club will host a family Bingo night on Sunday, Feb. 11, at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. A \$5 donation per family is requested. This will be used to order pizza. Families are asked to bring a dessert or cookies to share. Water & lemonade will be provided. Please RSVP by sending family name and \$5 to the school office by Feb. 9.

Booster Club Drawing

Families that attend all three Booster Club meetings will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 credit for next year's registration fee. That means they don't have to pay to re-enroll in April! The winners will be drawn at the meeting on Feb. 5. The meeting is at 7:00 in the cafeteria. Babysitting for school age kids in the gym.

Scrip order going Feb. 6

Old Navy gives a 14% rebate!

For each \$25 card you buy, the school gets a \$3.50 rebate!!

Think uniforms & Spring!

Listen for Kindergarten saying the Pledge of Allegiance on WTIM 96.1 FM or 870 AM Mon -Fri next week between 6:55—7:00 a.m. and throughout the day. I was interviewed on air about Catholic Schools Week and St. Mary's. I love free advertising! This will also play during the week.



Catholic Schools
Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

Children's Mass

Thurs., Feb. 1 at 9:00—Gr. 6 will perform the ministries for Grandparents' Mass. Switchback will perform the music!

Please join us!



St. Mary's Kindergarten Open House for 2018/2019

We will hold an informational meeting for parents on the evening of Thursday, March 22. On Friday, March 23, next year's kindergarten students will be invited to join the current class during the school day for some fun activities.

If you know families who might be interested in sending a kindergartener to St. Mary's next year, pass along this information and ask them to contact us. More to come...

Raffles!!!



During Catholic Schools Week we'll sell raffle tickets in the classrooms through Friday morning, Feb. 2. Winners will be drawn Friday. Chances are 50 cents each. All proceeds go to the teachers' Relay for Life team.



Preschool Registration

For 2018-2019 will go out to current St. Mary's families in backpack mail later in the spring. Let us know if you have a new preschooler to register! Students in this year's 3-year-old class will receive registration materials via backpack mail and may return the forms via backpack mail.

Many families stopped by during yesterday's open house! Thank you to Mrs. Schwab, Mrs. Alsbury, Mrs. Rainey, & Mrs. McMillon for all their hard work with our littlest students!

Coming Events

- *Catholic Schools Week—Jan. 28 thru Feb. 2
- *Early Dismissal—Feb. 1, 11:30, No bus at dismissal
- *Booster Club Meeting—Feb. 5 at 7:00 p.m.
- *Midterm Grades for Gr. 3-6—Feb. 7
- *1st Penance—Feb. 12, 7:00 p.m.
- *Valentine Parties for K-6—Feb. 13 (No parties on Ash Wednesday!)
- *Ash Wednesday—Feb. 14—No meetings or activities.
- *Yearbook Orders due—Feb. 15
- *No p.m. bus service—Thur., Feb.16—public schools dismiss at 1:00
- *No School for Presidents' Day—Feb. 19
- *1st Communion Parent Meeting—Mar. 8, 7:00
- *No p.m. bus service—Tues., Mar.13—public schools dismiss at 1:00
- *Spring Fling—April 21
- *Music Festival—Gr. 4-6—April 27

Spring Fling tickets will be sent to you by the middle of March. Please make sure your tuition is up to date. Families who are behind on payments will not receive their Spring Fling ticket until accounts are current. The \$100 Booster Club fee that was added to your tuition total covers the cost of your Spring Fling ticket. We will have extra tickets for sale to the public. Invite your family and friends to join in this great evening.

Guidelines for Wacky Tacky Tuesday

Students may wear a mismatched, clashing, crazy outfit. They must wear athletic shoes and socks, but socks don't have to be uniform. No sleeveless shirts or tank tops unless layered over a shirt with sleeves. Clothing should be properly fitting, not torn, and an appropriate length—hems must be past the fingertips. **No shorts please.** Jeans are fine; just be tacky! Hats are ok, but will be removed during class time as determined by the teacher.

Pj Friday guidelines

Pajama Day is optional but great fun! If your child wants to participate, they must wear pj's that have long pants & a top with short or long sleeves. Flannel pants and a t-shirt are great if you don't have a matching set! Sweats and warm ups do not count as pajamas. **Onesies are ok as long as they don't have feet and your child is able to easily deal with them in the restroom.** Students must wear regular school shoes and socks. If pj's are loose, a tank or t-shirt underneath would be perfect. Students who participate should come to school in their pj's. They'll wear them all day.

Students may also bring a regular size bed pillow to sit or recline on during the movie. The gym floor gets hard! No blankets or sleeping bags, please.



Wednesday Swimming Guidelines:

Girls will be required to wear one-piece suits, two piece suits with long tops that cover the tummy, or a t-shirt over a two-piece. Because of chlorine in the pool, the YMCA allows swim shirts or white cotton t-shirts. Only coast guard approved life jackets may be used as personal floatation devices. Students wearing life jackets are not permitted on the Big Blue Slide. Students wishing to swim on the deep side of the pool must pass a swim test. Goggles are optional.

Please pack swimwear and a towel in a bag (not the bookbag) your child can take to the Y. A comb or brush is optional.

This is a Jeans Day. Jeans with a uniform shirt or St. Mary's basketball or t-shirt.

Update to last week's message: Applications are completed at empowerillinois.org. Go to the STUDENTS tab, then click on How Do I Apply. There you will find a list of documents that you'll need to have ready to submit. I can assist with scanning documents so that you have them ready to upload. The application takes 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

From the meeting I attended last Thursday, I've learned that applications will be time stamped and reviewed in the order they were received so it is imperative that you have all documents ready to go when you apply. **The application window opens at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 31.** To have a chance at the scholarship money, submit your application at that time.

Students receiving scholarships this year will be considered legacies for future years. Families will have to apply every year, but the program is set up to continue support to students who need it throughout their school years.

Scholarships are awarded solely on financial need. A family earning below 300% of the federal poverty rate can receive 50% of tuition and fees; 250% can receive 75%; 185% can receive 100%. (see below)

In order to be considered for CAPE funds, you'll need to apply first at Empower Illinois.

If you receive an award through Empower Illinois, please notify me immediately! We'll have a 30 day window to turn in paperwork. I've attached some good information.

Last Week: Tuition Scholarships

The Invest in Kids Act (8/31/17) allows income tax credits for authorized contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations. These SGO's then provide scholarships for eligible Illinois students to attend private or parochial schools in Illinois.

3 Things to Know:

- 1) St. Mary's (and all Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Springfield) is an eligible school.
- 2) Families can begin applying 1/31/18 at empowerillinois.org. To be considered K-12 students must come from a household with income below 300 percent of the federal poverty level. St. Mary's families who meet these requirements must apply to Empower Illinois before being considered for our own CAPE tuition assistance awards.
- 3) Donations are divided among 5 regions in the state. The amount of funding each region receives is based on population and the total funds donated statewide. So far our region 5 has received \$32,000 in contributions. That won't go far.

I'll keep you informed as things are changing almost daily in this program!

2017 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Chart

Household members	185% FPL	250% FPL	300% FPL
1	\$22,311	\$30,150	\$36,180
2	\$30,044	\$40,600	\$48,720
3	\$37,777	\$51,050	\$61,260
4	\$45,510	\$61,500	\$73,800
5	\$53,243	\$71,950	\$86,340
6	\$60,976	\$82,400	\$98,880
7	\$68,709	\$92,850	\$111,420
8	\$76,442	\$103,300	\$123,960

Note: If more than eight people in your household, for each additional person, add \$4,180 to the baseline FPL number for a family of 8 (\$41,320) and then multiply by 1.85, 2.5 and 3 to arrive at the corresponding income limits.