



# ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## *The Pink Note*

February 27, 2019

Office 586.468.4570  
www.stmarymtclemens.com  
Fax 586-464-0718  
SMS Backpack 586.940.2019  
attendance@stmarymtclemens.com

### ***From the Desk of Mrs. Miscavish***

Dear Parents:

Tuesday ended our Catholic School Week celebration and our student's hair & attire was the wackiest I have ever seen. It appears that Pinterest has set the bar pretty high for wacky hair! Thanks for all the effort you put forth for your child to enjoy this day, even if it was a month late!

As we roll into March, it is coming in like a lion, so we can only pray that it holds true to the poem and goes out like a lamb! This is going to be a long stretch for us at school with Easter being so late. So please make sure during the final cold days of winter that you keep your children on target. They can get a little "stir crazy" when winter seems so long and Easter vacation is so far away.

PAC has been keeping us busy and will continue to do so during the month of March. This past Sunday was the Daddy Daughter Dance and everyone had a marvelous time! Basketball Jones joined us on Monday and was quite entertaining! Next week on Tuesday, the Sky Dome Planetarium is coming to our auxiliary gym. Our K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will venture inside the dome to a galaxy far, far away to learn about the solar system. Skate Night is next Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at The Rink in Utica. Thanks to PAC for helping us through the final month of winter!

Congratulations this Friday to our 6<sup>th</sup> graders who will graduate from the D.A.R.E. program. A special thank you to Officer Twomey for being the best D.A.R.E. Officer ever! He does a fabulous job with our students and he has for years now. Sadly enough, each day in our country this program becomes so much more important. Our children are forced to deal with so many things on a whole different level than you or I ever did due to technology. The DARE program is very sensitive to teaching awareness on the following topics:

1. Alcohol and drug awareness
2. Identifying and resisting peer pressure
3. Bullying
4. Prescription and over the counter drug abuse
5. Inhalant abuse
6. Cyber-bullying
7. Internet safety and social media safety
8. Texting/Sexting
9. Healthy decisions
10. Taking charge of one's own life

Can you see how the list has changed since you were in 6<sup>th</sup> grade? Sure #1 -3 have always been with us. #3 today in my opinion has a meaning that I am not sure anyone really understands. That word is used much too often to describe what is truly a kid being a "brat"; A "brat" is defined as "*an ill-mannered annoying child*" in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Just like they were when you and I were a kid, just like you and I were on an occasion! Think back to your childhood. How many true "bullies" did you come across? I bet you can name every neighbor or classmate who was a brat! Neither one is a nice thing to be, but every kid has to learn not to be "brat" at some point. A true bully by definition, "*one who is habitually cruel, insulting, or threatening to others who are weaker, smaller, or in some way vulnerable.*" When you look at

the true definition, I think you will agree, “brats” are much more common and every one of our kids will take a turn being one to either a sibling, cousin, parent or classmate at some point in their lives. I worry that the word “bully” will become so misused and overused that our world will miss dealing with the true bully’s who do harm on a grand scale with the use of technology in our world today.

#4 & 5 have taken on a life of their own in this country. This issue has always been with us, but it used to be a much smaller percentage of the population. The statistics are frightening:

*Prescription drug abuse is a serious and growing problem in the United States. The 2016 National Study on Drug Use and Health reported that an estimated 28.6 million Americans age 12 and over used illicit drugs during the month prior to the study. That means roughly 1 in 10 people struggle with some level of substance use, including addiction to prescription drugs.*

*In the US alone, an estimated 54 million people over the age of 12 have used prescription drugs for nonmedical reasons in their lifetime. More people report using controlled prescription drugs than cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine combined.*

*Between 2006 and 2011, nonmedical use of Adderall and emergency room visits involving the drug increased significantly, while treatment visits stayed the same. Adderall misuse rose 67 percent, and ER visits went up 156 percent, with family and friends serving as the primary source. Young adults (age 18-25) made up 60 percent of those using Adderall for nonmedical reasons.*

*The number of adults filling a benzodiazepine prescription increased 67 percent (from 8.1 million to 13.5 million) between 1996 and 2013, while the total quantity filled more than tripled. During this same time period, the overdose death rate for benzodiazepines more than quadrupled.*

### **Inhalants:**

*Over 2.6 million children aged 12 – 17 use an inhalant each year to get high.*

*1 in 4 students in America has intentionally abused a common household product to get high by the time they reach the eighth grade.*

*Inhalants tend to be the drug that is tried first by children.*

*“Sniffing” and “huffing” can begin at age 10 or younger.*

*59% of children are aware of friends huffing at age 12.*

*Inhalants are the fourth most-abused substance after alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana.*

*The number of lives claimed by inhalant abuse each year is unknown because these deaths often are attributed to other causes.*

The stories of children who have lost their lives are all very tragic and they are kids just like the kids who walk our hallways. Vaping has taken this world to a whole new level and really who knows what vaping is truly doing to our kids – that is all unfolding right now. I ran across this story and it should hit home with all of us, because every child is vulnerable and will at some point have all of this touch their lives in one way or another:

*On a beautiful, warm, sunny summer day, David got up early, mowed the lawn and asked if he could go out with friends. He ended up at the home of*

*a friend, swimming with friends in their backyard pool. David and another boy went to a fast food restaurant and then to the neighborhood drug store and bought a can of computer duster.*

*The boys returned, got back into the pool and began inhaling the propellant from the computer duster while standing in the pool's shallow end. In order to intensify the high, David began diving underwater while inhaling the propellant. However, after the third time, he didn't come back up. His friend pulled David out of the water while the girls ran for help. Paramedics arrived within minutes and began desperate attempts to revive him. They rushed him to a nearby hospital while continuing CPR. However, the toxic chemical in the propellant had frozen David's lungs and interrupted the electrical activity of his heart, putting him into cardiac arrest.*

*A couple weeks before his death, we confronted him about our suspicions that he was inhaling something dangerous, we asked him, "David, where are you going with all this? What are you doing with your life?" With all the earnestness of his 16 years, he replied, "I want to be a doctor like my grandfather. I want to make a difference."*

You have all the power in your hands to avoid #6, 7, & 8 by waiting until your children are older to purchase a phone and not allow them to have social media accounts; if they do, you make sure you understand that you have to monitor them daily to keep your child out of harm's way. Talk to any parent who has purchased their child a phone and if they are honest, you will not find one whose life is better because they did. For those of you who are not at that stage of life yet, do yourself a favor, get with your BFF's and take a pledge not to get your child a phone until they absolutely NEED one – not WANT one. At the same time, you might want to really think twice before bringing an X-Box or PlayStation into your home. Live and learn from those who have gone before you. They do more harm than they do good. Would you deliberately go out and purchase something that you knew was going to be harmful for your child – no you would not, but you will get them a phone and you will buy them an Xbox.

Do the Nancy Reagan and "Just Say No" until they can handle all the garbage that comes with the positive side of technology. Remember your mother telling you, "Just because everyone else has one, doesn't mean you need one too." Learn from #2, resist the peer pressure of all your friends getting them for their children, do the right thing for your child and do not get caught up in what others are doing. Focus on your #9 & 10 – that is what your child really needs you to provide for them. Healthy life choices in all they do and taking charge of their life to make it the best it can be. Yes, at some point they will need a phone, but you need to do your homework and educate your child so that their phone does not become their enemy. Lives are destroyed every day because of cell phones & social media outlets in the hands of children. Being a "kid" is hard enough and our world continues every day to make it so much harder.

Great time to put a "plug" in for Mrs. Falk's Green School efforts to be "unplugged" as much as possible from January to May. If you have not done so already, this is your month to start! Lent is just around the corner. Why not think about Lenten commitments for phones & Xbox in your lives. I am sure most of you are ready for a change in how technology works in your household. What better time to renew yourselves and your family life than during the Season of Lent. When dealing with your children it helps sometimes to have someone else to blame for the tough decisions and I am sure that Mrs. Falk & God would be happy to take the blame if it meant helping your family become the "best version" of yourself this Lent!

Our Varsity Girls played a tough game last night against Our Lady of the Lakes and lost by 4 points. It was a terrific game. We had a great run to take the lead and though we lost in the end, we are all very proud of our St. Mary Lady Mountaineers! It was a very successful basketball season overall and as it comes to an end, we congratulate all our Mountaineers on a fine performance this season. Our bowlers will finish their season in a few weeks, so we wish them good luck as they head into the home stretch of bowling season.

Today's note ends on a sad note; Mary "Maureen" Cooney, Fr. Mike's sister, passed away early Wednesday morning. Please keep Fr. Mike and his sister, Sr. Lee, in your prayers during this difficult time. Below you will find Maureen's funeral arrangements:

Cooney, Mary Alice "Maureen", age 82 of Adrian, Michigan

Dear sister of Sister Leontia, O.P. a Member of Adrian Dominicans, and The Reverend Michael N. Cooney, Pastor of St. Peter Catholic Church in Mount Clemens. Visitation on Sunday, March 3, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. with a Scripture service at 7:00 p.m. in the Will and Schwarzkoff Funeral Home, 23 Northbound Gratiot Avenue, Mount Clemens. Funeral Mass on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. (in state 10:00 a.m.) in St. Peter Catholic Church, 95 Market Street, Mount Clemens. Private burial on Tuesday at Twelve Noon in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. in Southfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to St. Mary Catholic School Hearts and Stones fund.

May grace and blessings be in your path,  
Maureen Miscavish

### **Important Registration Information**

It is time to turn in your packet so it can be processed in time for your first payment on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The 10 month tuition payment plan for 2019-2020 school year is from March 15, 2019 until December 15, 2019. If you are late turning in your packet for March's payment, your tuition will be divided by 9 payments. You may include March's payment with your paperwork. Make your check payable to 'St. Mary School'.

If you are planning to pay in full, full tuition minus 1.5% must be submitted with your registration paperwork.

Tuition for 2018-19 must be paid in full before 2019-20 can be processed.



### **TUITION ASSISTANCE**

**Archdiocese Tuition Assistance Grant** information and application is available on our website, [www.stmarymtclemens.com](http://www.stmarymtclemens.com) for Kindergarten-12th grade. Your application with all information and documentation must be submitted online only by April 30, 2019 in order for your application to be considered for the first level. The Pastor Signature Form can be picked up in the school office and should be sent to Mrs. Miscavish for submission. Please note, tuition assistance is available for high school students as well.

**St. Peter Parish Tuition Assistance** forms are available in the school office. The application and required documents must be submitted to the school office, 'Attention Mrs. Miscavish' by April 20, 2019. You must be a St. Peter Parishioner and submit the Archdiocese Tuition Assistance Grant application to be considered.

## Yearbook

A yearbook order form came home last week **only** to students that did not order a picture packet that included a yearbook. Order forms must be turned in by **Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>**. Checks payable to 'Kaiser Studio'. (Extra yearbooks are not available in May.)

## Volunteer Hours

Please turn in your completed volunteer log sheet to the office as soon as your volunteer hours are complete. Blank log sheets can be picked up in the school office or found on our website under "Downloads". If you have any questions email Mrs. Dempsey at [sdempsey@stmarymtclemens.com](mailto:sdempsey@stmarymtclemens.com)



## Ski Club

March 1<sup>st</sup> will be the last Friday for Ski Club.

Great news . . . All Students can use their Ski Club Membership Card (must show card) any day or time starting March 1st and receive the \$20 LIFT price!!!

## Skate Night

Join your classmates on Friday, March 8 for a St. Mary Roller Skate Party at 'The Rink' in Utica (50625 Van Dyke, Shelby Charter Township, MI 48317). This skate party will take place from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Information is coming home today.

## Mark your Calendar Electronic Recycling

In keeping with our Green School efforts, we will be holding our annual electronics recycling on March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9-12 and March 24<sup>th</sup> from 11-3. Please check your inbox for more information and a list of what types of items can be dropped off.

## Waste Free Wednesday



Just a reminder that every Wednesday is "Waste Free Wednesday"! We encourage you to pack your lunches with reusable containers, utensils, and napkins instead of disposable items. Avoid paper or plastic bags, plastic wrap, foil, wax paper, styrofoam, single-serving snacks, single-use cans, bottles, cartons or pouches, paper napkins and disposable forks and spoons. If everyone does a little, we can make a big difference!

## Save the Date

- Mar. 6 ~ All School Mass @ St. Peter  
—Ash Wednesday
- Mar. 8 ~ No School —Teacher PD  
—Skate Night
- Mar. 21 ~ Pierce 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation  
& Reception
- Mar. 22 ~ Sulek 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation  
& Reception
- March 22 ~ End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter
- Mar. 24 ~ Open House for Current  
Families & E-cycling
- April 4 ~ Spring Concert
- April 5 ~ No School
- April 12 ~ Honors, Earth Day  
Paraliturgy
- April 18-28 ~ No School -Easter Break
- April 30 ~ AOD Tuition Assistance  
due for 1<sup>st</sup> Tier
- May 17 ~ Mother - Son Outing
- May 24 ~ Noon Dismissal—Passing  
On after Mass
- May 27 ~ No School—Memorial Day
- May 31 ~ Kindergarten &  
4 yr. Preschool Graduation

## SAVE THE DATE Mother - Son Outing



Mark your calendars for an evening out with your son on Friday, May 17. Our Mother-Son Outing will be held at Jimmy John's Field in Utica, game time 7:05. Watch for ticket details to come . . .

St. Mary Catholic School provides strong academics within a faith-based community to prepare students for higher learning and to become moral, productive, God-loving leaders in society.

### Attendance Reminder

Please email the school office at  
**attendance@stmarymtclemens.com**  
before 9:00 am when your child is going to be late or absent.  
*You may email the teacher, but you **MUST** notify the office.*

### Weekly Highlights

#### Thursday, Feb. 21

Gr. 6 DARE  
Box Tops For Education Contest Due  
NJHS Tutoring Team A 3:10-4:00  
Newspaper Club 3:10-4:00

#### Friday, Mar. 1

Mass at St. Peter Gr. 1-8  
Gr. 3 DNR Outdoor Adventure Center  
DARE Graduation 12:45 in Gym

#### Sunday, Mar. 3

Confirmandi & Sponsor  
12:00 Mass—Practice after Mass

#### Monday, Mar. 4

No Mass  
Kdg. Q & U Wedding  
Immediately after Mass

#### Tuesday, Mar. 5

Sky Dome Planetarium  
Little Mountaineers 12:30-2:00  
Art Club Gr. 6 & 8 3:10-4:00  
Children's Choir 3:10-4:00

#### Wednesday, Mar. 6

Ash Wednesday  
Mass at St. Peter Gr. 1-8

#### Coming Home

Pink Note  
Family Skate Night Flyer

#### E-mailed Home

E-cycling Information & Sign Up Genius  
March Activity & Lunch Calendars  
Unplug Flyer  
The Messenger

### Smart Tuition

If you have questions or concerns with your Smart Tuition account, please log into your account to review the details at <https://www.smarttuition.com/>

### The St. Peter Dynamic Parish



The Turning Point  
A Gospel of John Bible Study

Come to 4:00 Mass, followed by dinner in the Fr. Welch Hall and then the bible study. Register at <http://bit.ly/parishbiblestudy>

Cost is \$15 per participant  
March 23, April 6 & 27  
Check the flyer that was emailed 1-3-19 for more information.



### CAFETERIA NEWS

Lunch time volunteers are needed on February 28, March 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14 & 15. Please log in:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foe4ca8a72aa0f58-lunch2>

**Walk-ins are always welcome.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**March 20—No lunch service  
Bring bag lunch and Bring**

### **Boys and Girls Etiquette Class**

Sunday, March 3, at 1:00 PM  
\$15.00 per person  
For age 6-13  
The Crocker House Museum  
& Macomb County Historical Society  
Call for reservation at 586-465-2488

### **St. Peter ROCK Middle School Youth Group**

The Youth Group Middle School meeting is this Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Check the ROCK website for more information.  
<https://rockyouthmin.weebly.com/>  
Check out the website of our parish youth group to see what is going on!