

PRINCIPAL'S PASSAGE

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

10/27/17

Dear Parents,

November marks a critical time in the educational calendar. The end of the first trimester is coming up soon, report cards will be sent home and conferences will be taking place. When you view report cards and attend conferences later next month, please take the time to celebrate the highlights of school thus far, but also identify areas and expectations of improvement. Having an action plan after a conference keeps you involved with the student's education and shows them that you are placing an interest in what they are doing. Today's passage will outline the report card and conference dates and review other upcoming November events.

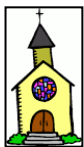
School Dance - Our PAC is hosting the school dance **tonight** from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Please note that it is an expectation that parents attend with their children.

**HALLOWEEN
PARTY**

Magazines and Chickens! - Thanks to all those who supported this year's magazine sales. Based on the amount of chickens that were given away, I know our school is going to raise a lot of money. Orders placed anytime during the year on our online store (www.gaschoolstore.com/Login) will still qualify for credit to St. Mary's school. However, the student incentive portion of the sale ended this week.

Vision and Hearing Screening - The Lions Club is offering a new program called Community Eye Screening for Children. This is a national program to ensure that children receive eye screenings and follow-up care when needed. Trained Lions volunteers will use Welch Allyn Spot Vision Screening systems to do this screening. This system screens for multiple things. It is non-intrusive and there will be a parent volunteer in the room with them. Screening will take place on Tuesday morning, October 31. The device provides a printed report for any referrals. We will still need to perform the distance testing for vision as well as our hearing screening. This will be done on Friday, November 3 and Tuesday, November 7. We are very thankful for the wonderful volunteers that help us with all of these endeavors. If any students need referrals you will be hearing from Mrs. Ludwig and receiving a referral form. Please make sure if your child has glasses that they have them at school on those days.

Halloween Parade – All parents and siblings are invited to join us on Tuesday, October 31 at 2:10 p.m. for our costume parade in the gymnasium.



All Saints' Day Mass - The students will attend Mass on Wednesday, November 1 at 8:30 a.m. for All Saints' Day. Please make sure the students wear their **Mass shirts on Wednesday**. Since we are going to Mass on Wednesday, we will not attend Mass on Friday.

Marathon of Service Update - All this month, the students and families are to be working on a community service project. Please get your pictures and documentation of your project sent in to school so we can post them and celebrate all of these good deeds. Stop in our cafeteria to see the entire wall filled with a variety of service projects that many of you did during October. I am very proud of all the hard work and giving of time our school families did for the Work-a-thon. Thanks to everyone who got out and did something for our community!

No School Dates - There is no school on Monday, **November 6**. This is designated as a teacher professional development day. There is also no school on Monday, **November 20** and Tuesday, **November 21** for conferences. We are not in session **November 22, 23** and **24** for Thanksgiving vacation.

Conferences - Conferences will take place Monday, November 20 from 11:00 to 7:00 p.m. and on Tuesday, November 21 from 7:30 to 3:30 p.m. Conference forms will be coming home in Friday Folders today.



PAC News - The November PAC meeting will be on Tuesday, November 14 in the school media center. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. The agendas and minutes for all PAC meetings are posted on FastDirect.

Report Cards - The first trimester will end on November 10. Report cards will be viewable on FastDirect on November 17 and a paper copy of the NWEA MAP testing report will be sent home on Friday, November 17 as well. This will give you plenty of time to review and discuss any concerns with teachers at conferences the following week. Each classroom has designated dates as to when late or missing work must be turned in to receive credit. Use the next week to make sure your child is current with all assignments and tests.

School Safety - It is state law that we conduct school safety lock-down drills. On Friday afternoon we did our second drill. These first lock-down drills are very low key and are done with a lot of classroom discussion and preparation. Our intent is to practice a lock-down without scaring the children. During a school lock-down, the students are gathered in their rooms and all the doors are locked. The students sit quietly together on the floor in a place away from the doors and windows. Once the building is secure, the all-clear is given. If your child has any questions or concerns, please let them know that these drills are just like a fire drill and are meant to keep them as safe as possible while at school.

Elden's Receipts - Thanks to everyone who has remembered to save and turn in their receipts. For every dollar spent, we earn a point that can be applied towards the purchase of school equipment. Receipts may be dropped off at the school or the dropbox at Elden's.



Box Tops – Please remember to keep clipping and saving any Box Tops that you may see. Having your children look for these and do the clipping and attaching is a great way for them to help out their school.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Sladek