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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
St. Mary's Parish School
Week of May 2, 2021



Spring Cleaning—As you know, we don't have a maintenance person at the school so we need to rely on volunteers to do some of the “extra” items needed to be done around the school. Please call the office to let us know you are able to assist us. Thank you!

- A. Mowing the lawn in front of the school.
- B. Sweeping the rocks off the sidewalk on the side of the building.
- C. Removing of rocks off the blacktop.
- D. Trimming of bushes.
- E. School yard lawn: mowing, leveling ground, aerating the lawn.

REMINDER to *parents of Kindergarten and First Graders*: these classes are usually out later in the afternoon, close to the time of dismissal. If you wish to take your child, please know you will need to alert the teacher and then sign your child out at the office.

DRIVERS WILL BE NEEDED: If you would like to drive for end of the year events: 4th grade trip to the mines and to Klemgard Park, please be sure that we have the most updated form for you. If you're not sure, call Debbie in the school office for more details.

Coming out this week is information regarding information regarding **Student Council positions** for fall 2021. There are 8 positions: 4 for officers and 4 for commissioners. Parents be on the lookout for the information.

*St. Mary's School Foundation (whose total goal and focus is the school) is participating in **Idaho Gives**. This event started April 29 and ends May 6th. Please consider supporting this wonderful event for the *benefit of our school*. And/or please pass the information onto your family and friends. Attached is a letter describing this event from Eric Bennet, St. Mary's School Foundation President. Thank you so very much!*

<https://www.idahogives.org/organizations/st-mary-s-school-foundation-endowment-fund>



Congratulations to Gavin Clark and to Jase Izzo, both of Grade 2 who were recently honored for being winners of the Latah County Human Rights Task Force for their participation in the recent Dr. Martin Luther King contest.

The subject of the contest was Health and Wellness as Human Rights. The contest was open to students Grades 2 through 12. The boys received a \$25 gift certificate from BookPeople. Mayor Lambert presented the winners with the certificates.

Reminder: for this year, in which we are experiencing a world-wide pandemic, there have been several documents issued stating procedures that we would be following for the health and safety of all at St. Mary's Parish School. The documents are the following;

- ❖ The St. Mary's Parish School's Response Plan Dealing with Covid-19 was given to each family before school began this year. Attached to that document was a one-page document entitled: "*St. Mary's Parish School Covid-19 Pandemic: Notice and Acknowledgement of Risk Form*" This document was from the Catholic Diocese of Boise and all families at all the Catholic schools of Idaho were required to sign for enrollment/attendance at the school(s).
- ❖ At Christmas, 2020--reminders regarding travel during the Christmas season.
- ❖ February 3, 2021 Revised/updated Covid Plans from Fr. Joe and Administrative Team—sent to all parents and put on the doors of the school.
- ❖ At Spring Break, the School Board sent directives regarding travel procedures for families.

The following are questions which we have recently been asked regarding the school's COVID procedures:

Q. Will Mass on Fridays this year be open for "visitors" to come? And, will Mass return to church this year?

A. Not for this school year. Hopefully, things will return to being more normal in the fall.

Q. Have the procedures regarding the wearing of masks at drop-off/pick-up changed?

A. The procedure as found on page 3 of the St. Mary's Parish School's Response Plan Dealing with Covid-19 is still in effect: "*All who come to St. Mary's Parish School: (students, parents, teachers, staff, visitors, etc.) must wear masks (except children ages 4 and younger) and social distancing is to be observed.*"

Q. What do I do if I have concerns with people when I think they are not following the procedures?

A. It would be better not to confront the person(s). Rather, please direct your concerns to Fr. Joe or Sister Margaret.

Q. Will any of the procedures change before school is out on June 4th?

A. No. As a Catholic school in the Diocese of Idaho, we must follow the directives given to us by our leaders: Bishop Peter Christensen, Pastor/Superintendent Father McDonald; and Public Health Advisors. Please know, we care deeply for all at St. Mary's School. All the procedures we are following in the COVID Plan has as their focus the health, safety and well-being of every person at St. Mary's Parish School.

Hot Lunch + information for the date/day



May 3 through the 7th is teacher/staff appreciation week---we are grateful to be able to teach and be with your children daily—thank you for your trust in us!

Monday, May 3:

Orange Chicken with rice, fruit and salad

Garden Club meets after school today.

Silent Auction ONLINE--- 1st Closing at 9 pm

Idaho Gives for St. Mary's School foundation: **IdahoGives.org**

Tuesday, May 4:

Spaghetti with meatballs, veggie tray, grapes

Silent Auction ONLINE—2nd Closing at 9:00 p.m.

Idaho Gives for St. Mary's School foundation: **IdahoGives.org**

Petitions for Student Council positions open today

Wednesday, May 5:

CHEF FOR A DAY! Carter Hawkins, Seventh Grader, will be cooking hot lunch. Family bid on this item at the 2020 Auction. His recipe is one his grandmother taught him to cook. It's called *Idaho Haystack* and it is made with Fritos, Nalley's Chili, and cheese. Along with this casserole will be melon and strawberries and veggie plate.

Silent Auction ONLINE---3rd. Closing at 9:00 p.m.

Idaho Gives for St. Mary's School foundation: **IdahoGives.org**

Thursday, May 6:

Waffles, patty sausage and oranges

Garden Club meets today after school.

Catholic Women's League is inviting us to their annual Rosary Service for the deceased at 6:30pm in the church. All those who have passed away this last year will be remembered during the recitation of the rosary.

Silent Auction ONLINE---4th Closing at 9:00 p.m.

Last day Idaho Gives for St. Mary's School foundation: **IdahoGives.org**

Friday, May 7:

Baked potatoes with assortment of toppings, veggie tray, apples

Mass at 9:00 with teachers as our prayer leaders...crowning of Mary's statue in front of the school after Mass...see below for more information.

Check "lost and found items" on the table outside of school—to find your child's missing items.

Staff meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Silent Auction ONLINE---5th Closing at 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 8:

Silent Auction ONLINE---6th Closing at 5:45 p.m. including Class projects.....

LIVE AUCTION BEGINS AT 6:00 P.M. –open to all—set up with others in your bubble a watch party for this FUN and first ever event in the 46 years we've been doing auctions!!!!

Other Items to Note:

- ❖ **Family Faith Formation is being offered as a Sunday School Lesson and Activity for children (families too!) for preK-5th grade on May 9th, and 16th. From 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Parish Center.** Sign up by Friday of each weekend by visiting our website or by calling the office at 208-882-4813. Call 208-882-4813 for more information. ALL families are welcome!
- ❖ **OPEN HOUSE this year is different.** Please be the ones to let others know about St. Mary's School. **YOUR family is the best ambassador for the school**, so please do invite your friends to consider St. Mary's for their child's education! We are able to give tours after school hours. Also, teachers are available to speak with prospective families too.
- ❖ **SCHOOL MUSICAL will be happening:** All, under the direction of Nikki Crathorne, are busily putting together a wonderful and creative production of *Mary Poppins*. The plan is that "all will come together" by the end of May.
- ❖ **YEARBOOK:** under the direction of Mrs. Sandy Izzo has *gone to press*. It will be given out before the school year ends on June 4th.
- ❖ *After Mass this Friday, a student that has been randomly chosen, will crown the statue of Mary that is in front of the school. Why are doing this?*



A Catholic ritual, "**May Crowning**", occurs across the world in the month of May. It recognizes Mary as Queen of heaven and earth. There has been a correlation between Mary and the month of May since medieval times. May is considered the season of the beginning of new life. "May Crowning" marks a new spiritual season.

"Note that we as Catholics do **not** view Mary as a goddess, nor do we worship Mary; she is honored or venerated as the mother of Christ, the most important woman in our Catholic faith. Mary is offered through pilgrimages, sacrifices, visits to church, and other customs as our Mother. She gave birth to that Body, making her our own mother; thus, giving birth to us spiritually". (source: orlandocatholicschoolswebsite)

"She is that woman who rejoiced in the presence of God, who treasured everything in her heart, and who let herself be pierced by the sword. Mary is the saint among the saints, blessed above all others. She teaches us the way of holiness and she walks ever at our side. She does not let us remain fallen and at times she takes us into her arms without judging us." —Pope Francis, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, no. 176

Future DATES to note:

- May 10 - 14 MAPS Testing (Grades 2 – 8)
- May 10 to 17 Campaign Week for Student Council positions for fall 2021 begins.....
- May 11 School Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. Thank you to Board members whose term is finished and welcome to new Board members.
- May 13: *Happy Birthday Mrs. Sandy Izzo, Grade 3 teacher*
- May 14 Mass Grades 5/6 are the prayer leaders
Check “lost and found items” on the table outside of school—to find your child’s missing items---LAST chance to do this...any items left will be given to Catholic Women’s League Rummage sale May 21-22
- May 17 Foundation Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- May 18 Speeches by those running for Student Council positions, followed by Voting for the new Student Council for Fall 2021.
- May 20 *Happy Birthday Mrs. Fitt (PS teacher)*
- May 21 Mass Gr. 2
 Ceremony for new officers
Library books are all due ONE week from today.....
- May 21-22:** Rummage Sale led by Catholic Women’s League is scheduled for May 21st and 22nd. Save your gently used items to be dropped off the week prior to the event. Proceeds will be used to benefit others within our community. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, contact Sylvia Brown at (509) 338-1251 or sylbrown@live.com
- May 28 *Happy Birthday Mrs. Swam, Kindergarten teacher*
 Mass Gr. 1
Library books are due TODAY....books not turned in, lender’s family will be charged \$25....please talk with your children so nothing will be charged to you.
- May 31 **NO SCHOOL:** Memorial Day Holiday (**No** Childcare Available)
- Wed. June 2: Klemgard Picnic: whole school attends this long standing tradition (over 45 years)...given the space and being outdoors at Klemgard we hope as many families will join us as possible. The main dish (hot dogs a la Costco) will be provided by the school. Other items families will be asked to donate. More later as this event becomes closer.**
- June 2 *Happy Birthday Mrs. Karen Herrenbruck, Gr. 4 teacher*
- June 3 *Happy Birthday Mrs. Elizabeth McEvoy, Gr. 5 teacher*
- June 4 **Last Day of School**-- the last Mass of the school year at 9:00 a.m. and school ends @ 1pm
- June 6 8th Grade Graduation and Mass at St. Mary’s at 12:30 p.m.
- June 8: Summer program (if we have enough to hold this program and that it is safe to do so for the students) will start...*more details will come soon*