

St. Mary's Catholic School

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St Mary's,
Continuing Our Commitment to
Quality Catholic Education

Falcon's Pride

A weekly newsletter of the current events at St. Mary's Catholic School

September 13, 2016

Issue 81

www.stmarys-temple.org

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am very concerned that we are still missing family school forms that were due two weeks ago. These forms are essential for your child's attendance at St. Mary's. The most important of these forms is the **Student Emergency Form**. If your child becomes ill or an emergency happens we need to be able to contact you or a person you have designated. Second in the line of importance would be your **Acknowledgement of School Policies**. This signed form lets us know that you have read the school handbook and understand the school's policies. Thirdly, students must sign, with you, a **Technology Agreement**. This form is necessary for students to participate in any use of computers, Chrome Books or iPads on this campus. This includes taking tests for Accelerated Reader. The final two forms needed are **Parent Volunteer Form** and **Photo Consent Form**. All forms are important.

Beginning Monday, September 19th, students whose parents have not turned in the Emergency Form or the Acknowledgment of School Policies will remain in the office until a parent sends the signed forms. Students who do not have the Technology Agreement form will not be allowed to use technology at St. Mary's.

All necessary Student Forms are available on the school web page on the right hand side next to the scrolling pictures (<http://stmarys-temple.org/>). Please print and fill out. You may return them as hard copies or scan and email back to the school at cbrown@stmarys-temple.org or rmorales@stmarys-temple.org

In the event that we must close school for weather or in an emergency you will be contacted by a third party company known as School Messenger. School Messenger successfully delivers high volumes of messages quickly and efficiently through phone and email. In the next few weeks you will be notified by the office that a testing will be conducted. The purpose of this test is to determine if any phone numbers/emails are incorrect or missing. Mr. Evans, the Principal of Holy Trinity, and I, make the decision of school closure together, as the bus route involves both schools.

Monday, September 19th, we will begin ITBS/CogAT testing in grades K through 8. For those of you who are not familiar with the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) please let me

explain the purpose of the test and how the results are utilized for your child. The ITBS is a compilation of 13 achievement tests. Each test is designed to measure student's knowledge in a specific skill area. The skill areas measured include the following:

*Vocabulary *Reading Comprehension *Spelling *Capitalization *Punctuation
*Usage and Expression *Math Concepts and Estimation * Math Problem Solving and Data Interpretation *Math Computation *Social Studies *Science *Maps and Diagrams
*Reference Materials *Word Analysis (grade 3 only) *Listening (grade 3 only).

In grades K, 2, 5, and 7 a Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) is also given. This is an abilities test that measures students' potential to succeed in school-related tasks. Specifically, it measures students' verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal reasoning abilities. The *Verbal Battery* measures verbal reasoning abilities that are essential for successful learning across the curriculum. The *Quantitative Battery* measures the ability to organize, structure, and give meaning to quantitative concepts. The *Nonverbal Battery* measures reasoning abilities using shapes and visual patterns that require the use of minimal outside knowledge.

The ITBS test is given to provide teachers with information they can use to meet the individual learning needs of each student. The test helps the teacher identify your child's strongest areas and areas in which the greatest improvement is needed. Your child's teacher can use this information to choose materials and methods of teaching that will best help your child learn. The test also helps teachers look at your child's learning from one year to the next. The ITBS test is designed to make it possible to measure growth from grade to grade.

An important fact to note is that the ITBS test is a diagnostic tool for the teachers. This is why we test in the fall instead of the spring. We want our students' results to be accessible for remediation, grade level learning, and enrichment. If you have any questions regarding the ITBS please do not hesitate to ask.

There will be no homework next week of any kind. Students may still read for their Accelerated Reader points. Sports will continue as planned.

God bless and have a great week. Please help us sell Taco Night Tickets this weekend after all Masses. Call the office if you can help 254-778-8141.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Wyles

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Progress Reports

Progress Reports will be sent home this Friday for grades Pre-K 3 and 4, and for Kindergarten. Grades 1-8 will have their progress reports available on RenWeb for a two week period beginning Friday. Please let us know if you are unable to access your child's report.

Casino Night Tickets

The discount for Casino Night tickets will be over this Friday. If you have not purchased your tickets yet please stop by the school office and do so ASAP.

Visitors on Campus

New visitor badges have been ordered. Please ensure that you are wearing a visitors badge after you have signed in.

Sports News

This past Thursday, September 8th, the volleyball team played CTCS. The Varsity team won their match in two games with the scores of 25-21, 25-21. The JV team won one game out of three. Their scores were 19-25, 20-25, 15-13.

On Saturday, September 10th, we traveled to McGregor for a volleyball tournament. The girls played some good games against the following schools, St. Louis, McGregor and Valley Mills. The Varsity team missed the championship game by one game. Way to go girls.

This week we started with an away game against Vanguard in Waco, on Monday, September, 12th, then we will host Cen-Tex Chargers this Thursday starting time is 5:00 for JV and Varsity will play right after. Come out and support the volleyball teams.

Nita Bigon
Athletic Director

Popcorn and Sprit Day

This Thursday is our second Spirit Day and Popcorn Day. Students may purchase popcorn for 50 cents and a drink for 50 cents. Fifth through eighth grades may buy their popcorn at lunch. All other grades will be able to purchase in the afternoon at designated times.

Golf Club Meeting Reminder

A reminder that those who signed up for golf will meet in the auditorium this Thursday, right after school, for approximately one hour. Please let Mrs. Wyles know if you will not be attending.

Please Join Us

Tickets are now on sale for Taco Night, taking place on Thursday, October 6th from 3:00-7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Our wonderful Men of St. Joseph Parish organization, with the help of our PTC, will be selling Tacos to benefit the School Tuition Assistance fund.

Please purchase your ticket from the school representative after Masses on Sept. 18th, 25th and Oct. 2nd or in the school office. Please support your school, helping us ensure that no one is denied a quality Catholic education **AND** enjoy delicious food ☺

What: Taco Night

When: Oct. 6th from 3:00-7:00 p.m.

Where: St. Mary's Parish Hall

Cost: \$8.00 per taco plate (with rice and beans)

Parents may earn service hours helping sell tickets after their Mass. Let Mrs. Wyles know please. **This Weekend we only have Saturday Night covered. Your help would be greatly appreciated.**

Adult St. Mary's Dri Fit Polo Shirts

We are collecting orders for the St. Mary's blue and white dri fit polos. If you would like to order a shirt please contact Mrs. Brown (cbrown@stmarys-temple.org). The cost of each shirt is \$37.00. The first order will be place on September 23rd.

Blessing of the Animals

Please mark your calendars for our annual Blessing of the Animals in honor of St. Francis. We will gather in the parking lot, by the rectory, on October 7th at 7:15 a.m. with our four legged friends and Father Steve will bestow blessings on all. The purpose of having our event before school time is so parents can take the pet home again. Please make sure dogs are on leashes and let me know if you have any questions.

God Squad News

The God Squad will collect donations of food and money for the Temple Animal Shelter. The event will take place on Friday October 7th at 7:00 am. in conjunction with the Blessing of the Animals. You can send in money early in an envelope marked animal shelter, or bring the money or the food to the Blessings of the Animals on Oct. 7th.

Facebook Update

The official school Facebook page is St. Mary's Catholic School and has our logo on it. We have deactivated the SMCS Falcons Page. So now we have one official page. If you have pictures of school events, and you want them to be posted on our Facebook page please email them to Mrs. Shadburn at lshadburn@stmarys-temple.org for approval.

Our account is set up where only the school can post pictures, so you cannot tag the school on Facebook. We are aware that there are other St. Mary's Catholic School Facebook pages that allow you to tag them, but they are not the official St. Mary's page, and we are working to fix the problem.

Save the Date: January 17, 2017: Celebrating Catholic Schools Award Dinner

The Office of Catholic Schools will hold its 2017 Celebrating Catholic Schools Dinner and Awards Ceremony on January 28, 2017 to recognize our Catholic schools and honor those who serve and support our schools. The purpose of this event is to recognize those individuals whose dedication enables schools to accomplish their missions and good works.

I am pleased to announce that this year's nominee for St. Mary's Catholic School will be Mrs. Angie Stolp. Mrs. Stolp has been a dedicated member of the St. Mary's family for over 30 years and is very deserving of this award. The event will take place at 6:00 p.m. at the Hyatt at Town Lake in Austin. The featured speaker this year will be Cardinal Dolan. As soon as tickets become available I will let the community know. Please do mark your calendars and show your support for a wonderful teacher.

Important Dates to Remember

Wed. Sept. 14th

Thurs. Sept. 15th

Fri. Sept. 16th

Sun. Sept. 18th

Mon. Sept. 19th

Fri. Sept. 23rd

Sat-Sun 24th/25th

Sat-Sun 1st/2nd

Sun. Oct. 2nd

*School Board Meeting 5:45 p.m. in the library

*Spirit Day and popcorn day

*Golf Club meeting 3:45 in auditorium

*All School Mass 8:15 a.m.

*School Pictures

*Progress Reports

*Ticket sales for Taco Night begin

(Volunteers needed)

*ITBS Testing begins

*ITBS Testing ends

*Taco Ticket Sales after Masses

*Taco Ticket Sales after Masses

*Family Mass 11:00 a.m.