



# Saint Mary Catholic School

January 2010

Dear Parents:

I hope everyone had a very blessed Christmas and a very relaxing two week break! For me, it was a beautiful time to reflect on my many blessings and to spend time with my family.

I am sure everyone is now re-charged and ready to launch into the new year! January is always a busy month with preparations for Catholic Schools Week. Most students will refer to CSW as the best week of the year. Many of the planned activities are rooted in St. Mary tradition...the Pancake Breakfast and the Talent Show. It is also a time to celebrate that our students are receiving a faith-based education that not only challenges and prepares them academically but also guides them on their faith journeys through prayer and service to others. Please make every effort to be part of the many activities we have planned for this year's Catholic Schools Week.

## **CELEBRATING 135 YEARS**

Mark your calendars for Catholic Schools Week, January 30 through February 5, 2010. The theme of CSW this year is *St. Mary Catholic School: Celebrating 135 Years*. A schedule of activities is attached.

## **TEACHERS SAY THANK YOU**

As we begin our annual observance of Catholic Schools Week, **the teachers and staff** would like to **acknowledge** the efforts of our **volunteers** who have

helped us in our mission to provide high-quality, faith-based education to our students. All volunteers are cordially invited to attend the "Teachers Say Thank You" Volunteer Appreciation Reception on Tuesday, February 2, from 8:15 to 9:00 A.M. The teachers are providing refreshments and students will be providing some entertainment. Please see the attached invitation.

## **CAREER DAY**

On Friday, February 5, students will learn about many various careers, thanks to the parents who have volunteered their time to participate in Career Day. Plans are still being finalized. If you are interested in sharing your career and have not volunteered, please call the office by Friday, January 8.

## **PRINCIPAL FOR THE DAY**

A raffle for *Principal for the Day* will be held during Catholic Schools Week. All proceeds will benefit Saint Mary Catholic School. The winner must be a current St. Mary Catholic School student. The winner will enjoy performing the duties of the Principal from 8:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. and accompanying Father Collin, Mrs. McDermott, and a friend in a limousine to Nick's Airport Inn for lunch. The friend may be any current St. Mary Catholic School student the winner wishes to choose. Tickets are 1 for \$1, 3 for \$2.00, or 10 for \$5.00. The winning ticket will be drawn on Friday, February 5. The winner will be Principal for the Day on a school day in May. Tickets will be sold during break beginning January 19. Tickets will also be sold during the Pancake Breakfast and the lunch shifts on Parent Visitation Day and

Grandparent Day. Special thanks is extended to the Dillard family for supplying the limousine and the Giannaris family for sponsoring lunch at Nick's Airport Inn.

#### **PARENT VISITATION DAY**

Parent Visitation Day is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Parents are encouraged not to bring preschoolers with them when visiting the classrooms. However, we understand for some parents the only option is to bring younger children. If this is the case, then please be respectful to the other parents, the students, and the teachers by not allowing your children to be a disruption. Preschoolers must remain with a parent at all times and not be allowed to wander around in the classroom. Children who are making noise or crying should be removed from the classroom immediately. Parent Visitation is an opportunity for parents to observe their school age children in the classroom setting. We want to do our best to preserve a pleasant learning environment in each of the classrooms.

#### **MARYLAND THEATER PERFORMANCE**

Unfortunately, the snowfall caused the cancellation of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra's Christmas Show in which our SMCS Chorus was scheduled to perform. Our chorus has been extended the invitation to perform next year. Much appreciation should be given to Mrs. Pam Miller and the members of our SMCS chorus for the time, effort, and talent exerted during the last few months to prepare for the performance. We do look forward to next year's show!

#### **CHRISTMAS SHOWS**

Thank you is extended to the students, teachers, and Mrs. Miller for the fabulous Christmas shows we experienced in December. The true meaning of Christmas was shown in the nativity story of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as told in each of the shows. Each year the reasons we make sacrifices as parents to ensure that our children receive a Catholic education are reinforced when we are able to come together as a school community and listen to our children give glory to God with their voices. We also say "Merry Christmas," not "happy holidays."

#### **LAS POSADAS CELEBRATION**

The Mexican tradition that reenacts Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem was shared with SMCS students by our fourth graders through their Spanish classes. On Tuesday, December 15, fourth graders processed through the school acting out how Mary and Joseph asked for "posada" at the inns and houses in Bethlehem. Thank you is extended to Ms. Fleischer and the fourth graders. The cast was as follows:

Mary: Chloe Huntsberry

Joseph: Jared Semler

Angel: Emma Shearer

Star: Maria Mir

Drummers: Charlotte Caruso

Jennifer Elbin

Innkeeper 1: Nicholas Eberhart

Innkeeper 2: Allyson Goetz

Innkeeper 3: David Hagelberg

Innkeeper 4: Isabel Cortina

Innkeeper 5: Kyle Haynes

Narrator 1: Farene Shahid

Narrator 2: Maura Hevey

Narrator 3: Everest Shives

Translator 1: Seamus Murray  
Translator 2: Julianna Swarner  
Translator 3: Katherine Alexander  
Townspople: Danielle Wells  
Eric Oh  
Shepherds: Helen Summerfelt  
Georgia Giannaris  
Kings: Nader Fawaz  
Dalton Blundell  
Colin O'Hanlon

### **SECOND TRIMESTER INTERIMS**

Interims and deficiency notices for the second marking period will be sent home with students on Tuesday, January 19. The second trimester will end on February 26.

### **RE-REGISTRATION PACKETS**

Information concerning re-registration for the 2009-2010 school year will be sent home the week of January 11.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

### **Academic Excellence**

The following students have excelled academically during the First Trimester of the 2008-2009 school year at St. Mary Catholic School. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

### **High Academic Honors**

Elizabeth Balog, Tyler Caruso, Isabel Divinagracia, Morgan Ferguson, Taylor James, Patrick Jones, Ellen Joliet, Eva Kuehler, Madison Kutzera, Matthew McDermott, Emma Moss, Kayla Peterson, Leah Peterson, Emily Ward, Iqra Waseem, Megan Churchey, Kathryn Dillard, Michael Ewing, Ryan Hackett, Daaniel Iqbal, Chase Landaker, Meghan Lynch, Lauren Rappaport, Connor Caruso, Louise Dickinson, Adam Fisher, Tyler Gilks, Nathan Hammer, Annemarie Hilmoie, Jason Marinelli, Patrick Sacchet, Ethan Spicher,

Mackenzie Stockslager

### **Academic Honors**

Anthony Bracken, Giselle Garnett, Drew Holderby, Nicole Miller, Sydney Quantock, Ozair Waseem, Jonathan Castell, Morgan Hilker, Fatima Pasha, Phillip Reiter, Niklas Steiner, Yusra Ahmed, Olivia Balog, Taylor Blenckstone, Maitlin Curtin, Ian Ferguson, Maria Giannaris, Hollis Gigeous, Hannah Haley, Kaitlyn Hevey, Paige Kutzera, Claire Murray, Lydia Radley, Colin Sappenfield, John Theis

### **Good S.A.M.s**

I want to congratulate our **Good S.A.M.s** for December: Ashley Kenny, Owen O'Connor, Rocco Barbon, Madison Ryan, Emily Concovia, Benjamin Byers, Nader Fawaz, Rebecca Mason, Annemarie Hilmoie, Gregory Oh, Hanna Miller, Iqra Waseem, and Leah Peterson. **Thanks for your Service, Attitude, and Manners!**

## **HSA News**

### **PIXIE SHOP**

Many thanks is extended to Susan Menard and Rhonda O'Malley for coordinating this year's Pixie Shop. Our students certainly enjoyed shopping for gifts for the special people on their lists. Many thanks to all the parent elves for helping our students select just the right gift!

### **SCRIP**

During the first phase of SCRIP (April-November), St. Mary families saved close to \$20,000 in tuition by participating in SCRIP. SCRIP dates for this month are January 11 and 25.

#### **BAKE SALES**

Fourth grade will hold a bake sale on January 13.

#### **SOCIAL HOUR**

Middle School Social Hour will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 on January 8 and 15.

#### **Phase I Raffle Ticket Fundraiser**

Congratulations to the following December winners:

- (\$50) Week 1: Mike Tedeschi
- (\$50) Week 2: Christina Sherman
- (\$50) Week 3: Susan Delosier
- (\$100) Week 4: Kathy Rawe

#### **Phase II Raffle Ticket Fundraiser**

Phase II raffle ticket stubs and payment were due by December 18. If you have not returned your payment, please do so by January 8 to avoid the \$10 late fee.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS**

#### **TALENT SHOW**

The Student Council will be hosting a talent show during Catholic Schools Week. Students in grades four through eight are encouraged to participate. Homeroom representatives have entry forms that participants must complete and return to Mrs. Forsythe by Friday, January 9. Rehearsals will be January 20 and 27, from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M. in the cafeteria. Only students who are in the Talent Show are permitted to stay for the rehearsals.

#### **TAG DAY**

Any student who wears his/her school uniform to Church (and/or to a public place such as the mall) on Saturday, January 24 or Sunday, January 25 may come out of uniform for Student

Appreciation Day on Thursday, February 3.

#### **ST. MARY STUDENTS MAKE CHRISTMAS BRIGHTER**

For over twenty years the St. Mary Catholic School Student Council has participated in the Salvation Army Christmas Drive programs. This year St. Mary students adopted eight needy families through the *Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family* program. By participating in the read-a-thon and by collecting generous contributions from St. Mary School families, the students raised \$2,626, enabling them to purchase presents and grocery gift cards for the eight families. Thanks to the effort of our students and the generosity of our school families, many families through the Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family program had a much brighter Christmas. The Student Council would like to thank Mr. Sponaugle for providing a truck to transport the gifts to the Salvation Army. Thank you Mr. Sponaugle, Mrs. Dillard, Mrs. Joliet, and Mrs. Forsythe, for helping with the delivery.

#### **DECEMBER TAG DAY**

Students who contributed to the Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family were invited to come out of uniform on December 19. The students wore many festive Christmas hats and colors.

#### **JANUARY TAG DAY**

The Student Council will be sponsoring a TAG DAY on January 15 to benefit *Holly Place*. A flyer with a list of items needed by the residents is forthcoming. The theme of the tag day is Sports Casual.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE**

The Student Council is hosting a "Winter Dance" on Friday, January 15, from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. The dress code for the evening as voted by the student council is "nice dress." That means no jeans or sneakers. Boys must wear nice slacks and a shirt with a collar. Girls may wear either nice slacks or an appropriate dress/skirt. No dresses with spaghetti straps, thin straps, or dresses that are strapless may be worn without a shrug, jacket, or cover-up. No severely tight tops or see through blouses may be worn. Dresses that are too low-cut or too short may not be worn. The key is modesty. Parents, please HELP your daughter select an appropriate dress for a dance being held at a Catholic school. Students who arrive at the dance without the appropriate attire will not be admitted. Tickets will go on sale next week. The cost is \$4 if purchased in advance or \$5 if bought at the door.

### **OTHER NEWSWORTHY ITEMS**

#### **WELCOME BACK**

St. Mary Catholic School welcomes back Nicholas Judge to fifth grade.

#### **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

Thanks to Sister Corda and all the families who send in their box tops, St. Mary Catholic School received a check for \$924.00. We are especially grateful to Sister Corda for all the time and effort she puts into this fundraiser. Please keep sending in your box tops!

#### **PEP RALLY**

There will be a pep rally on January 14, at 2:00 P.M. to acknowledge our 2009-2010 basketball teams.

### **CALENDAR CHANGE**

There will be school on Monday, March 15. Instead, school will be closed on Monday, March 8, so that teachers can attend technology workshops in Baltimore.

### **CONFIRMATION REMINDER**

Eighth graders who are members of St. Mary Parish are reminded that Confirmation classes will be held on February 4, 11, 18, and 25, from 6:45 to 9 P.M. in Fatima Hall. (Snow date is March 4.) Attendance is mandatory.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

St. Mary Catholic School follows the announcement for Washington County Public Schools. Please listen to your local radio stations or NBC25 for possible school cancellations, late openings, or early dismissals.

**If there is a two-hour delay due to inclement weather on February 5, the 12:30 dismissal will be cancelled. Students will report to school two hours late and will be dismissed at 2:55. The Teacher Appreciation Luncheon will be re-scheduled.**

### **FAMILY LIFE SUPPLEMENTS**

Many families returned the family life supplements after using them at home. Thank you. Returned supplements will be used again next year and will cut down on the number we will have to order for next year. If you still wish to return your supplement, just send it in with your child. (Every little savings is a big help!)

### **STAND TRAINING**

In July of 2007 the Archdiocese of Baltimore updated the procedures for volunteering in schools. "If a volunteer

will have *Substantial Contact* with children, then the following must be completed before he/she begins to serve in the Archdiocese of Baltimore:

1. Application for Volunteer Service completed;
2. Names of references provided and checked;
3. VolunteerSelect Criminal Screening completed; and
4. Training received regarding child abuse and protection of children, including STAND video.”

If you have a Volunteer Compliance Card from another parish and want to be a regular volunteer at St. Mary Catholic School, you must complete the Application for Service, including the reference section. **The STAND training is now available online.** A complete packet including directions for the online training is available in the school office or visit our website. On the Families Tab, select STAND.

#### **IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Please remember Janet Duffy (great-grandmother of Philip and Stephen Reiter) who passed away this past month. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

As always, I ask for your prayers to the Holy Spirit to give me the guidance and wisdom needed to serve as principal of St. Mary Catholic School.

May God Bless You!

Patricia A. McDermott