



ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Pink Note

February 6, 2019

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From the Desk of Mrs. Miscavish

Dear Parents:

Thanks for all your patience during the last three weeks of snow, cold, & ice days! As I mentioned before, calling a day off school is a very tricky thing to do. We do not follow public schools, because in all due respect to them, their decision process sometimes does not have any rhyme or reason, especially as they come close to or go over their allotted days. Last Tuesday was a tough call and quite honestly I have not had one that tricky in a while. Though it may sound crazy, but that morning called for a trip down Romeo Plank to the roundabouts by Chippewa Valley High School; truth be told I made that ride in my PJ's to make that decision. I did have boots on, so no driving in slippers! Those roads were plowed, salted and the people along M-59 were going too fast like they always do. Our families do come from near & far – so it is a tough call to make when you have people who live 2 minutes from school and people who live 45 minutes from school. I never expected to see one of our car door openers last Tuesday, her comment to me, “All I had to do is get through the snowdrifts on the dirt road to the main road and it was smooth sailing all the way here.” Now that same person, did not care what call I was making for Wednesday, ice and dirt roads are a whole different story, so there was no way she was “bahaaing” through the ice on any road to get here! In the end, no matter what call I make, you ultimately have to make the right call for your family. Please know that none of us will ever think twice when you opt not to tackle the weather to come to school, whatever you feel is best for your family during inclement weather, is what is best.

Speaking of Mass, you may have noticed the last time we were there a few subtle changes once Mass actually began – though my hope is that you did not! The St. Peter Leadership Team has put together a special task force that has begun the process of changing the way the church is secured during all Masses. Weekend Mass is a whole different situation than our Friday Mass and that process involves a great deal of planning, open dialogue with experts in the field of law enforcement and public safety, experts on Church law, and so on. That process will play out in the proper timeline that is needed to “do it right” so that all are welcome to worship and all are safe and secure at the same time. For further information on the parish plan, watch the bulletin, but please give them time!

Weekday Friday Mass is much simpler and will only take a few of us to secure the church once Mass has begun and still allow for individuals running late to join us at Mass. What is important for you to note, if you are running later than 8:15 for Mass, you will need to enter the one door that will remain unlocked off Market Street, also known as Mr. K's door. Backpack parents do not worry, we know when you come in; even those of you who go to school, drop off backpacks and return to St. Peter for Mass & our walk. One of our backpack parents will watch for you and our Sacristan will watch as well! I have my own special person to be waiting for at my door. It is a sad day that we even have to think about this kind of thing, but it is always better to be safe than sorry! In truth, no one should really skip a beat with this new process.

Our walk back continues to work well, we continue to average less than 2 people who pass us on the street and besides Gratiot, on average, less than 3 cars pass us on Pine & Macomb who are not parishioners or parents. The light at North Ave/S. Gratiot continues to run on St. Mary time; thanks to those in Lansing who granted us that time

in 2013. We continue to have no right turn traffic at S. Gratiot/North Ave., because our cones force all vehicles to take the New St. “short-cut” to S. Gratiot. That includes the Macomb County Sheriff’s vehicle who comes that way almost every Friday morning. Though I do not know the average # of cars at Grand Ave., I do know it is a low number. As always, no matter how well something may be going, it is always wise to be looking for ways to improve when needed.

Overall at St. Mary, with the addition of the new gym and 6 new doors, we now have a total of 40 surveillance cameras that are on 24/7 indoors and out! We have a brand new state-of-the-art buzzer/camera system on our new gym & SMS Backpack door. SMS Backpacks actually now has a dual monitor system for the exterior door and then the interior door. There is a new person in charge of COMTEC, Macomb County’s Communication and Technology Center and we will be meeting with him shortly to link our camera system to the county if all goes as planned! We may have to back track a little due to the new person, but it should still be a quick process either way. I am just waiting for the scoreboards to go up, that should be tomorrow, and then we will go from there! There is a great deal that goes on to keep us all safe, hopefully never to be needed, but in place just in case!

Congratulations to our Chess Club on doing an excellent job at the Catholic League Chess Competition a few weeks back! Our team came in 5th overall! We had three students who place in the top 15 out of 51 contestants. Congratulations to Brekin Osegueda, 7th, Troy Smith, 12th, and Eric Kujawa who came in 13th. Brekin gets extra “kudos” for being a half a point away from placing 1st overall in the K-5 Division!

A special Thank You to Ashley Signorelli and all her volunteers on running a terrific Carnival last Friday night. Though I could not be in attendance due my son’s hockey game, I did hear it was a huge success and rave reviews from all who attended. Thank you for coming out and supporting the efforts of PAC and building our school community. A special Thank You as well to our teaching staff and Mr. K. who were an important part of the festivities!

Catholic Schools Week did not turn out the way any of us wanted, but we will try to make the most of it throughout the month of February. It is our hope that De La Salle will be able to reschedule, but that is yet TBD. We have the following special events coming up:

- Tuesday, Feb. 12th – Wacky Hair & Mix-match Day
- Thursday, Feb. 14th – Red, Pink & White \$1.00 Jeans Day to support our parish Vacation Bible School program.
- Thursday, February 21 – Super Hero, Star Wars & Disney Villain Day!

The sign-up link for Parent-Teacher Conferences has hopefully reached you by now. I apologize for our technical difficulties, sometimes it works really well with our Gmail and sometimes it does not! If for some reason you did not receive the link, please email Mr. Kowalski and he will assist you. Mr. K’s email is, jkowalski@stmarymtclemens.com. If you are going to be gone during this time, please make sure you schedule an appointment to meet with your children’s teacher. Not to mention, please make sure you let the office know you will be gone! You have two options to notify us, you can leave a message on the attendance phone line or you can email us at attendance@stmarymtclemens.com. It does not get any easier than that and you can do it in the middle of the night when you are up with that sick child!

Congratulations to Joey & Nicholas Vaughn who both qualified for a very prestigious swim meet held at IUPUI, Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis, prior to the polar vortex! Joey was the only 12 year-old whose qualifying time was fastest enough to participate in the 13 & older mile race!

There is only a very short window this year to purchase a Candy Gram. That information is coming home today, so please do not delay in ordering your candy grams this year. Next Monday, February 11th is the last day to send in your order!

Thank you to everyone who took the time to answer the few short questions on the Archdiocese of Detroit's Catholic School's survey. The survey was extended to February 15th, so you still have time! Our 5th – 8th graders will also be taking this survey during Computer class this week.

As I went to bed checking the weather last night, because God forbid I go to bed without checking the weather, I noticed a headline on the flu. There are 23 states as of last Friday reporting cases of the flu at the highest level on the CDC scale. The CDC has 11 levels on their flu scale, from High, Moderate, Low, Minimal, & Insufficient Data. There are 45 states that are in one of the three levels of high, reporting "wide spread" flu activity. In Alabama, two school districts have closed due to the flu epidemic affecting too many students and staff to keep their doors open. Our state is currently reporting at the top of the low level. So we have either dodged the flu or this is the calm before the storm! I tell you all of this for one reason, please, please, please abide by the 24 hour fever free rule – fever free without Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen in their system. I know it is hard, especially with the added snow/cold/ice days this month. Please be mindful that children share their school supplies, forget to wash their hands & cough into their sleeves, have an urge to touch everything, and sometimes they think it is funny to breath in someone's face, why – who knows, but they do! Be mindful as well that within our school are children who have compromised immune systems due to health conditions; who getting the flu means much more than laying on the couch at home, it means possible hospitalization because the flu is not just the flu in their world.

I understand this is not 100% avoidable, we had a young girl in the office just the other day who was very sick and I know her parents, and I know they would never send her to school sick, sometimes it just happens. Yet I also know, that way too many children end up in the office and the first words out of their mouth, "My mom gave me some medicine this morning and said if I didn't feel better to come down to the office and call her to go home." That scenario is the scenario that gets everyone else sick. By the time that child ends up with us, they have touched their locker and all their neighbors around their locker, their coat might be next to someone's if they share a locker, they have touched the door knob on both sides of the door, sharpened their pencil, borrowed someone's crayon, Sharpie or pen, used the Smart Board pen, passed out papers or books for the teacher, drank from the drinking fountain, gone to the bathroom and touched everything in there, gone to a Special, where 3 or 4 other classes will go that same day, and so on... You get my point, it is so much better for all our students and staff for a sick child to miss a few days of school than to spread germs that can potentially make others just as sick or worse. Thank you for taking this seriously and doing the right thing, so that we can do our very best to keep the flu and everything else in the low to minimal range on the CDC's scale. It takes a village to keep the village illness free!

On the weekend of Winter Break we will once again participate in Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Great Backyard Bird Count. Watch your inbox for the information and the data collection sheet. This year, Belle Isle will be hosting a special event to count birds on the island.

Unfortunately, this event is from 9 – 11 on Friday, when we have to be in school, but the flier is very informative either way. I am always amazed at the number of families who have never been to Belle Isle, it is a wonderful place and such an important part of the history of the City of Detroit. This just might be the perfect opportunity to go explore the island and take advantage of seeing birds that live along the waterfront. To quote the Michigan DNR, “This time of year, as long as the Detroit River isn’t completely frozen, large rafts of redheads, canvasbacks and scaup can be found on the river, along with buffleheads, common goldeneye, horned grebes and an occasional scoter.” Check out a bird field guide from the library because who even knows what those birds look like, well besides Mr. Pierce! The island as you know is now a State park, so your Recreation Pass on your license tab will get you in free. If you do not participate in getting the pass annually, the fee to get in is only \$11.00 and worth every penny! Why not make a day of it and visit the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, the Belle Isle Aquarium, the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, and the Nature Center. No trip to Belle Isle is complete without checking out the James Scott Memorial Fountain, with or without water, it is always a sight to behold! Not to mention, pack the ice skates, well maybe they don’t let you ice skate on the canals anymore! Pack them anyway and if there is no place to skate, head down Jefferson to end the day skating at Campus Martius Park! All of that sounds way more fun than looking out your window in your backyard to see if anything happens to fly by!

May grace and blessings be in your path,
Maureen Miscavish



Candy Gram

Say “Happy Valentines Day” to friends or teachers with a Ring Pop Candy Gram. Look for the flyer coming home and in your inbox. They are 50 cents each. Candy Gram and payment are due by February 11th.



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
February 9 & 23, March 23,
April 6 & 27

Check the flyer that was emailed 1-3-19 for more information.



Box Tops for Education Challenge

A new Box Tops for Education Challenge is beginning!! Look for the Hat & Mittens collection sheet coming home today. The classroom with the most Box Tops turned in by Thursday, February 28th 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.



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 one does a little, we can make a big difference!



ShopWithScrip®

Powered by Great Lakes Scrip Center

Beginning January 1, 2019, your family Scrip distribution will be split 75/25 between your child's tuition account and St. Mary School Scholarship Fund. The remaining payout dates for the 2018-2019 school year are the weeks of March 4 and June 10. There will be no Scrip the week of Winter Break, February 18-22.

If you are not currently participating in Scrip and are interested in signing up, please contact Sherry Dempsey for a registration packet at sdempsey@stmarymtclemons.com, or call the school office.

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/>

Used Grocery Bags



St. Vincent DePaul can always use **clean, dry** grocery bags. This is another way St. Mary families can recycle and reuse! Bags can be dropped off at the school office.



Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2019

January 27 - February 2

#CSW19

February 12—Wacky Hair & Mix Match Day

February 21—Super Hero, Star Wars & Disney Character Day

Be sure to check the Catholic school Week Attire Rules & Regulations that was sent home January 25th.

Mark your Calendar Electronic Recycling

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



Basketball

Come cheer on our Mountaineers on Saturday, February 9th in our St. Mary Gym.

10:15	6B1	vs	Kieran 1
11:30	6B2	vs	St. Isaac 2
12:45	6G1	vs	St. Isaac 1
2:00	6G2	vs	St. Isaac 2
3:15	8B2	vs	St. Isaac 2
4:30	8B1	vs	St. Isaac 1

CAFETERIA NEWS



Lunch time volunteers are needed on February 7, 8, 13, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27 & 28. Please log in:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4ca8a72aa0f58-lunch2>

Walk-ins are always welcome.



Ski Club

March 1st will be the last Friday for Ski Club.

TGA Golf Classes

Look for information coming home today for your child to learn to Golf. For more information and to Sign up go to <http://playtga.com/semichigan/>

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 be sure to notify the school office at 586-468-4570 before 9:00 am when your child is going to be late or absent. You have a choice of ways to notify us, either choose the 24 hr. attendance line option by phone or email:

attendance@stmarymtclemens.com

*You may email the teacher, but you **MUST** notify the office.*

Save the Date

Feb. 14 & 15 ~ Noon Dismissal—
Conferences
Feb. 18-19 ~ No School - Winter Break
Feb. 22 ~ Progress Reports
Feb. 24 ~ Blessing of the New Gym
& Daddy Daughter Dance
Mar. 6 ~ All School Mass @ St. Peter
—Ash Wednesday
Mar. 8 ~ No School —Teacher PD
—Skate Night
Mar. 21 ~ Pierce 1st Reconciliation
& Reception
Mar. 22 ~ Sulek 1st Reconciliation
& Reception
March 22 ~ End of 3rd Quarter
Mar. 24 ~ Open House for Current
Families & E-cycling
April 4 ~ Spring Concert
April 5 ~ No School
April 18-28 ~ No School -Easter Break

St. Peter Rock Middle School Youth Group

The Youth Group Middle School meeting is this Sunday, February 10th. 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!

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

Weekly Highlights

Thursday, Feb. 7

Gr. 6 DARE
Reconciliation—Upchurch
NJHS Tutoring Team B 3:10-4:00
Advanced Readers Club 3:10-4:00

Friday, Feb. 8

Mass at St. Peter Gr. 1-8
Reconciliation— Falk

Saturday, Feb. 9

Children's Choir 4:00 Mass
Dynamic Parish Bible Study

Sunday, Feb. 10

ROCK MS Meeting Gr. 6-8 6:00 PM

Monday, Feb. 11

Mass at Union Gr. 5-8
Last day to purchase Candy Gram
Chess Club Gr. 4 3:10-4:00
Student Council Meeting 3:10-4:00

Tuesday, Feb. 12

Bagel Day
Wacky Hair—Mix Match
Little Mountaineers 12:30-2:00
Chess Club Gr. 5-8 3:10-4:00
Children's Choir 3:10-4:00

Wednesday, Feb. 13

No Mass at Union
Gr. 1 Charlotte's Web

Coming Home

Pink Note
TGA Golf
Box Tops for Education Collection Sheet
Valentine Candy Gram

E-mailed Home

AOD Questionnaire
Crocker House Etiquette Class
Valentine Candy Gram
St. Mary Summer Camp Information