

Dear St. Mary Families,

If we use the Steeple Chase as a gauge of where our school is, it is clear things are going strong. We had close to 200 people register for the event and there was an awesome selection of baskets for the adults and the kids raffle was fantastic! Even though the weather was a bit chilly, it was wonderful to see our current families, their extended families, alumni, and friends of the school. Thank you so much to Ryan and Jen Spies, Angie Sullivan, and the rest of the Steeple Chase crew that made the run such a success. This was the 37<sup>th</sup> year of the event and is one of the traditions that makes St. Mary's such a special place. On Monday, the kids enjoyed a jeans day with their Steeple Chase shirts as well as an assembly honoring the top runners in each grade.



**Teacher Workday:** While the students enjoyed a 3 day weekend, the staff has hard at work here on Friday. In addition to having time to get caught up with prepping, grading, and collaborating, we talked more in depth about our mission and purpose as educators at St. Mary's. I spoke about providing a high quality education, but to limit ourselves in how we defined that. A high quality education must include higher level thinking and analytical skills. As we are a Catholic School, we also talked about our role in social justice issues and our responsibility of providing students with the tools and vocabulary to analyze those issues. It was a good reminder that our mission is beyond academic growth and includes the growth of each student as a person in the world.

### **Box Tops**

We are collecting Box Tops! The money we make from this goes towards the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade science overnight field trip that occurs every other fall. Remember, box tops are 10 cents a piece! Please make an effort to save them, and then turn them in to home room teachers. We will be collecting from now until 10/24. The class who collects the most will be rewarded with an Athletic Wear Casual Day!

### **Halloween at SMS**

We will be allowing students to dress up on Halloween, as is tradition here. Please remember that no makeup, hair dye, etc. can be applied during the school day – students will have to do that before entering the building. We would ask that no masks be worn (including ones that only cover eyes) and that clothes will not become a tripping hazard. All costumes should be school appropriate.

Our lower elementary students will parade around their costumes Halloween morning and then jump into the Great Pumpkin Hunt immediately following.

### **Upcoming Events:**

10/19: Picture Retake Day

10/19: Middle School Youth Group (6:30)

10/24: Student-led mass - all are welcome! (8:15)

10/25: Parent Teacher Conferences

10/26 – 10/29: Fall Break – No School

10/30: Field trip to Skelly's Pumpkin Patch (P4J-2<sup>nd</sup>)

10/31: Costume Parade and Great Pumpkin Hunt

11/1: Student-led mass - all are welcome! (8:15) \*\* This is a Thursday because it is a Holy Day\*\*

## **Athletics**

Volleyball kicks off this week! Thanks to Doug Rammer for coordinating and all our volunteer coaches for this season. The Athletic Board works hard to make sure that St. Mary's offers fun and competitive sports that allows the students to grow. As we kick off the volleyball season and prepare for basketball, I feel obligated to remind our families of a section in the handbook that reads:

*15. Parents and athletes are expected to demonstrate their commitment to the team and its respective sport. Your child's attendance and participation at all practices and games is required.*

We understand that attending every practice or game might not be possible, but we also ask our families to prioritize and understand that it might not be possible to do everything. I love how engaged our students are in extra-curricular activities. It makes them more well-rounded and provides opportunities to work on relationships. However, if you do have a child who is busy, it is worth having a conversation about commitments and prioritizing. We do not want to put our coaches in a position where they have to alter playing time because of attendance. These discussions will make life easier for our athletic board and for our coaches – but ultimately will benefit our students as they will have to make some decisions entering high school.

## **Email Change**

For a variety of reasons, including costs savings and efficiency, the school has begun to change email systems from Microsoft outlook to gmail. All staff and student emails will change from @nativitymary.org to **stmaryschoolwi.com**. While staff will continue to check both emails for awhile, please try to get into the habit of using the **stmaryschoolwi.com** domain when emailing.

## **Stay Connected**

We want to connect with you as much as possible and there are things you can do to help us out!

1. Follow us on Facebook (@StMarySchoolJVL) and Instagram (st\_mary\_school\_janesville )  
**\*\*We recently just posted our first promotional video! Check it out on facebook or the school website!\*\***
2. Check your email! If you do not have an email from me via TeacherEase, let me know! That means you are missing out on email blasts that get pushed out.
3. Keep track of your Wednesday Folders! Our administrative professionals work very hard to ensure essential paperwork gets sent home every other week. Please help us out by getting both the folders and paperwork returned.

In Christ,

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