



ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Pink Note

November 14, 2018

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:

As I write this Pink Note, it feels as if November is already winding down. Thanksgiving is early this year and that is throwing off the whole month. Parent-Teacher Conferences have come very quickly and it appears that almost all our parents have taken the time to sign-up for a conference next week or you have reached out in some way to your child's teacher. If you have not, please make sure you do so ASAP – the link will be closing next Monday morning.

“Touching base” with a teacher is an important aspect of your child's education, it truly is crucial for your child's success. It is important for the obvious reasons, you need to know how your child is doing, but it is equally important so that you come to know the person your child spends over 7 hours a day with. There are many times when I reflect on the ins and outs of running a school and sometimes, though overall I feel we do a great job, there are still moments of disconnect. Schools, parents, & children are never perfect, so there are inevitably going to be times of disconnect; but I have come to learn, the better you know someone, the better you trust the opinions of those who are the experts when something goes wrong. Children are going to have their ups and downs that we have to deal with, it comes with raising a child. It is how effectively we deal with those ups and downs that sets the stage for our child's success throughout their school career. If we all tackle issues together with an open mind, leaving other people's opinions out of the equation, not assuming, or lying in judgement, because those things only cloud our vision, we would be able to more effectively educate our children together.

It takes so much more in 2018 than just knowing the ABC's & 123's to be an effective teacher. It takes great faith, a strong sense of discipline/structure, compassion, patience, caring, understanding, sympathy, nursing, a strong work ethic, honesty, great love for those around you no matter what they do, and so on. I wonder sometimes if people understand the energy level it takes for 7 hours a day to be at the top of your game, giving everything you have, so that you are making the most of every moment of a child's life. There is no cubicle to hide in, you are not allowed to get lost in answering emails, no texting, no going out to lunch, no sneaking out early because you feel like it, no putting on headphones to block out the world, no “standing around the water cooler” chit chatting, or calling in sick just because you need a break. I realize Teacher Appreciation Week is many months away, but my hope is, that the next time you are feeling some disconnect with our world, that you step back and truly think about your child's teacher. Think about all the good they bring to your child's life and then step back and say, “What can I do to assist my child's teacher to ensure that every day is as great a day for the teacher, as it is for my child?” “It takes a village to raise a child” and we all live in the same village.

Seems like an odd topic I know right before Thanksgiving, but between conferences and a comment a parent made to me at the Holiday Party & Raffle in regard to being thankful for St. Mary, it does all go together. This is a time in our lives that we truly do step back for a few moments and give thanks for all that we have. We focus on those we love that we are so very thankful for in our lives and the many blessings that God has bestowed upon us. I mentioned to that person that I am surrounded by colleagues from both private and public schools and I continually walk away from meetings so thankful to be going back to St. Mary,

where life seems pretty simple compared to the rest of the world. It is not always easy, it is at times “thankless” as they say, but when I truly take the time to look beyond the minor moments of disconnect; it is a place where there is great sense of our Catholic faith, love, caring, compassion, understanding, sympathy, discipline/structure, honesty that can tug at heartstrings, and ultimately, a strong work ethic that strives to ensure we do our very best. Fr. Mike always says, “You live your life the best you can, by the light that you have.” That is all any of us can truly do. If we all remember that, we will remember that at St. Mary we are all doing our very best to work together to ensure “our” children become the “best version” of themselves.

We are all very blessed. Life is not easy and brings forth many challenges, but this Thanksgiving take the time to set those challenges aside, focus on the blessings right before you. You will find that this time of reflection will give you greater strength to deal with any challenges that come your way. Your blessings are always there, but sometimes they are harder see.

I leave you today with a special Thanksgiving prayer that if you happen to be looking for one for your grace before your meal, this one might just fit:

*Our Father in Heaven,
We give thanks for the pleasure
Of gathering together for this occasion.
We give thanks for this food
Prepared by loving hands.
We give thanks for life,
The freedom to enjoy it all
And all our abundant blessings.
As we partake of this food,
We pray for health and strength
To carry on and try to live as You would have us.
This we ask in the name of Christ our Lord,
Amen*

May grace and blessings be in your path,
Maureen Miscavish



Calling all Artists! YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST

This is a fun contest open to all students! Pictures should be drawn with black marker on 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of white paper. Student's name is to be printed in pencil on back. Deadline is Monday, November 26th. The chosen cover will receive a \$25 Gift card. See the flyer coming home for more details.



Box Tops for Education Thanksgiving Challenge

The classroom with the most Box Tops turned in by Tuesday, December 11th will receive a free jeans day. Be sure to include the student & teacher's name on your collection sheet. Box Tops can be taped or glued to the collection sheet (no staples). Bonus coupons should not be attached to collection sheet. **Please make sure all Box Tops sent in have not expired.**



The Weather is Changing!

Students should be dressed to stay warm as they wait outside in the morning, go outside for recess, or walk to or from St. Peter. **Students are not allowed to remain indoors during recess without a doctor's note.**

(Please be sure all coats, sweaters, and sweatshirts have your child's name on them. This is the time of year that our Lost & Found trunk fills up!)

Only St. Mary uniform sweaters and logo uniform sweatshirts may be worn in classrooms and at church. Spirit wear or athletic wear are not allowed.

There will be no Pink Note Thanksgiving week

Save the Date

- Nov. 19 - 20 ~ Noon Dismissal & Parent Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 21 - 23 ~ No School — Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 1 ~ Jingle for Jesus
- Dec. 2 ~ Altar Server Installation
- Dec. 3—7 ~ Santa Shoppe
- Dec. 7 ~ Progress Reports
- Dec. 7 ~ Gr. 1 & 2 Christmas Pageant
- Dec. 14 ~ Kdg. Christmas Pageant
- Dec. 7 ~ All School Mass @ SMS
- Dec. 18 ~ No Latchkey
- Dec. 19 ~ Noon Dismissal — Latchkey until 6:00 PM
- Dec. 20 —January 1 ~ No School - Christmas Break
- 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



SNOWPILE

The NJHS SNOWPILE Drive for Children's Hospital of Michigan begins on November 26th and runs through December 7th. Please do your part to make these children and their family's Christmas Day brighter. Check your inbox for more information and toy suggestions.



CAFETERIA NEWS

Lunch time volunteers are needed for November 15, 16, 26, & 29. Log in <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foe4ca8a72aa0f58-lunch2> use the password '2union' to submit days you can volunteer. Lunch time is from 10:55 until 1:00. Walk-ins are always welcome.



SCRIP NEWS!

Reminder that Scrip orders **will not** be placed during Thanksgiving week, Nov. 19 — Nov. 23

Please plan ahead and place your orders early in preparation for Christmas. Gift cards make great stocking stuffers! Last Day to place SCRIP order for Christmas is Dec 10th before Noon to be picked up on Dec. 14th. The next order will be placed Jan. 7th.



St. Peter Baptism

St. Peter has scheduled a special Baptism on Sunday, December 9, for children of Catholic families who have not yet been baptized. The ages for this special day will range in age from toddlers through 13. There is also a class you must attend for this event being held on Tuesday, November 27 @ 6 pm. For further information and to register, please call Sheila Roy at the parish administration bldg. at 586-468-4578.

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.



**Support the Student Council's St. Peter Pantry
St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive
November 5 - 16**

The St. Mary Student Council is partnering with St. Peter St. Vincent de Paul Society to provide food for families in need. Our goal is to donate the items that the pantry is in need of at this time.

Students from each grade are invited to donate the following items:

- Preschool - pork & beans
- Kindergarten - canned tuna
- First Grade - canned vegetables
- Second Grade - canned chicken
- Third Grade - canned fruit
- Fourth Grade - mac & cheese
- Fifth Grade - pasta sauce
- Sixth Grade - instant potatoes
- Seventh Grade - jelly or jam
- Eighth Grade - canned yams

The Grade with the most points at the end of the food drive wins a prize. Keep sending in your used **clean, dry** grocery bags to help them out as well!

**St. Peter Parish
ROCK Youth Group News**

Jingle for Jesus

Jingle for Jesus Walk & Blanket making is on Saturday, December 1. See Church Bulletin for more information.

**ROCK Youth Ministry
Winter Retreat**

Calling all 6-8 grade students for our Winter Retreat! Join us January 25-27, 2019 at Springhill Camps. Springhill Camp is located in Ewart, MI about 2 hours west of here. Students will spend time with other middle school students learning about Jesus from an amazing speaker and small group discussions. There will also be time to enjoy the tubing hill, zipline course, horseback riding, along with many other activities. A live band will also be there for entertainment and we will attend Mass on Sunday morning at the local Catholic Church! Check www.rockyouthmin.weebly.com for permission slips and more information or contact Tori Kearney at (586) 468-4578 or stpeteryouthmin@gmail.com

Weekly Highlights

Thursday, Nov. 15

SVdP Food Drive Continues
CSI Forensics 3:10-4:00
Newspaper Club 3:10-4:00
NJHS Tutoring Team B 3:10-4:00

Friday, Nov. 16

Mass at St. Peter Gr. 1-8
followed by Honors
SVdP Food Drive Last Day
Gr. 1 & 2 Thanksgiving Feast

Saturday, Nov. 17

High School Placement Test
Children's Choir 4:00 Mass

Monday, Nov. 19

Noon Dismissal
No Mass
Cutting Edge Athletics 4yr. Pre,
Kdg, & Azar
Parent Teacher Conferences
1:00-4:30 & 5:30-8:00
Backpack available until 6:00
No Athletics

Tuesday, Nov. 20

Noon Dismissal
Cutting Edge Athletics 3yr. Pre,
Gr. 2, & Child
Thanksgiving Prayer Service 11:30
Kindergarten Feast
Parent Teacher Conferences
1:00-4:30 & 5:30-8:00
Backpack available until 6:00

Wednesday, Nov. 21

No School
Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, Nov. 22

No School
Thanksgiving Break
Friday, Nov. 23
No School
Thanksgiving Break

Monday, Nov. 26

Mass at SMS Gr. 5-8 8:15 AM
Project Snowpile Begins
Preschool Hearing & Vision Screening
Year Book Cover Contest Due
Chess Club Gr. 4 3:10-4:00
Ecology Club 3:10-4:00

Tuesday, Nov. 27

Bagel Day
Project Snowpile Continues
Preschool Hearing & Vision Screening
Little Mountaineers Session #2 12:30-2:00
Gr. 5-8 Chess Club 3:10-4:00
Children's Choir 3:10-4:00

Wednesday, Nov. 28

Mass at SMS Gr. 1-4 8:15 AM
Project Snowpile Continues
Preschool Hearing & Vision Screening
NJHS Meeting 3:10-4:00

Coming Home

Pink Note
Year Book Cover Contest
Holiday Party Jeans Day Pass - for those
that donated

E-mailed Home

NJHS Snowpile Information
Santa Sign Up Genius
Exposition of Sacred Relics

St. Peter Catholic Church



Out of the Past, THE FUTURE



E. PRAETERITIS FUTURA