

PRINCIPAL'S PASSAGE

St. Mary's School educates the whole child within a nurturing Catholic Christian environment.

September 5, 2008

Dear Parents,

Wow! What a great first week. I am very proud of the students and staff for the way they have so quickly adjusted to the new school year. After only four days, the students and staff have demonstrated a willingness to learn and adjust to their new classmates and schedules. By next week everyone will have a sense of security with the routines enabling all of us to focus on our top priority....Learning!



As we look to the rest of the school year, I plan on communicating with you via my *Principal's Passage* on the **first** and **third** Fridays of every month. In my newsletters, I will do my best to keep you informed of all the important events that have occurred, as well as those coming up.

Parent Meetings: On September 9th, the teachers will be conducting Parent Meetings. The goal of these meetings is for you to become familiar with the policies, procedures, curriculum, and other related classroom information. I encourage all of you to attend to learn about your son or daughter's classroom and to ask their teacher any questions you may have. To accommodate families with multiple children at St. Mary's, the meetings for some of the classes have been staggered. To make these meetings the most effective and efficient, it is asked that no children attend the meetings.



Kindergartens 6:30 p.m.

1st grades 6:30 p.m.

2th grades 6:30 p.m.

3rd grade 7:15 p.m.

4th grade 7:15 p.m.

5th grade 7:15 p.m.

6th grade 7:15 p.m.

Going Green: This year we are going to make an effort to reduce the amount of paper we send home each week. To do this we need your email address. A majority of the school communications, resources, and information will be electronically sent or hosted on our school website. A reminder will be sent home each Friday as to what updated materials are on our website and it will be up to you to check our site for the information. This transition is going to take some time to implement, but every step we make to reduce the paper and ink will make us better stewards of our earth. For those who do not have access to email or internet, we will continue to provide you with information via the Friday Folder.

PAC Meetings: Our regular PAC Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.; however, due to the parent-teacher meetings taking place at this time, **the September PAC meeting will start one hour later at 8:00 p.m. in the school media center.** Agendas for each meeting will be sent home in the Friday Folders the week before.

Check In Please: For all those who are visiting, volunteering, or picking up students during the school day, please remember to stop by the office to sign in. A parent must sign out students who have to leave the building early. When students return to school from an appointment it is important that parents also check in at the office and let us know they are back in the building.



First Mass: Our first Mass will be on **Wednesday, September 10, at 8:30 a.m.** All are welcome to attend! The Wednesday Masses will include an opportunity for the children and parishioners to share their treasures. This is a part of the students learning about God's abundance. The sharing of God's gifts during our Masses is another way we can teach and model stewardship as a way of life.

Bully Free School: The Bully Free Curriculum will be taught again this year. Each week the students will have discussions and participate in activities that go along with this curriculum. Your help at home in talking and teaching about being bully free is important to the program's success. If you need advice or have concerns about bullying behavior, please feel free to contact the classroom teacher or me. Together, we can be Bully Free!



School Start Time: Please remember that school begins at 7:55 a.m. each day. Students who arrive early will be expected to drop off their materials in their desk or locker and then go the gymnasium. I have morning supervision starting at 7:30 a.m. so, if possible, please do not drop students off before 7:25 a.m. Thank you.

Picture Day: Mark your calendars that Thursday, September 18, is picture day. The order forms are in today's Friday Folder.

School Wellness: In your Friday Folder for this week, you will be given ideas and activities that help promote healthy eating and physical activity. Also included is a list of healthy snacks and bag lunch ideas. Our complete school wellness policy is posted on our school website and is included in the Parent Handbook. Please refer to it when making your choice on what to send to send for snacks and birthday treats.

Elden's Receipts: We are once again partnering with Elden's Food Fair and participating in the Tapes for Education Program. If you shop at Elden's between September and March, please leave your receipts at the store in the container labeled St. Mary's or send them to school. Thanks to the all the saved receipts from last year, were able to order well over \$3000.00 worth of school supplies for free. Hopefully, this year we will be able to earn even more free supplies.

School Spirit: On Fridays, the school staff and students are encouraged to wear their St. Mary's School logo wear to promote our school pride. The order forms for purchasing school logo clothing are in today's Friday Folder. The order form includes many of the favorites from last year, as well as many new pieces including clothing and colors designed just for girls. Samples of all the clothing pieces are available in the school office. If you are concerned about a size or color, please stop in and verify it before you place your order. The deadline for this fall's order is September 19.



Looking Ahead: St. Mary's School is not in session on September 29, and October 1 is a planned two-hour late start for District 206. We will start at our normal time; however, there will be no morning bus service that day. Please plan on driving or finding a ride for your child that day.

If at anytime you need me please feel free to call or stop in. I am excited about the school year and look forward to sharing with you all the great things that occur at St. Mary's.

Mr. Sladek