



Saint Mary Catholic School

October 2009

Dear Parents:

As a Catholic school community, each year we dedicate the month of October to the Most Holy Rosary. The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7th. During October we honor the Blessed Mother for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. As a school we start each day during the month with a decade of the Rosary.

Keeping in mind how much our Lord loves the prayers of children, Archbishop O'Brien has requested that our students offer a decade of the Rosary each day during the week of October 5, for the following intentions for life:

October 5: For all pre-born babies and their families;

October 6: That those who are ill or disabled will receive respect, love, and comfort from everyone around them—because each person is made in the image of God;

October 7: For the elderly, that they will be treated with love, compassion, and respect, and that they will have trust in God's care for them;

October 8: For those who have not always acted in ways that respect God's plan for life and love, that they will find forgiveness and hope through reconciliation with God; and

October 9: For families to model God's pure and unconditional love.

October is Respect Life Month.

EMAIL ALERTS

Please sign up for email alerts by going to the Family Tab on the SMCS website and clicking on email alerts.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS

Our October school liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 A.M. on Friday, October 2, 2009. Please join us!

INTERIM REPORTS

Interim reports for the first trimester will be sent home with students on October 9.

PARENT CONFERENCES

The Saint Mary Catholic School teaching staff is truly looking forward to the opportunity to meet with parents to discuss the individual progress of the students on October 12. Conferences provide a wonderful avenue for developing and strengthening the partnership between parents and teachers. This partnership is essential for our students to become the best that they can be. If you are unable to meet with your child's teacher at the scheduled time, please contact the teacher to arrange a time that is convenient. I realize that in today's world, technology such as e-mails and telephone calls replace good old-fashioned talking in person. However, please try to meet with your child's teacher if possible.

Parents should enter through the Primary Doors on conference day.

FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM

As part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Saint Mary Catholic School is required to offer a "Family Life" unit to students in grades K-8. The "Family Life" program will be taught for about two weeks beginning on November 9. Parents will receive their copies of the supplemental materials to be used at home during parent conferences. For parents who are unable to attend parent conferences, the supplemental materials will be sent home with the children in a sealed brown envelope on Tuesday, October 13. The Parent Intent Form should be completed and returned by Tuesday, October 20.

RUMMAGE SALE

If you have never experienced our Fall Rummage Sale, please consider volunteering on the set-up day (September 30) or the actual sale day (October 1). Last year the school profited over \$12,000, thanks to the fall and spring sales. A warm thank you is extended to Mrs. Mary Grove and all the volunteers who return year after year! Students will need to bring their own drink and bag lunch on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

HAIR POLICY

A gentle reminder is being extended to all students that the hair policy on page 16 of the Handbook is to be followed. Teachers will be issuing verbal reminders. Please plan haircuts accordingly.

HALLOWEEN

Halloween is an exciting time for children to dress up and go trick-or-treating. Traditionally, our kindergarten through second grade students are given the opportunity to dress up in school and have a party. Father Collin is in favor of traditions, but he has asked that students choose appropriate costumes. Movie stars, princesses, athletes, book characters, or maybe even saints would be good choices. Witches, goblins, devils, and other ghoulish outfits are not appropriate for a Catholic School. Parents are asked to help their children select costumes that are acceptable and respectful of Father Collin's wishes.

Tuition Rate for St. Mary Parishioners

As everyone is aware, St. Mary Parishioners are given a substantial tuition break for their children who attend St. Mary Catholic School. This year there is a full \$2,000 difference between the St. Mary rate and the actual cost to educate a student. In recent financial meetings with the Church, the concern has been raised that many St. Mary families are not contributing enough (some families not at all) to the weekly Church collections nor contributing to the second collection each month for School Support. The funds for the School Support collection are given directly to the school to help offset the lower tuition rate. Please prayerfully consider increasing your contributions to the Church and especially the School Support collection each month. My concern is that Saint Mary Church parishioners who are not recognized by the Parish to be truly giving to the Church will not be eligible for the lower tuition rate for the 2010-11 school year.

BEFORE- SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM

As a result of the survey, we will not be able to offer a Before-School Care program. Not enough families expressed the need to utilize the program on a regular basis.

CONGRATULATIONS

Good S.A.M.s

I want to congratulate our Good S.A.M.s for September: Logan Flanagan, Merideth Kozal, Nicholas Schmitt, Therese Martin, Norah Cvijanovich, Emma Ortiz, Helen Summerfelt, Jacob Epstein, Patrick Sacchet, Kaitlyn Hevey, Megan Churchey, Emily Ward, and Jennifer Lee. Thanks for your **S**ervice, **A**ttitude, and **M**anners!

JHU TALENTED YOUTH

Many of our seventh and eighth graders are invited to participate in the 2010 CTY Talent Search sponsored by the Johns Hopkins University for Talented Youth. To qualify for the Talent Search, a student must score in the 95th percentile or higher on a reasoning section of a nationally-normed test. The following students scored in the 95th-99th percentile in strategic areas of verbal, math, and/or core totals on the Stanford 10 last spring: Tyler Caruso, Taylor James, Patrick Jones, Madison Kutzera, Matthew McDermott, Nicole Miller, Emily Ward, Michael Ewing, Ryan Hackett, Daaniel Iqbal, Meghan Lynch, Jacob Menard, and Fatima Pasha. Congratulations, students!

HSA News

BONANZA

Buy your ticket now for the SMCS Bonanza on November 7! A great evening is planned for all adults who attend. Enjoy a night out and help support SMCS!

BAKE SALES

Grade 1AB will have a bake sale on October 7 and grade 7AB will hold a bake sale on October 21.

SOCIAL HOUR

Middle School Social Hour will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 on October 9 and 23.

SCRIP

Last year, St. Mary families saved over \$25,000 in tuition by participating in SCRIP. SCRIP dates for this month are October 5 and 19.

UNO's Restaurant Night

Eat at Uno's on October 12 and HSA will receive a portion of the proceeds from your bill!

Martins A⁺ Rewards and Food Lion Shop & Save

Please sign up for these two great programs that generate money and cost nothing to participate! Once you register, all you need to do is shop and swipe your *BONUS* or *MVP* card every time you shop.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

HOMEROOM REPRESENTATIVES

Homeroom representatives for this year's student council are Danielle Wells, Nader Fawaz, Jennifer Elbin, Kyle Haynes, Michael Cosey, Alden Grosh, Brooks Grosh, William Jones, Mackenzie Stockslager, Maria Giannaris, Justin Semler, Maitlin Curtin, Paige Kutzera, Hollis Gigeous, Louise Dickinson, Angelina Rubino, Ryan Hackett, Amanda Curtin, Philip Reiter, Cierra Quantock, Daanial Iqbal, Kathryn Dillard, Lauren Rappaport, Meghan Churchey, Patrick Jones, Matthew McDermott, Sydney Quantock, Leah Peterson, Madison Kutzera, Giselle Garnett, Jennifer Lee, and Nicole Miller.

SEPTEMBER TAG DAY

The Student Council appreciates the generosity shown by our students and families in donating \$270 to *Support Our Troops* through September's TAG day. Much patriotic spirit was shown through the students' red, white, and blue attire.

OCTOBER TAG DAY

TAG Day is scheduled for Friday, October 23. All proceeds will be donated to *The Contemporary School of the Arts and Gallery, Inc.* on Franklin Street. The theme for the day will be forthcoming.

HEALTH QUESTIONS?

If you have any health-related questions, please contact Ms. Paula Radley at (301) 733-1184, EXT. 104, or by email, radley@stmarycatholicschool.org.

Other Newsworthy Items

CELEBRATING 135 YEARS

In conjunction with the St. Mary Parish Picnic, Saint Mary Catholic School held an Open House on September 20. Many visitors were alumni and enjoyed visiting our school to relive fond

memories. Thank you is extended to Mrs. Miller and her chorus for sharing their wonderful voices with the picnic guests. Danielle Wells, Emma Shearer, Maura Hevey, Julianna Swarner, Alexandra Martin, Ashley Castell, Dalton Sponaule, Abigail Theis, Jimmy Spinnler, Meghan Lynch, Megan Churchey, and Philip Reiter shared their talents.

Task Force on the H1N1

Dr. Valenti appointed Henry Fortier to be the point person in working with the Task Force at the Catholic Center as well as with the other agencies that have been dealing with the H1N1 issue. Ms. Radley and I attended an information meeting last week. An attachment about the protocols we are following at SMCS is attached.

Blue Ribbon Committee

In February 2009, Archbishop O'Brien appointed a Blue Ribbon Committee on Catholic Schools and asked that it develop a strategic plan for Catholic schools by June 2010. As part of this effort, the committee and its staff are holding listening sessions at 10 locations throughout the Archdiocese. In our area a meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick. Please consider attending the meeting.

BOAST

Statewide forum on the [BOAST Maryland Tax Credit](#) will be held **Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Please support this initiative! A flyer is attached.

MEMORY BOOKS

Orders for Memory Books will be taken until October 16. The cost is \$20.00. Ms. Poffenberger does a wonderful job of capturing the memories of the year on film and presenting them on the pages of our memory book. We appreciate her efforts and long hours devoted to creating such a special book. Don't miss the opportunity to reserve your own copy. Few are available to purchase at the end of the year, so remember to send in your payment now.

CHEERLEADING

Girls in grades five through eight who are interested in being part of the cheerleading squad for the 2009-2010 basketball season should have their parents contact Mrs. Beth

Joliet at (301) 797-7210. Practices will be held at school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 3:00 P.M.

SMCS HOODIES

There is still time to order your SMCS hoodie or the special edition 135 Anniversary gym t-shirt. Larger sizes for adults are now available. Please contact Mrs. Milsom if you would like to see samples of sizes.

STORY/CRAFT TIME

Our next story/craft time for 3 to 5 year olds is scheduled for October 21, from 8:30 to 9:30. Please contact Mrs. Milsom if interested.

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.

CONFIRMATION REMINDERS

Eighth grade Confirmation Candidates who are parishioners of St. Mary Catholic Church will have their *Contract of Investiture* on **Sunday, October 18**, at the 9:30 Mass. These students will go on a pilgrimage to McSherrytown on **Monday, November 2**. Students are to meet in the Parish Center at **8:30 A.M.** Students will return at **4:15 P.M.**

SACRAMENTAL NEWS

A Penance Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 15, at 7:00 P.M. for St. Mary Parish parents who have students receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation this school year. Parents and children of the Parish must also attend a First Eucharist meeting on Thursday, November 12, at 7:00 P.M.

ST. MARIA GORETTI HIGH SCHOOL

SHADOW DAYS

Our eighth grade students are invited to shadow a day at St. Maria Goretti High School. Eighth grade parents should contact the Admissions Office at (301) 739-4266, EXT. 132, to schedule a day. Available dates are October 12, 20, and 27, and November 2. The high school is also hosting an Open House on Sunday, October 18. Registration begins at 1:00 P.M., followed by a presentation. Tours will be given after the presentation.

GOOD-BY SUMMER UNIFORMS

Friday, October 9th, is the last day students may wear the optional warm weather uniform. Please refer to page 16 of the Parent/Student Handbook for the Regular Uniform dress code. Special attention should be given to the guidelines regarding shoes. **Sneakers may not be worn with the regular school uniform.**

SCHOOL CLOSING REMINDERS

School will be closed for students on October 12 for Parent Conferences.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember Thomas W. Nooney, Jr. (grandfather of Bridget Nooney) 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 Saint Mary Catholic School.

May God Bless You!

Patricia A. McDermott