

The Bulldog Barks December 14, 2018

Mr. Brookbank – Principal

brookbank.science@mystmarys.com

On Monday, December 17th we will have our next meeting to discuss Keep the Doors Open progress! The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. I would like to ask that at least one family member attend the meeting. **The 5th/6th grade basketball game will be cancelled, so that everyone may attend the Keep the Doors Open!**

Saint of the Month

*St. Mary of the
Immaculate Conception*



We have created a separate page with information on *Keeping the Doors Open* campaign at the end of the Bulldog.

Donations can be made online at www.mystmarys.com.

Cash or checks can be dropped off or mailed to school office at 211 Fourth Street, Aurora, IN 47001. Make checks payable to St. Mary's School.

Cafeteria Help

Mr. Brothers has started a new job and will no longer be able to help in the Cafeteria. He will be missed by teachers, staff and students! We are looking for additional people to volunteer to help Nanette! Volunteers will help serve lunch, wash lunch trays and clean up the kitchen after lunch has been served. We ask that you arrive at 11:15 a.m. Please contact Aimee Hollingsworth at 812-744-8738 if you can help.

After School Care

The After School Care Program will be supervised by Ms. McPherson in the 1st grade room from 2:35 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mondays - Thursdays and from 2:35 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. on Fridays! The cost is only \$2.25 per half hour! If you have any question about the After School Care, please call the office or email Ms. McPherson at mcperson.1@mystmarys.com.

School Payments

Don't forget that school lunch, book and technology fees, and tuition may be paid online at www.mystmarys.com.

Box Tops for Education



*** Buy * Clip * Send * Earn***

Box Tops Clips are found on hundreds of product packages and are worth \$.10 for our school. All you need to do is send them to school before they expire! You can also drop them off in the back of church and we will pick them up. St. Mary's has a goal to raise \$1,000 this school year.

Kindergarten – Mrs. Denning**amy.denning@mystmarys.com**

Our Christmas celebration will be Wednesday, December 19th. Thank you to Jessica Wismann for organizing the party. The following people are responsible for treats: Abbie - sweet, Sarah - healthy, Isiah - salty. If you are not able to send in a treat, please let me know.

We will begin working on our 5th and final short vowel- short Ee- keyword- elephant. This can sometimes be a “tricky” vowel sound. Please make sure your child is giving the true sound for short vowel e, as in elephant. We will also be working with blends, alphabetizing, and reading and writing sentences. We will get another new reader, “Ben is Ten!”. In math we will review coins, counting by 10’s, and work with a new pattern - AABB. We will also work with cubes. Blankets and cups will come home for cleaning. Please remember to return them to school on January 3th.

We will not have Show-n-Tell again until the week of January 7th.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Wonderful New Year! Enjoy your 2 weeks off!

Grade 1 – Ms. McPherson**mcperson.1@mystmarys.com**

Our Christmas Party will be on Wednesday, December 19th from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Please check the party list that was sent home last week to see what your child needs to bring to the party. A big thanks to Mrs. McGraw for organizing our party activities again!

Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Grade 2 & 3 – Mrs. Grove**annmarie.grove@mystmarys.com**

Thank you to Mrs. Meyer and the fourth grade for inviting us to an “Hour of Code.” Everyone is excited to learn computer science! Cyndi Tush read an inspiring Christmas story to us on Thursday.

We have been celebrating Christmas first by singing Christmas carols for our families in church, then by viewing the train display at the Aurora Utilities Building, the Dickens Village at the Lions Club, and all the Christmas decorations at Hillforest. Next week we will be making gingerbread houses, and having a Christmas party. Somehow we have managed to complete all our work in spite of all the festivities.

We hope all our families have a blessed Christmas.

Grade 4 – Mrs. Meyer**amanda.meyer@mystmarys.com**

It is hard to believe the semester is coming to an end! I appreciate all the hard work from the students. We will have a busy three days as we finish and share our persuasive Santa letters, present book report projects, take the STAR reading test, finish reading group novel projects, and celebrate at our classroom Christmas party!

Merry Christmas! See you next year!

Grade 5 – Mrs. Baker**leslie.baker@mystmarys.com**

The end of the 2nd quarter is approaching fast! Fifth graders last day to take an AR test will be Wednesday December 19th. We will have our test over Chapter 3 in social studies on Tuesday December 18th. We have been reviewing in class and each fifth grader has a study packet to help them prepare for the test in their VIP folder. We will not have spelling or vocabulary next week.

Our Christmas party will be Wednesday December 19th in the afternoon. Please look for the letter that went home about the party. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas with your families, and a blessed New Year!

Grade 6 – Mrs. Rice**suzy.rice@mystmarys.com**

The 6th grade Holiday Shopping Project was due today. The 7th grade had a math test on Wednesday. 8th grade is learning about linear equations and graphing them. The first half of the school year has gone quickly. I hope everyone has an enjoyable Christmas break. Merry Christmas!

Grade 7 – Mrs. Rector**kim.rector@mystmarys.com**

We are busy wrapping things up before the Christmas break. The seventh graders will have their Christmas breakfast in the classroom on Tuesday. Ask your child if they volunteered to bring something in. We have also invited our first grade angels to come to our classroom for some holiday fun on Tuesday afternoon.

The second quarter ends on Wednesday, so be sure that all work and corrections are turned in before the break. Report cards will be sent home when we return. I hope that everyone has a very Merry Christmas and wish you many blessings for the New Year! Thank you for sharing your children with us at St. Mary's School! It is truly a blessing to get to work with them each day. Enjoy the holidays and we'll see you on January 3, 2019!

Grade 8 – Mr. Waldon**jim.waldon@mystmarys.com**

Eighth and seventh graders are in the final laps of their respective novels: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Treasure Island*. Both books offer challenges with English used in ways that are almost foreign to us. Nonetheless, the students have enjoyed their books. It looks like we'll be able to finish the novels before our Christmas break.

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade book reports for December are due on December 19th, which is also the end of the first semester.

Sixth graders are comparing the movie *My Side of the Mountain* to the book and are surprised again and again at the movie's changes in plot, characters, and numerous other details.

We are now raffling a black 7" Samsung Elite tablet and are ready to sell chances for a drawing to be held on February 28th. (This tablet was a donation to the class by Angie Briseno when she visited us and presented information on the life of philanthropist Milton Hershey.) The cost of the chances will be \$5.00 each or 3 chances for \$10.00. Christmas is a great time to sell chances to friends and family when everyone is together!

If you have not received your letter regarding commitment for our class trip, ask your eighth grader to check his or her backpack. This letter asks parents and students for a commitment to participate in the trip and informs students and parents of the number of credits each student has earned. Payment information is also included. We need to know who is going so that we can accurately price the trip per person.

Our S.T.O. is conducting a food/supplies drive before Christmas for St. Vincent de Paul. 8th graders are asked to bring in 15 ounce cans of vegetables. Thanks to the students (and parents) who have already participated! (We'll still accept donations after Christmas in case any come in.)

God bless you all with a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

7th & 8th Grade Science – Mr. Brookbank**brookbank.science@mystmarys.com**

Both classes are finishing the sections on animal and plant cell structure and function. All standards were met and the effort by the students was excellent! We will complete a lab on the above subject to reinforce key learning points. Beginning on Monday, December 17th, we began a lab on the relationship between temperature and boiling water with different combinations of solutes in our solvent.

Connie Powers, CRE
Prayer Shawl Ministry

connie.powers@mystmarys.com

We need more crochet-ers and knit-ers! You can help by attending Wednesday gathering or from home. Just give Connie a call at 812-926-0060. We meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Vacation Bible School - Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 24 – 28, 2019
Interested in assisting, call or email Connie Powers.

Saint of the Month

December – St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

The **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** celebrates the solemn celebration of belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is universally celebrated on December 8, nine months before the feast of the Nativity of Mary, which is celebrated on September 8. ... The Immaculate Conception is one of the most important Marian feasts in the liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church, and is celebrated worldwide.

PRAYER ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Father,

The image of the Virgin is found in your Church.

Mary had a faith that your Spirit prepared and a love that never knew sin,
for you kept her sinless from the first moment of her conception.

Trace in our actions the lines of her love, in our hearts her readiness of faith.

Prepare once again a world for your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

--- from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

Cafeteria/Playground

Contact Aimee Hollingsworth at 744-8738, to sign up for cafeteria and playground duty. The schedule is online at www.mymarys.com, under “Student Life”, under “Cafeteria/Playground”. If you can fill in one of the open positions, you can call the school office to let us know!

Lunch:

11:25 a.m. – Grades 4 – 5

11:35 a.m. – Grades K – 3

12:00 p.m. – Grades 6 – 8

Recess:

11 – 11:35 a.m. – Grades K – 3

11:55 – 12:20 a.m. – Grades 4 – 5

12:25 – 12:45 p.m. – Grades 6 – 8

Cafeteria and Playground hours:

Cafe: First lunch is served at 11:15 a.m., so arrive 10 – 15 minutes early. Serve two lunch periods and help clean up kitchen, wash dishes, etc. You should be finished around 12:45 p.m.

Playground: Arrive around 10:50 a.m. and help the teacher supervise students on playground, Activity Center or at the park (depending on weather). You should be finished around 12:30 p.m.

Cafeteria Volunteers:

12/17 – Pat Scharf, 12/18 – Marge Beinkemper, 12/19 – Marge Waldon,

12/20/18 – 01/02/2018 – Christmas Break

Playground Volunteers:

12/17 – Carolyn/Bernadine, 12/18 – Carolyn Robers, 12/19 – Randi McGraw,

12/20/18 – 01/02/2018 – Christmas Break

Lunch Menu: \$15.00 per ticket (5 meals)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
17	18	19	20	21
Spaghetti Lasagna Tossed Salad Bread Sticks Green Beans Fruit Milk	Chicken Patty with Bun Corn Green Beans Fruit Milk	Pizza (pepperoni or cheese) Veggie Sticks with Dip Fruit Milk	NO SCHOOL – CHRISTMAS BREAK	NO SCHOOL – CHRISTMAS BREAK



St. Mary's School
211 Fourth Street
Aurora, Indiana 47001
812-926-1558
www.mystmarys.com

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Beth Legge, President – School Commission	beth@mccabesflowers.com
Randy Dennis, Vice President - School Commission	sdrdennis@hotmail.com
Michelle Ryan, PTO President	michelle51703@yahoo.com
Ann Hutchinson, Administrative Assistant	ann.hutchinson@mystmarys.com

St. Mary's School has been known as a legacy of excellence in the parish and in the community. We are striving and praying that we can continue this level of excellence by continuing to keep the doors of school open. We as a parish and school have had some financial hardships and are hoping to reach out to the parishoners and community to help financially contribute to our 'Keep the Doors Open' campaign. We have several ideas in the works to produce more income in the future (i.e. preschool, scholarship program) and will also be making cuts to become financially sustainable. Please consider making a financial contribution to our school for the children in this community.

Our website www.mystmarys.com is the best way to donate! If you would rather write a check, you can drop off directly to school, or mail to the address above.

As of 12/12/2018: 151 Donations	\$116,627 raised	\$283,373 remaining
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Meeting – Monday, December 17, 2018

Our next Keep the Doors Open meeting will be on Monday, December 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Mr. Brookbank will give an update of his meeting with various people at the Archdiocese and other pertinent updates. We are asking that one person from each school family attend this meeting! All are welcome!

Current Progress

1. Currently working on getting mailing out to local and non-local business owners. We are typing the list of small and large businesses that we can solicit for a one-time donation or a pledge amount for the next 3-5 years. At this time, we are asking if you know of someone within an organization or someone in your family does, provide us with a contact name and number (if you have it). This will save us a significant amount of time reaching the correct person within an organization.

Pending:

1. We need a group of volunteers whose sole purpose would be for fundraising (above what PTO currently does), grant writing, seeking long term pledges, etc.
2. We need a group of volunteers to organize a campaign to recruit more students and marketing for our school.

How student can participate:

We have had many students come to the office to ask how they can help and even several students bring us money from their piggy bank. We asked them to return the money and leave the fundraising up to the adults. However, Kim Haverkos came up with a great idea of asking each student to raise \$19.59. This is based on when we moved into our current school building, August 30, 1959. We ask that they raise the money by working for it by helping others, raking leaves, taking out garbage cans, walking the dog for a neighbor, etc. Once they have raised \$19.59, they may turn the funds into their homeroom teacher by Friday, December 14, 2018.

Please send in your envelope before Wednesday, December 19, 2018!

Voices of Praise – December 16, 2018 at 3 p.m.

Linda Rechten

Voices of Indiana was formed to provide quality music education and a challenging choral experience to our community at large. Serving the areas in and around Dearborn County, Voices of Indiana consists of multiple programs for singers of all ages.

Voices of Indiana/Adult Voices will be performing at St. Mary's on Sunday, December 16 at 3 p.m. in the church. Free will donations accepted. All proceeds will be donated to St. Mary's.

*The original time was at 2 p.m., but has been changed 3 p.m.!

Calendar of Events:

Sunday, December 16th	Voices of Praise - performance at 3 p.m. in church
Monday, December 17th	Keep the Doors Open meeting at 6:30 p.m. in school cafeteria
Wednesday, December 19th	2Q ends
Thursday, December 20th, 2018 - Wednesday, January 2, 2019	Christmas Break – No School
Thursday, January 3rd	School Resumes
Tuesday, January 8 th	2Q Report Cards – sent home
Monday, January 21 st	Martin Luther King Day – No School *Possible snow make up day
January 27 th – February 1, 2019	Catholic Schools Week
Wednesday, January 30 th	Early Release – Students will be released at 12:35 p.m.