

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

January 31, 2017

Issue 98

www.stmarys-temple.org

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy Catholic Schools Week! Yesterday our faculty and staff were treated to a wonderful lunch by our PTC and Student Council. On behalf of us all I thank you for your culinary expertise. I promise no one left the faculty lounge hungry ☺

Yesterday we also celebrated 120 years of culture and students came dressed in their favorite decade. The outfits were excellent! I think my favorites were the flower power hippies and leather jackets. The winners of the day will be announced in next week's newsletter.

Today began with coffee and donuts for parent and guardians, in the cul de sac, provided by our Student Council and National Junior Honor Society. Holy Trinity students came to join us too this morning and lent a hand with drop off. Thanks HT.

This morning our students will be treated to a glimpse of the history of our wonderful school. Guest speakers will join us to share stories of their days at St. Mary's Catholic School.

Our day will continue with a trip to Austin for the Annual Diocesan Leadership Mass. Our honorees this year were Aidan Atkins, Paloma Navarro, Cate Barkis, Mason McHugh and Benjamin Boor. The event was beautiful and our students were a wonderful representation of St. Mary's Catholic School.

Tomorrow we celebrate 120 years of service to others with our annual Jump Rope for Heart, raising money for the American Heart Association. Our fourth graders will also be holding a bake sale to benefit *Feed My Sheep*. Holy Trinity students will be back working in the back garden as part of their service project.

Also tomorrow we will wish Father Steve a HAPPY BIRTHDAY (shhhh it's a surprise)

Last week I sent an email with a request to take a very short survey in conjunction with our Strategic Plan. Thank you to all who have taken it. We appreciate your time and will take your input and comments very seriously as we plan. If you have not taken the survey, and would like to help, please follow this link: The survey will be closed this Friday, Feb. 3rd.

Thank you

<http://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/15215/34702>

Last Wednesday, at our PTC meeting, I shared information regarding next year. A recap of the information is included below. I will continue to share information and send reminders each week in this newsletter moving forward. As always you may call and email if you have question.

Have a wonderful week.

**Sincerely,
Mrs. Wyles**

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Request from Your Attendance Secretary

When signing your child in and out please put the child's first and last name and sign legibly. Sometimes it is difficult to read making it difficult to mark attendance correctly especially when we have multiple students with the same name.

Jump Rope for Heart Details

Tomorrow is Jump Rope for Heart from 8:30-2:00. I am proud of all who have donated and will participate tomorrow. This morning was the deadline for donations. If your child did not donate he/she will need to come to school in regular uniform and will be working on academics during the Jump Rope for Heart time.

Students who chose to participate may bring a water bottle with water only and should wear the following:

Junior High: P.E. clothes, socks and athletic shoes

Pre-K through 5th: Athletic shorts (finger length) Spirit shirt or last year's Walking for Education shirt, socks and athletic shoes.

The shoes and socks for all grades do not have to be school dress code but must be athletic in nature.

If you would like to help, and are EIM compliant, please meet Mrs. Bigon and I at the gym at 8:15 a.m.

News from Holy Trinity

Cate Barkis, Ben Boor, and Therese Mosmeyer represented St. Mary's at the 13th Annual Celtic Invitational this past Saturday. Cate placed third in Impromptu Speaking, and Therese was sixth in Lincoln-Douglas Debate. There were more than 100 students from 15 schools competing in the annual speech and debate tournament.

There will be no Speech Practice for PSIA for February 6-7 or Feb. 13-14. Practices will resume on February 20. If you have questions, contact Mr. Mosmeyer at cmosmeyer@holyltrinitychs.org.

Thanks! God Bless!

Chris Mosmeyer
English, Social Studies
Forensics, Drama

Recap of PTC Meeting

In 2014, when I came to St. Mary's, we found that teacher's salaries were well below the bar and quite unjust, some as much as 28,000 less than their public school counterpart. As you can imagine, this is counterproductive to retaining quality teachers. Therefore, our goal was to increase salaries to 80% of TISD over three years. I am happy to say this goal will be realized in the 2017-2018 school year.

With this goal, and a careful analysis of the costs to operate St. Mary's Catholic School, adjustments had to be made to the tuition scale. The result was the creation of two tuition scales. The first was for families who had been registered on or before the 2014-2015 school and the second was for those families who joined us after this date.

Tuition scales have been determined for next year and are attached to this week's newsletter. The increase in tuition is 2.5%.

Educational Facts

The cost to educate a child in public school in the state of Texas is approximately \$9,559.00

The cost to educate a child at St. Mary's Catholic School this year is approximately \$7,025.00

The cost of tuition for one child at St. Mary's Catholic School for the 2016-2017 school year is \$5,200.

The educational gap is \$1,825. **Fees and tuition do not cover the entire cost of operating the school. Various fundraisers, donations and the parish support are essential.**

Tuition Assistance

Tuition assistance will be available to those who qualify. Applications will be open on February 1st. Applications must be processed by March 10th. This includes supporting documents (W-4 and tax return from 2016). You must be current on all school financial commitments to receive tuition assistance for 2017-2018 school year.

Registration for the 2017-2018 School Year:

1. Returning families will receive an email giving the option to change plans or banking information. You only need to fill out this form if there is a change, otherwise information automatically will roll into the 2017-2018 school year. Once your agreement is set you will receive an email.
2. Families adding additional children will need to go on to their FACTS account and click Add Child.
3. All forms, such as emergency form, photo release, technology agreement, etc. will be uploaded onto RenWeb and available for your updates by the end of March. If they are ready sooner we will let you know.
4. Registration, building ,volunteer hours, or new student application fees can be added to your FACTS account or paid in the office.
5. Bus registration will need to be completed again

God Squad Event

When: Ash Wednesday March 1st 2017

Where: Temple Police Station

What: Stuffed Animal Drive and Tour of Temple Police Station

Time: 4:00 pm. to 5:00 pm.

Who: All God Squad Members, new and old

Drivers: We need drivers to get us there, contact Mrs. Shadburn

lshadburn-stmarys-temple.org

How do you become a God Squad member?

Any JH or Elementary student may become a member by simply participating in a God Squad event.

Order a Balloon & Candy Gram!

Please see the order form at the end of this newsletter to order a Balloon and Candy gram for your Valentine. Turn in your orders to the office.

PSIA

Students signed up for PSIA have received their parent permission slip letters for our District meet on March 25th. Please remember to turn in the permission slip with the fee of \$10.00 per event. We will need parent volunteers on this day. As soon as the volunteer areas assigned to our school open up I will let you know.

Help Needed: Red Cross Hippy Triathlon (attachment)

As you may remember, we had to move the date of the Red Cross Hippy Chick Triathlon event, because of flooding damage to the park in Waco. The new date for this event will be Saturday, April 29, 2017. I've attached the new flyer with all of the details.

We would be happy to have any St. Mary's students (minimum 13 years of age), parents, teacher and faculty that might like to join the volunteer effort. Please let Mrs. Wyles know what if want to volunteer and if you are interested in a particular assignment. A flyer is attached.

Sincerely,

Steve Santacroce
Red Cross Board Member - Heart of Central Texas Chapter

Yearbook news:

To give everyone ample time to turn in your yearbook ads, 8th grade baby, selfie, and quote the due date is Feb. 6th

Please be on time. I cannot accept late entries this year.

Thank you,
Lana Shadburn

Coat Drive

Third graders will be involved in our annual coat drive for the homeless. We will be collecting gently used coats, sweaters, hats and gloves. Items may be placed in the box located outside the office. Coat drive will run until February 3rd. Coats will be picked up by a Temple resident at the school and delivery around the community. Thanks for your generosity!

[Evelia F. Avila](#)
3rd Grade Teacher

Educational Family Show at the CAC

Junie B. Jones: Essential Survival Guide to School by Theatreworks USA

7:00PM Friday, March 24

Tickets at www.cacARTS.org

Now that JUNIE B. JONES has been going to school for over one-and-a-half years, who better to write the book on EVERYTHING you need to know? From bus rules to band-aids, carpools to cookies, Junie B. and friends deliver the definitive word on surviving and thriving in style. With a jillion tips, tricks and trip-ups, Junie B. shares her hard-won expertise and shows us all how school is sometimes scary, sometimes super-fun, and ALWAYS something to sing about! An all-new musical adventure based on Barbara Park's popular book.

(One hour in length, recommended for grades K - 5) Curriculum Connections: Communication and Language Arts, Literature-Based, Music, Relationships & Family.

Video Clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJI33GTe-R8>

Cake and Bake Sale

Mark your calendars and don't forget your cash! Fourth grade will be having a bake sale on February 1st, after Jump Rope for Heart. Individual baked goods will be available in addition to whole cakes. All money raised will go towards our business goal of providing meals for Feed My Sheep. Thank you for your support.

Walking for Education (attachment)

We would like to extend an invitation to **all** St. Mary's Catholic students to design a T-Shirt for our Walking for Education walkathon.

Contest Rules:

The T-Shirt must be an original artwork created by the student, no adult or computer generated help.

Parents must sign and date the entry form below in order for the design to be considered. Designs may only use black.

Designs must be submitted to the office **no later than Tuesday, February 28, 2017**.

Entry form must be completed and signed. Correctly submitted designs will be voted on Friday, March 3, 2017.

Box Tops for Education Competition

Please collect the Box Tops for Education off your groceries and send them into school to your child's homeroom teacher. For every Box Top that is donated, the school receives 10 cents. There will be a competition between the classrooms from now until February 10th. The classroom with the highest average box top per student will receive a Pizza Party.

The Box Tops need to have the Expiration Date on them. When cutting, ripping or tearing them off the packages please be sure to keep the dotted line surrounding the Box Top visible. You may place your Box Tops in an envelope, plastic baggie, or on a collection sheet. Be sure to visit [CashForYourEducation.com](http://www.cashforyoureducation.com) to print a collection sheet. This is a great way for your kids to track their collection progress.

You can also go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com> to find out how you can use the New Box Tops Bonus App to earn even more cash for St. Mary's.

Important Dates to Remember

Feb. 1st: *Registration for 2017-2018 school year opens
Feb. 5th * Open House for St. Mary's Catholic School 10:00-1:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 2nd

† Celebrating 120 Years of Our Most Important Gift, Our Students

Students will have a special dress day. All may wear sports jerseys, sports team sweatshirts or sports team t-shirts with blue jeans. Please follow the guidelines for Spirit Day jeans and shoes. Belts do not need to be worn.

Friday, February 3rd

† **Celebrating 120 Years of Our Catholic Identity**

Students and faculty and staff will begin our day with all School Catholic Schools Week Mass at 8:15 a.m., in which all grades will participate.

† At 2:30 students will join in the church for a Divine Chaplet. Parents are invited to join us.

Sunday, February 5th

† **Open House: Celebrate St Mary's Super Bowl Sunday (10:00-1:00 p.m.)**

Students are invited to bring family and friends to take a journey through St. Mary's Catholic School. Students will be presented with an autograph book upon entry to the school. This special document is their guide to visit all the classrooms, the office, cafeteria and Pre-K House and obtain autographs from well-known sports figures in history.

Each faculty and staff will choose a special sport's person for their room. Guests will visit each room and acquire an autograph. Once all autographs have been gathered the student may come to the office, their final destination, for a special prize.

Half time snacks and tailgating fun will be held in the cafeteria as well. Come enjoy great snacks courtesy of Mr. Broadwater.

Valentine's Day Balloon and Candy Gram

Order by Friday February 10th to be delivered by February 14th 2017

Balloon with Hershey Bar _____ \$3.00 X _____

Balloon with 10 Hershey Kisses _____ \$3.00 X _____

To: Name _____ Grade: _____

Teacher: _____

From: _____

Note: _____