

SAINT MARY'S BUZZ

March 16, 2017

NO MORE SNOW!

Vol. 25

MARCH'S VIRTUE: SELF CONTROL

Father, help our children not to be like many others around them, but let them be alert and self-controlled in all they do.

1 Thess. 5:6

OUR MARCH SERVICE PROJECT:

Visit the Prisoner: Prayer Cards
Give Alms to the Poor: Catholic Charities

REPORT CARDS HOME TODAY

Neither rain, nor snow, nor dark of night – nor even snow days! – have kept our faculty and staff from completing 2nd Trimester Report Cards and having them ready today! Please look for your child's report card, STAR360 reading update and any other special notes coming home today! Our 2nd Trimester proved to be a bit more challenging for our students, as they progressed from review earlier in the year to new and more challenging content. Despite that, we've got a great showing of honors averages among our 3rd through 8th grade students! 87.2% of all eligible students (grades 3 – 8) received an award: 38% received High Honors; 22% received Second Honors; and 26% received Merit Honors. Well done, and keep up the good work!

NO SCHOOL TOMORROW

This is just a reminder that tomorrow is a faculty professional development day, and there will be no school. We'll be meeting with other teachers in the region to complete our annual catechetical training: focusing upon bringing our faith into the classroom in every subject area. Please keep us in your prayers!

PRAY 'N' PLAY

The annual "Pray 'n Play" event will be held on Friday April 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. All families are invited to attend as the fifth grade class presents "The Living Stations of the Cross" followed by an ice cream social. Volunteers are needed to make this night a success and opportunities can be found on SignUp Genius. Details and RSVP forms can be found at the end of the newsletter. Please RSVP by April 1 so plans can be made. Any questions should be directed to Julie Bastedo at (716) 352-8591 or jules.vergne@gmail.com.

TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS DUE ON APRIL 1st

Parents of Catholic school students must request transportation services directly from the public school district in which they live. The deadline for submitting written requests for transportation is April 1, 2017 for the 2017-2018 school year. Failure to submit a request by this deadline might lead to the suspension of bus privileges for those families. Administrators are urged to remind parents of the necessity of meeting this deadline and to alert parents of prospective new students of this as well.

NYS PROFICIENCY TESTING BEGINS

Our NYS Proficiency testing commences on Tuesday, March 28th. We encourage testing because it helps us to identify those children who may need academic support. It also identifies areas of strength in our curriculum, and areas that we need to augmented in the upcoming year. I want to assure you that our teachers are not evaluated based upon any of this testing, and that participation in testing, in addition to informing us about student needs, the curriculum, and providing an opportunity to “practice” taking a standardized test, also maximizes our NYS funding and affects our school ranking. We are asking for your support in assuring that your child participates in this protocol. Please do not opt out. We make every effort to keep the testing as low-key as is possible, and this year we look forward to a shorter test that is untimed.

If a parent does opt out for a student, we will now be providing alternate testing during NYS test windows. This requires additional scoring time on the part of our teachers, but will still help us to identify those students who require additional academic support.

Any parents who are considering opting their children out are asked to meet in the Cafeteria this coming Monday, March 20th at 6:30 to receive opt-out forms (and receive one final plea to stay the course!). Thank you!

WINE PAIRING

Don't forget our Wine Pairing Event for the Sister Sheila Scholarship Fund -- Saturday, March 25th, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and are available after Masses or at the rectory.

Wine Pairing Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are needed to help with the 4th Annual Wine Pairing to be held on March 25, 2017. Assistance needed for set up, the night of the event, and clean up. This event benefits the Sister Sheila Scholarship Fund which gives tuition assistance to families attending St. Mary's School. Please consider volunteering for this worthwhile cause. Alumni of the school are encouraged to participate with this wonderful evening. Please call Janice O'Brien at 688-9380 Ext. 41 or go to <http://stmaryswormville.org/volunteer/> to help support this event.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

Our long-term substitute teachers have their own email addresses. You may reach Mrs. Maribeth Swendsen in Grade 5 at grade5sub@stmarayschoolswormville.org . And when Mrs. Horanburg comes on board, she may be reached at grade4sub@stmaryschool.org . Hope this helps!

NIAGARA CHOCOLATE PICK UP MARCH 28

Candy orders will be available for pick up in Rm. 108 of the parish center on Tuesday, March 28 at these times:

7:30 am - 10:00 am

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Please make arrangements to pick up your order during these times. Payment will be due at the time of pick up.

And don't forget to.....



AUCTION SPONSORSHIPS

We invite you to partner with us as a corporate sponsor. There are various sponsorship levels available and you or your company will be recognized in auction marketing materials, the parish website, social media and at the event. Exposure of your contribution will reach 2,500 parishioners and gala attendees. All of the proceeds from the event go to the school and our students. This is the #1 way to keep tuition low each year.

Please contact our school parents, Scott Zgoda or Heidi Wieczorek for additional information and sponsorship forms. Thank you for your help and support!

HSA NEWS

SQUARE1ART

Hopefully you received the flyer and have heard the excitement from your children about this wonderful art program being added this year. The children have made beautiful and creative works of art that are being cataloged into keepsake gifts and available to purchase coming the beginning of April. These gifts are priceless and will be treasured for years!

SCHOOLKIDZ

Our teachers are currently working on updating school supply lists for the upcoming year for submission to <http://www.schoolkidz.com>. These lists will then be used to create a supply kit that can be personalized and customized to your child's needs as well. You have the option to participate and the school will receive 10% back on your participation if you choose.

This is NOT MANDATORY! All kits delivered to classrooms.

UPDATES:

SCHOOLSTORE.COM: Parents and extended family of our school children have donated approximately \$3,800 to teachers classrooms. We are surveying the teachers and their thoughts on this program for feedback on its continuation. Thank you for the support!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

PARISH WINE PAIRING: 6:00-9:00 pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 25th:

Enjoy a night out to benefit the *Sr. Sheila Ann Burke Scholarship Fund*.

FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE: 6:30-9:00pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 1st

PRAY N PLAY: Live stations of the cross presented by the 5th grade students followed by an ice cream social, cake walk and fun games to benefit *Catholic Charities*.

SIGNUP: Visit <http://stmaryschoolswormville.org/signups/>

- Lunch Monitors- March
- Teacher Lunches- April, May, June
- Father Daughter Dance Refreshments/Volunteers
- Pray n Play

UP AND COMING AT SMS ☺:

- Noon Dismissal..... Friday, March 10th
- Book Fair..... Tuesday and Wednesday, March 14th – 15th
- No School: Teacher Catechetical Training Friday, March 17th
- NYS Opt Out Meeting for Parents..... Monday, March 20th @ 6:30 in the cafeteria



Gift Gathering Dinner!

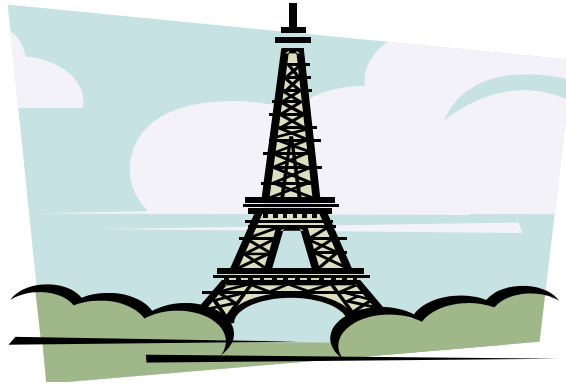
You are cordially invited to our
Annual Spring for Success Gift Gathering Dinner!

Come join us for cocktails, dinner and dessert and in return
we ask you to kindly donate a gift valued at \$100 for the
St. Mary's Spring For Success Gala !

Friday, March 24, 2017
7:00 p.m.
Brookfield Country Club
5120 Shimerville Road
Clarence, NY

RSVP by 3/17 to
Digginsm@verizon.net or 994-1029 or
Angie652@aol.com or 989-9893

Hosted by:
Maryellen Burger, Angela Mancini and Jennifer Noah



St. Mary's cordially invites all Montessori 4 year olds and Kindergarten through Eighth Grade Girls and their Fathers

To our Father - Daughter Dance

"Springtime in Paris"

Saturday, April 1, 2017

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Refreshments, Photos, Music and Memories to Last a Lifetime!

The cost is \$10.00 per family

Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Please send payment to the office marked "Father-Daughter Dance"

Any questions, please call Maryellen Burger at 636-0422 or text 994-1029.

Girls should be dressed properly with respect to proper skirt length, no strapless, spaghetti straps, backless dresses, halter type styles or revealing necklines are permitted. When in doubt, wear a shrug or a white sweater. Thank you.

Name_____ Total Attending_____



Please join us

For the annual
St. Mary's HSA

Pray 'n Play

Friday, April 7, 2017

The 5th Grade Class
presents

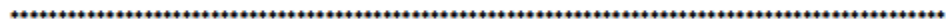
The Living Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM in the Parish Center

Followed by an ice cream social featuring \$2.00 ice cream sundaes and \$1.00 popsicles. Additionally, tickets are available for \$100 each, redeemable for "jeans day passes," games, face painting, and a cake walk!

All proceeds benefit Catholic Charities at this fun, family event.

Please RSVP by April 1 to the main office in an envelope marked "Pray 'n Play"



Family name: -----

Number attending: -----

Do you care about and
advocate for a student
with a disability (IEP or
504 plan)?

Please join us for...

BEING AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE

*Ten Special Education
Strategies You Should Know*

Patrick Radel, an attorney
who represents families of
students with disabilities,
will provide practice advice,
discuss key legal concepts,
and offer tips for effectively
advocating on behalf of
students.

March 30, 2017

7 - 8:30pm

St Gregory the Great
School Gym

250 St Gregory Ct.
Williamsville, 14206

Please RSVP to your school principal if interested!