



# ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

*where academics and faith go hand in hand*

*St. Mary's School Parent Newsletter ~ 2023-2024 School Year ~ Edition 8*

*Mission Statement: St. Mary's School in Bird Island serves the area students in preschool through eighth grade by providing a Christ-centered Catholic education where academic excellence, self-worth and faith development go hand in hand in a nurturing environment.*

## RETIREMENT PARTY!

Please join us in the school library on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-4:15pm to wish Mrs. McReil a well-deserved wonderful retirement! We will honor her 42 years of passion and dedication to educating students and celebrate her 21 years of teaching at St. Mary's School. Thank you, Mrs. McReil, for the impact you have made on all of the St. Mary's students and for all you have done for St. Mary's School! We wish you the best in your retirement!

## 1<sup>st</sup> Communion



The 2nd graders and their parents have been preparing for this special day. On May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am, the 2nd graders will receive their First Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church. We are excited and proud to celebrate this very special moment in their life.

## Grandparents Day



On Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm, we will be having a very special Mass here at St. Mary's Church. Our 2nd and 8th graders will be participating in the crowning of Mary. We will also be honoring our grandparents at this Mass. Grandparents are invited to stay for refreshments and treats with their grandchildren following Mass. (SMS parents received a sign up form via email.) We are very excited to celebrate these special events!

## Lost and Found

We have quite a few items in our lost & found. Please have your child(ren) look at the items that are located outside of the main office.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation



The end of May is fast approaching! Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are looking forward to their Graduation & Mass on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be dismissed from school at noon that day and it will be their last day of school at SMS. Picture order forms will be sent home with the students. A reception for the graduates and their families will follow the ceremony. The reception will be served by the 7<sup>th</sup> grade families.

## Kindergarten Graduation



The Kindergarteners are excited to announce their Graduation Mass will be on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Church. The Kindergarteners will have a special part in our all school mass and will be recognized for their accomplishments.

## Play Island Preschool

Our 3 & 4 yr old preschool program will continue to run as it has with social and academic learning in the morning and childcare in the afternoon. Next fall, we are excited to share with you that we are offering the following options to choose from:

- \* 3 half days a week or 3 full days a week
- \* 4 half days a week or 4 full days a week
- \* 5 half days a week or 5 full days (this is what was offered this year). Mrs. Henslin is excited to work with your child. Our 4 & 5 yr old Prekindergarten program, led by Mrs. Peterson, is filling up fast! We have approximately 3-4 spots remaining. This program will continue to operate 5 full days a week. The after school program will continue to be available. Contact Karen at 320-365-3693 to reserve your spot.

# Kindergarten Round-up

Kindergarten Roundup was a great success! We have 13 students in Mrs. Franzeen's class next Fall. If you know of anyone that would like to experience a wonderful learning opportunity that will provide a strong foundation to a child's educational journey, please contact Karen at 320-365-3693.

# Prime Rib Dinner

We would like to thank the committee for their dedication to making this fundraiser a HUGE success. The ticket sales and auction items raised over \$105,000! Thank you to the guests that attended the dinner and thank you for all of your generosity in the bidding on the auction items. We would also like to thank those who donated items to the live and silent auction. The new "fund-a-need" component was a hit! Each year this fund will contribute towards different needs within the school. This year the funds raised are going to be applied to some additional playground items and to the expansion for our Believe and Read Literacy Program.

# National History Day

On April 20th, Brett Henslin, Lilly Bauman, Lila Beckler, Mara Strandberg, and Taylor Zupke competed at the State History Day at the Minneapolis Convention Center against 1,000 other students from around MN. They presented their history day projects to judges sharing their research, analysis and historical interpretation skills. Taylor Zupke was awarded an honorable mention for her project on the Dust Bowl. Also, Ms. Lambrecht was recognized as the Jr. Division History Day Teacher of the Year for the State of Minnesota. Congrats to all of you!



# SCIENCE FAIR

7th graders Kenley Everson & Sophia Buckley participated in CSCOE's Big Bang C-STEM Fair on April 13 in Mendota Heights. Their projects were selected out of 177 projects submitted in the state. 7th grader Aiden Nere attended the Southern Minnesota Elementary Science & Engineering Fair on April 27th at the MNSU - Mankato. His project was Tracking Background Radiation Particles. He won bronze at this regional fair. Way to represent SMS!



# Band/Choir Concert



The 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students will join the BOLD students for a Spring band/choir concert on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at BOLD High school.

# Teacher Appreciation Week



Take a moment to thank our amazing educators during the week of May 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>! Our teachers have gone above and beyond to ensure every student has the tools they need to reach their full potential. We are SO lucky to have a GREAT teaching staff!

# Bulls & Billygoats



Mrs. McRell's class will be selling baked goods to all students and staff on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:30. Stop by their classroom for a delicious treat! All baked goods will be \$1.00 each. There will also be Maasai homemade adjustable beaded bracelets for sale for \$8 each. All proceeds from this event will go to the Maasai children in Noonkotiak, Kenya. It will provide the Maasai children school lunches and help them build a playground.

## Classroom Changes

Due to the small Kindergarten class size this year, next year we'll be joining 1st and 2nd grade to a combination classroom totaling 15 students. Ms. Melin and Mrs. Marks will instruct the group with the appropriate content for each grade level for the subjects of Math, Reading, Language Arts and Religion. The other subjects will be taught as a whole group. This combination classroom idea came together based on the following: This year these two groups have been together for a part of their day already, so they see themselves as one group. Ms. Melin will have her current 1st graders as 2nd graders, which will be beneficial because she already knows their learning style. This group will remain together for the next number of years as a combination class unless we would have a number of new students enroll in the smaller group. We are confident that we will continue to offer quality education to all students, no matter if it is through a combination classroom or a traditional classroom.

## 2023-2024 Yearbook Order

Pre-order your 2023-2024 Yearbook! Click [here](#) to order. Checks can be made payable to St. Mary's School and sent to the office labeled "Yearbook pymt". Yearbooks will be distributed in the fall.

## Double Good Popcorn

Thank you to those who supported our Play Island Preschool Popcorn Fundraiser. We sold \$8529 which profited over \$4300 for our preschool! We reached 147 supporters across 8 states! Proceeds from the fundraiser assist in offsetting the cost of the free preschool breakfast and lunch program.

## Comet Attends Class

Ms. See's preschool class had a furry visitor! Finley brought her rabbit, Comet! They all enjoyed the little fellow by petting it, feeding it and learning about a day in the life of Comet. Thank you Strandbergs for sharing!



## Playground updates

We have new playground equipment! The kids LOVE the new items that have been installed. Thank you to all who have generously donated to make this possible! There are a few more items we are looking to add yet. Pup tent Climber - \$5487, Cozy Cocoon - \$3985, Hyper shade cover for preschool sandbox - \$4000 and Spin cup - \$1098. If you would like to donate funds to any of these items, please contact the school.



## Marion Open



The 16th annual Marion Open golf tournament is Saturday July 13th at the Olivia Golf course. 4 person teams for 18-hole event starting at 10AM. Non-golfers are welcome to join for the evening meal at 5PM. To register, become a sponsor, or for more information about the tournament click [here](#). In addition to the golf tournament, there will be a limited number of tuition raffle tickets sold for the 2024-25 school year, this includes cash prizes too. The following St. Mary's polos are also available for purchase at the parish office in Olivia. Limited color options. Available sizes in Mens S-2XL, Womens S-2XL, Youth XS-XL. All funds raised go to support St. Mary's School!

### MENS



### WOMENS



### YOUTH



### A Honor Roll – Quarter 3

8th grade: Abby Brede, Jackson Everson, Anna Stahl, Mara Strandberg

7th grade: Lilly Bauman, Lila Beckler, Brett Henslin, Elena Kubesh, Aiden Lerud, Adrian Medina Palma, Matthew Mohr, Logan Osthus, Charlie Visser, Taylor Zupke

6th grade: Sophia Buckley, Amelia Dyrssen, Kooper Eiler, Kenley Everson, Emma Jacobs, Aiden Nere, Piper O’Neill, Aubrey Stahl, Hadley Weis, Sadie Zuhlsdorf

### B Honor Roll – Quarter 3

8th grade: Brecken Erickson, Charlotte Kaufenberg, Sofia Mabee

7th grade: Hudson Edwards, Isaac Frank, Paxton Thole, Mara Thurston

6th grade: Cody Cole, Eli Elfering, Jadin Martinson, Jakob Martinson, Austin Posl, Emma Tersteeg, Skylar Zuhlsdorf

### Check our website for the 2024-25 School Calendar!



Scan this code for a digital copy of the newsletter



## 18 Student Days Remaining!

It is the policy of St. Mary's School to comply with federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and all requirements imposed by/or pursuant to regulations issued thereto, to the end that no person at St. Mary's shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex marital status, status with regard to assistance, age, or disability and handicapping condition (if, with reasonable accommodations on the part of the school, the handicapped person could be accommodated) be excluded for participation in, be denied of, otherwise subjected to discrimination under any educational program, or in employment, recruitment, consideration, or selection, whether part or full time, under any educational program, employment or activity by St. Mary's School.

### Parent webinar



If you missed the April Peace of Mind family webinar about Perfectionism & Motivation at Home, you can find it on our website. Next month's session is May 1st at 7pm. Click [here](#) to register. This session will discuss Gentle Parenting: Is it all it's cracked up to be? Learn about a new 'fad' in parenting and what behavioral research says is solid practice and what is not, regarding 'soft parenting'.

### Mr. B's Chocolates

The 6th and 7th graders would like to thank everyone who purchased Mr. B's Chocolates to raise money for their 2025 trip to Washington D.C. & New York City. Orders will be distributed on May 9th.

### Upcoming Dates to Watch for:

- May 1<sup>st</sup> – Peace of Mind Parent webinar 7pm
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> – MASS 10:30 Prepared by Gr 5  
Preschool Field Trip (morning)
- May 5<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Communion 10:30 St. Mary's
- May 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> - AIMS testing K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- May 7<sup>th</sup> - Field Trip – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- May 8<sup>th</sup> - NO P.M. BUSSING  
Retirement Party for Mrs. McRell – 3pm
- May 9<sup>th</sup> - MASS 1:00 Prepared by Gr 2 (May Crowning)  
(Grandparents Day) refreshments after Mass  
Bulls & Billygoats Bake Sale  
Mr. B's Chocolates will be delivered
- May 13<sup>th</sup> - Field Trip – 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- May 15<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> gr BOLD/SMS Band Concert 1:00pm
- May 16<sup>th</sup> – MASS 10:30 Prepared by Gr K & 8  
(Kindergarten Graduation Mass)
- May 17<sup>th</sup> – Last day of the After School Program
- May 20<sup>th</sup> – Field Trip – K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> gr Graduation 7pm  
Noon dismissal for 8<sup>th</sup> graders  
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL for 8<sup>th</sup> graders
- May 24<sup>th</sup> – MASS 10:30 Prepared by Gr 3  
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL for PreK – 7<sup>th</sup> gr  
Field Day (K – 7<sup>th</sup> gr)
- May 27<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day
- May 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> - Staff In-Service