



ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Pink Note

December 12, 2018

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From the Desk of Mrs. Miscavish

Dear Parents:

This will be the last Pink Note for the month of December. Next Wednesday at this time, there will be pure red & green Christmas craziness going on, so no one will be thinking pink!

Congratulations to our Forensic Team who competed last Saturday in the Eastside Forensic Competition. Our team competed at the 7th & 8th grade level and we did extremely well for a team where half the students were 5th or 6th graders! In the end when all the votes were tallied, St. Mary placed 5th out of 9 schools! Please see page 5 of the Pink Note to see just how well everyone did!

To wrap up the month, last Friday night our 1st & 2nd graders sang like angels at their Christmas concert. They were absolutely perfect and sang with such enthusiasm that they brought the real reason for the season closer to everyone's heart. It was an evening filled with heartwarming moments and everyone attending left with memories they will cherish for life. This Friday night, our Kindergarten students will do the same as they perform their Christmas story, "*The Hoity Toity Angel*." An annual tradition for our kindergarteners and their families too are in for an evening where wonderful memories will be made!

Today our students in grades 1 – 8 are bringing home the results of their IOWA tests. Please review the tests and remember a few things as you do:

- Your child took this test in October, they do not remember how they performed on those days. They can be of little help if you have an area of concern, so please do not make them feel "bad" if you are not happy with how they scored. This is one piece of their academic life and it is a difficult piece. Remember as well the setting in which they take this battery of tests, it is under very strict conditions and some students thrive in that setting and some students do not.
- Children who have difficulty staying on task, do not have a strong eye for detail, and who are not "self-checkers" will not do as well as their classmates who are very detailed orientated in everything they do. When you approach a test of this magnitude your daily habits of life are what you apply.
- If you see an area where your child performed extremely poorly, I can guarantee you that your child had some test answering issues. Simple things such as skipping a line when "bubbling" the answer key will throw your child's scores off. It is very difficult for them to go back and figure out their error and we cannot help them. As I reviewed them, there is unfortunately one student I know of for sure who ran into this issue, no one gets a 1% unless something went terribly wrong while they were in the midst of "bubbling." It happens, it is very unfortunate, but the teachers are not allowed to assist the students in that capacity. They encourage everyone to review their tests if they finish with time left, but beyond that, your child is on their own.
- Look at your child's grade level equivalents to judge their scores as opposed to their percentages. This test is nationally normed, so a 50% is not failing. They should be performing close to their grade level, you will find that many of our students are scoring much higher than their current grade levels. It is incredible to see our junior high students whose grade equivalent scores are 13+, beyond high school!

- Make sure you take the time to read the comments given on the side of the scores. Do you agree with their interpretation? Is that something a teacher has pointed out to you or something you see yourself when working with your child?
- For our 1, 3, 5, & 7 graders, take time to read the comments on the cognitive testing portion. How they perform on the cognitive tests is a direct indicator of how they perform daily in life in the areas of reasoning, thinking, visual perception, problem solving skills, and decision making. The cognitive tests are very difficult in some areas, but you would be amazed at how well our students perform. Our 1st graders for their developmental stage of life take the hardest cognitive test of all!
- Compare last year's scores to this year. What are you looking for? You are looking for steady growth in your child's achievement. Do not compare your child with their friends or their siblings. Your main focus should be on that particular child's personal growth as an individual, no comparisons should be made to others in any way shape or form. It does not matter that Jenny's sister when she was in 4th grade scored higher, this is Jenny and Jenny's growth from 3rd to 4th grade was great, that's what matters. Her sister should not be a part of the conversation of Jenny's IOWA score conversation!
- Children should score consistently year from year. If you see a large spike, ask yourself what was different this year. If you see a dip in the other direction, ask yourself the same question. There are many factors that can apply to both scenarios beyond what goes on in the classroom.
- Do you see a correlation between your child's daily success and their daily struggles in the scores? Your child's strengths and weaknesses reflect on their overall scores.
- Your children do not truly understand the concept of standardized testing, so when you review their scores with them, please keep that in mind.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or to me and we can help you interpret the scores.

Next Monday at 1:30 in the gym will be our annual 5 – 8 grade Spelling Bee. All parents are invited to attend, especially if your child is participating! It can take all afternoon, so if you plan on attending, please plan on being here until close to dismissal.

Next Tuesday is a bagel day, Preschool Christmas parties begin, and there is no SMS Backpacks or clubs after school! Please make sure you have made other arrangements for those students who attend SMS Backpacks after school. Please note, this is only for the afternoon session, Morning SMS Backpacks is open for business!

Next Wednesday is our last school day before Christmas Vacation officially begins. At 11:15, all our parents are cordially invited to attend our annual Christmas Sing-A-Long. This year's format will be a little different as we celebrate this event for the first time since the passing of Mr. Dixon. It will never have the same spirit as John brought to the event, but it will always be a time for us to remember him fondly for the years of great Christmas joy he brought to us all. We hope you can attend, we will be dismissing immediately following the Sing-A-Long at noon.

School will resume on January 2 and even though that seems like a short vacation, you will thank me in June when we are not still here during the "dog days of summer."

The next two Sundays will conclude the Advent season as Christmas Day arrives. This Sunday, is the third Sunday of Advent which is also called, Gaudete Sunday. I found these fun fact questions & answers to share with you about the third Sunday:

1) Why is the third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday?

Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

2) What significance does this have?

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus and by the third Sunday of Advent; we are most of the way through the season.

Thus it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: "The Lord is near."

3) What is the appropriate liturgical color for this day?

According to the rubrics:

In this mass the color violet or rose is used. That is why this week, you will light the pink candle.

Here are two prayers for you as you light your Advent wreaths over the next two weeks:

Third Sunday Prayer:

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fourth Sunday Prayer:

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces His glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Merry Christmas and Happy to all! I hope you enjoy this very special time of year with those you love the most! "God bless us, every one!"

May grace and blessings be in your path,
Maureen Miscavish

St. Peter Parish ROCK Youth Group News

This is a final call for grades 6-8 Springhill Camp! A count is needed as soon as possible if you are interested in coming! The weekend is January 25-27, 2019 at Springhill Camps!

This is an amazing experience for your student filled with great faith, fun activities and new friends! The cost for the weekend is \$140 which covers the room and board at camp! If you are interested in coming the permission slip and other information can be found at rockyouthmin.weebly.com! or contact Tori Kearney at (586) 468-4578 or stpeteryouthmin@gmail.com .

NEW SIBLING REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Attention St. Mary School families who plan on enrolling a 3 or 4 year-old, or an older child who is not currently attending St. Mary for the 2019/20 school year, we need you to call the school office and speak to Mrs. Lisey or email her at glisey@stmarymtclemens.com to place them on the enrollment list. Registration packets will be sent home on January 16 and it is imperative that we include paperwork for that child in your packet. Please let us know ASAP and by January 8 at the latest. We will need the following information on the new student: Family name, child's name, child's birth date, and grade level in the fall. Please do not forget. Almost every year someone does and then a class fills and we are unable to enroll a current family's child.



Christmas Sing-A-Long

Please join us on
December 19, 2018 at 11:20 AM
as we end 2018 with our
Christmas Sing-A-Long
All are welcome!



Daddy Daughter Dance

The Daddy Daughter Dance
Registration form has come home.
This special event is Sunday,
February 24, 2 - 6 pm at The Mirage.
Cost is \$40 per couple (\$15 each
additional daughter)
Please return the form with payment
in an envelope marked Daddy
Daughter Dance to the school office.

***Tickets must be purchased
by January 25th.**

There will be no Pink Note
December 19
and January 2, 2019

**There will be no SMS Backpack
or afterschool clubs on Tuesday,
December 18th.**



Grades 1-4 Indoor Soccer

It is registration time for the
Winter Session for Indoor Soccer
grades 1-4. Registration forms are in
your inbox. Final registration due date
is December 14.

Save the Date

Dec. 14 ~ Kdg. Christmas Pageant
Dec. 17 ~ All School Mass @ SMS 8:15
Dec. 18 ~ No Latchkey
Dec. 19 ~ Noon Dismissal —
Latchkey until 6:00 PM
Dec. 20 —January 1 ~ No School -
Christmas Break
January 2 ~ School Resumes
Jan. 18 ~ End of 2nd Quarter
Jan. 21 ~ No School—Staff PD
Jan. 27 ~ Open House for New Families
Jan 28—Feb. 1 ~ Catholic Schools Week
Feb. 1 ~ Honors after Mass
Feb. 14 & 15 ~ Noon Dismissal—
Conferences
Feb. 18-19 ~ No School - Winter Break
Feb. 22 ~ Progress Reports
Feb. 24 ~ Daddy Daughter Dance
Mar. 8 ~ No School —Teacher PD
Mar. 6 ~ All School Mass
—Ash Wednesday

CAFETERIA NEWS



Lunch time volunteers are needed for
December 13, 14, 17 & 18, January 3,
4, 8, 9, 10, & 11.
A new lunch time sign up genius has
been set up for January until June,
Please log in and choose dates you
are available to help out.
Log in [https://
www.signupgenius.com/
go/20f0e4ca8a72aa0f58-lunch2](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4ca8a72aa0f58-lunch2)
Walk-ins are always welcome.

St. Peter Catholic Church

175
1843 - 2018

Out of the Past, THE FUTURE



E. PRAETERITIS FUTURA

Forensics

Thank you to Mrs. Griffore & Mrs. Sorgeloos for all their hard work on building this great team! Congratulations to the following students on their awards:

Prose:

Katelyn Muhlenkamp 2nd, 3rd, 3rd
Ava Schneider 1st, 1st, 3rd, and 2ND OVERALL
Grace Gutmann 1st place
Kennedy Roskopp Honorable Mention

Drama:

Gavin Gaynor 2nd
Emily Strzynski 2nd, 3rd
Jaedyn Byars 3rd
Katelyn Catana Honorable Mention

Multiple Team:

Kamryn Rastigue, Kayla Reynolds, Jack Janusch, Thomas Simasko,
Joseph Banaszak
1st, 3rd, 3rd and 3RD OVERALL

Declamation:

Jared Nadolinski 3rd, 3rd
Yong Wu Honorable Mention

Poetry:

Paige Vogan 3rd, 3rd
Hannah Cabal 3rd

Storytelling:

Ava Janusch Honorable Mention
Ava Esquivel 1st
Avery Starnes Honorable Mention
Haley Straetmans 2nd, 2nd

Duo Interpretation

Ryan Baughman and Domenic Battaglia 2nd, 2nd
Ava Shiner and Lilliana Keoshian 2nd
Makenna Johnson and Natalie Moncaleano 2nd

Impromptu

Addysen Curtiss 2nd, 2nd, 2nd
Rita Yammine 1st, 2nd, 3rd



Kroger Community Rewards Program

St. Mary Catholic School is now part of the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Please take a few minutes and register your Kroger scan card at <https://www.kroger.com/>.

Select "Kroger Community Rewards" at the bottom of the page and create an account. Select St. Mary Catholic School or DA174, Enter your scan card number, and click "Enroll".



St. Peter Christmas Schedule

Penance Service

Monday, December 17 at 7:00 PM
Saturday, December 22 at 2:30 PM

Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24
(No 8:00 AM Mass)
Children's Mass at 5:00 PM
Mass at 7:00 PM and 12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25
Mass at 10:00 AM and 12:00 Noon

New Years Eve - Monday, December 31
5:00 PM Mass

New Years Day - Tuesday, January 1, 2019
(No 8:00 AM Mass) 10:00 AM Mass

"KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" Poster Contest

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

You are encouraged to share with your children the TRUE meaning of Christmas and then create a poster that reflects that message.

OFFICIAL RULES

- Contest opened to all students in grades K-8.
- Poster must reflect the theme of Keep Christ in Christmas. Each poster should be the original work (including concept, layout, slogan and any visual images) of a single person.
- Poster should be approximately 11x17 inches (Paper available from Mrs. Clara if needed). However, the supreme Council will not disqualify based on poster size. If pastels, chalk or charcoal are used, the poster must be laminated or covered with clear plastic.
- Each poster must be submitted with a Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest entry form (#5025) Available from Mrs. Clara.
- The name and age of the entrant should be printed on the reverse side of the poster.
- All entries become property of the Knights of Columbus supreme Council office.

ALL ENTRIES ARE DUE TO MRS. CLARA BY DECEMBER 19th



Christmas Light Recycling

This year we are continuing our Green School efforts with collecting your old strings of Christmas lights. To save energy and money this Christmas, replace your old incandescent Christmas lights with LED lights. Then drop off your old lights at our recycling center across from Mrs. Chalk's preschool room.

Weekly Highlights

Thursday, Dec. 13

Candy Cane Sale Continues
Gr. 6 DARE
NJHS Tutoring Team B 3:10-4:00
Newspaper Club 3:10-4:00

Friday, Dec. 14

Mass at St. Peter Gr. 1-8
Candy Cane Sale Continues
Gr. 3 Ford House
Last Day for Scrip Pick up
Kindergarten Christmas Pageant -
6:30 PM at SMS

Saturday, Dec. 15

Children's Choir 4:00 Mass

Sunday, Dec. 16

Third Sunday of Advent

Monday, Dec. 17

Mass SMS Gr 1-8, 8:15
Spelling Bee 1:30

Tuesday, Dec. 18

Bagel Day
3yr. Pre AM Christmas Party 10:00
3yr. Pre PM Christmas Party 2:00
Little Mountaineers 12:30-2:00
NO SMS Backpack

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Noon Dismissal
No Mass at Union
Christmas Jeans Day
4yr Pre Christmas Party
- Chalk & DiGiuseppe 10:00
SMS Backpack until 6:00

Thursday, Dec. 20

Christmas Break Begins
No School

Friday, Dec. 21

First Day of Winter

Sunday, Dec. 23

Four Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day

Tuesday, Jan. 1

New Year's Day
"Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God"

Wednesday, Jan. 2

School Resumes
Mass at SMS Gr. 1-4, 8:15

Thursday, Jan. 3

Gr. 6 DARE
Advanced Readers Club 3:10-4:00
NJHS Tutoring Team C 3:10-4:00
Newspaper Club 3:10-4:00

Friday, Jan. 4

Mass at St. Peter Gr. 1-8

Sunday, Jan. 6

The Epiphany

Monday, Jan. 7

Mass SMS Gr. 5-8, 8:15

Tuesday, Jan. 8

Vision Screening Gr. 1, 3, 5 & 7
Little Mountaineers 12:30-2:00
Children's Choir 3:10-4:00

Coming Home

Pink Note
IOWA Results

E-mailed Home

Mt. Clemens Library
ROCK Youth Springhill Camp