

The Bulldog Barks February 22, 2019

Mr. Brookbank – Principal

brookbank.science@mystmarys.com

I would like to inform you that the staff at St. Mary's is aware that the flu virus is making the rounds. We are taking precautions to eliminate the spread of this virus. The teachers are being attentive to the needs of the students, & disinfecting regularly. Sanitizing wipes are dwindling quickly, so any donations for use in the classrooms are appreciated.

Saint of the Month

St. Simon the Zealot

Exciting initiatives are moving forward at St. Mary's School. I have been in contact and attended meetings with personnel of Thomas More University. We are working with Thomas More educational consultants on a new school improvement plan. Specifically, we will structure a new curriculum that will logically show academic progression from grades Kindergarten through 8th grade. This plan will improve our use of technology and assessment of our academic progress involving our students. Please contact me if you have any questions. I will continue to update you on our progress.

Voucher Program

If you are a current voucher recipient, please send in a copy of your 2018 tax returns for next school year.

Does your family qualify for a voucher? If you are not sure, call the office or just send in a copy of your taxes and we will let you know if you qualify! You never know, until you ask.

ILEARN

Students in the 3rd - 8th grades have begun practice test sessions for ILEARN testing during school. Mr. Brookbank discussed what St. Mary's is doing to prepare for ILEARN, at the PTO Meeting on Wednesday, January 23, 2019.

We would also like to offer students a snack on testing days and are asking for parents to send in individual snacks (store bought or homemade) and we will distribute to the classrooms. Students are only allowed to take one test per day, so they will be testing over several days. The older students will most likely be taking a test every day!

- ILEARN testing is scheduled for the week of April 22nd through May 17, 2019.
- IREAD-3 testing has been rescheduled for March 11 – 15, 2019.

Please do not schedule any appointments or vacations during these dates. I apologize for any inconvenience. All of this testing is state mandated and does impact our schools rating. *

MISSION FESTIVAL

Look under Mr. Waldon's section for information regarding the Mission Festival!

PTO – Fish Fry

We are almost 100% full for volunteers for our 1st Fish Fry on March 8th, YEAH!! We are still in need of a few more fryers. We also would love to have a person to fill Mrs. Mannis's spot of washing trays. That position was not listed in the online sign ups, but if there is a grandparent or parishioner that would like a position that they can work at their own pace and sit and take breaks then please contact Michelle or Ann.

Below is the link for signing up online. Signing up for MORE THAN 1 WEEK is strongly encouraged. There are 48 open spots per week, and around the same amount of school families so we need you to fill multiple spots. We have a group of volunteers that come help every week that are not school families and we are going to ask parishioners to help too, but the majority of our spots need to be filled with school parents.

<http://signup.com/go/yunzvSH>

As always, please call, text, or email with any problems, questions or suggestions. (859-240-9390 cell)
Thanks for volunteering,

Michelle Ryan
PTO President

Celebrate St. Mary's

Save the Date! Celebrate St. Mary's will be on Saturday, April 27th at Dearborn Country Club. More information will be sent home in the next couple of weeks.

The Art Department is requesting buttons, jewelry, pearls, polished glass, etc. to use on the 5th grade project. Please send to the school office.

St. Mary's MUSICAL!!!!

We are excited to announce that Linda Rechtin has created a play about the history of St. Mary's. Linda gathered historical information from Mr. Waldon. She also received stories and memories from various Alumni!

Linda would like to have a meeting on Tuesday, February 26th at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria to give an overview of the play and to ask for help. She will need help with set design, make up, costumes, practices, etc. The play is scheduled for Friday, May 10th!



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.

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.

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.



Adopt a Soldier

Our Army Reserve alumnus, Morgan Wolfer, has been deployed. We plan to send many letters to her and her fellow soldiers. We also would like to send care packages that she can share. If anyone would like to donate to her care packages, please send the items to the 2nd/3rd grade room anytime during this school year.

Care Package Suggestions

Gum, Lifesavers, mints, *sunflower seeds (Morgan really likes these!)*, trail mix, protein bars, beef jerky, single serving bags of chips, powdered drink mixes for individual water bottles, playing cards, DVD's, **baby wipes (very popular)** hand sanitizer, Chapstick, peanut butter cups, Rice Crispy treats, Band-Aids, board games, air fresheners, Little Debbie's, Frisbee, Nerf football, inspirational readings.

Cannot be Shipped or Accepted

Home-baked goods, glass bottles or jars, aerosol cans or sprays, expired food, canned food, lighters, matches or lighter fluid, hotel samples, VHS tapes, hard cover books and music.

Pull for Ronald McDonald House Charities



Recycled beverage tabs help support local Ronald McDonald House program, a temporary "home-away-from-home" for the families of seriously ill children being treated at nearby hospitals.

There is a can by the front door of school, with the Ronald McDonald logo on it. Please bring in your beverage tabs and put them in the can.

Kindergarten – Mrs. Denning

amy.denning@mystmarys.com

***We have an Early Dismissal Day on Wednesday, Feb. 27.**

We have finished the identification, sounds, and printing of all 26 letters of the alphabet. Next week we will be working with long vowel sounds (the vowels say their own name). Keywords: a- acorn, e- equal, i- icicle, o- overalls, u- unicorn. We have learned the **v--- rule**: a vowel not followed by a consonant, (within the same syllable) is usually long; (no, me, so, be, he, hi), we code the vowel with a macron. A macron is a straight line over the top of the vowel. We will also get reader #11, *My Pal Bo*. Reading the "pop-up" words on a regular basis will help your child become a more fluent reader. The "Ww" words could use some extra practice!

In math we will continue dividing by sharing, while playing cards, and we will be working with a new pattern- ABC. Please continue practicing counting money with your child, especially nickels.

The Mission Festival will be next Friday afternoon, March 1, from 12:30- 2:00. All are welcome to join us. It will be an enjoyable afternoon for all. The children will need to bring money to take part in the activities.

Show-n-Tell for the week of March 4 will be letter Cc- hard sound as in cat.

Have a great week!

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

In phonics we will be reading and spelling words with digraph au (as in faucet), digraph aw (as in straw) and digraph oa (as in soap). We will also be reading and spelling “wild colt” words: When the letters i or o are followed by a consonant, the vowels are sometimes long instead of short (find, blind, old, told).

In Math we will begin using comparison symbols (<, >, =) and will be working with geometric shapes (cone, sphere, cylinder, cube).

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

In science we examined how large structures like houses are built from smaller pieces. We then designed and built our own structures with only 20 index cards that had to be at least one foot tall or 6 inches and support a hard cover text book.

We tied into Social Studies by identifying inventions that changed and shaped communities. For instance, skyscrapers were made possible by the invention of brakes for elevators, production of large amounts of steel, and the light bulb.

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

Students did a great job on our graphing and probability math chapter. Now we are moving to fractions. We will start off with writing fractions from words, naming fractions on a number line, and estimating using fractions. I think students will soon realize that fractions are not as bad as what they think!

We will play a review game on Monday to prepare for the science erosion test that will be on Tuesday. Students received a study guide on Wednesday to help them begin studying. Erosion is probably a topic that students will see on the ILEARN in April.

Both third and fourth graders will be studying pronouns and antecedents next week. They will also be finishing their novel and preparing for a test later in the week. Students will be learning about different types of figurative language as well.

The Mission Festival is on Friday! Don't forget to bring your money!

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

Fifth graders are continuing to work on division of fractions and mixed numbers in math. We will be preparing for our test over chapter 6 next week. Please check your child's assignment book for more test information. We have finished reading our book, Island of the Blue Dolphins. The project for this book was assigned and all students should have the guidelines in their VIP folder for reference. The final project is due Friday March 1st. I am looking forward to seeing some creative projects. In social studies, we are learning about the colonization of North America. We have learned the true story of Pocahontas, John Smith, and John Rolfe. Although, the Disney version is nice too! We are now moving on and will be learning about the Plymouth colony, Squanto, and the first Thanksgiving. Have a great week!

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

The 7th grade had a math test today. The 6th grade has a math test on Wednesday, their February book report is due by 2/28, and they will be working on their clay project for Celebrate St. Mary's Friday morning with Mrs. Metz. The 8th grade has their next test on Tuesday over all of chapter 7.

On Tuesday, February 26th at 7pm is a meeting about the musical directed by Mrs. Rehtin.

Our next early dismissal is on Wednesday and the Mission Festival is Friday after lunch. It's only 2 weeks until the end of the quarter and the beginning of Fish Frys.

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

The sixth graders are wrapping up their study of Europe's history and will take a test on Thursday. We will review in class. The seventh graders are researching the origins of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. They will have a quiz on Wednesday. The eighth graders will have a special guest speaker on Monday to discuss the Constitution and the modern day interpretation of laws. We are looking forward to a lively discussion.

Don't forget that we will have an early dismissal on Wednesday, February 27. The seventh graders are looking forward to helping to make the Mission Festival a success next Friday, March 1. Please see Mr. Waldon's entry for more details. Have a terrific week!

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

All sixth, seventh, and eighth graders are expected to keep their E-Learning folders in their backpacks unless they are specifically working on the assignments. It is much easier to keep all students up on work if their folders are accessible to them when they are at home and are accessible to the teachers and students when they are at school. February book reports will be due on February 28th.

All English classes are working on usage skills, keeping up their journals, and reading some great material! Visit our upstairs hallway to see some of their writing.

Our raffle for the black 7" Samsung Elite will be held next Thursday, February 28th. The cost of the chances will be \$5.00 each or 3 chances for \$10.00. Those who sell chances will earn credits for our class trip.

Don't forget our Mission Festival this coming Friday, March 1st from 12:30 until 2:00 p.m. Parents, grandparents, and friends in general are invited to help the 8th graders raise money for various missions and charities. Most activities cost 25 to 50 cents and include cake walks, free throws, golf, ring toss, face painting, a concession stand, pie in face (of three willing 8th graders), prizes, prizes, and more prizes. The GRAND PRIZE will be \$50.00 cash.

Remember that our next class trip payment of \$300.00 will be due on March 1, and payments are not refundable.

God bless!

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

We are approaching a week of work on the subject of Genetics. In the 7th grade the foundation of vocab and basic history of Gregor Mendel has been mastered. We are concentrating on probability of genetic crosses using the Punnett square. Beginning on Friday we will center on human genetic disorders that are common in our society. 8th grade will be introduced to dihybrid crosses involving the Punnett square. The eighth grade will begin a project on Friday asking questions at home about ancestry and a trait that the student chooses. The pedigree form will be in the possession of the student. Please help with any information concerning this project.

Connie Powers, CRE**connie.powers@mystmarys.com**

Our 8th grade Confirmation Class is ready to be Confirmed! Please pray for the following candidates as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at St. Louis in Batesville at 2 p.m. Eli Bruce, Jake Daugherty, Hannan Haverkos, Will Hollingsworth, Aidan Metz, Josh Murray, Jacob Pierce, Cyndi Tush and Ben Zigan.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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.

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:

02/25 – Pat Scharf, 02/26 – Marge Beinkemper, 02/27 – Marge Waldon, 02/28 – Charlotte Deville, 3/1 Monica Ramsey

Playground Volunteers:

02/25 – Carolyn/Bernadine, 02/26 – Carolyn Robers, 02/27 – Randi McGraw, 02/28 – Chris Strzok, 3/1 Chris Strzok

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25	26	27	28	March 1
Rotini & Meat Sauce Tossed Salad Green Beans Bread Stick Fruit Milk	Chicken Patty with Bun Corn Green Beans Fruit Milk	Pizza (pepperoni or cheese) Veggie Sticks with Dip Fruit Milk	Taco - Beef ONLY Refried Beans Corn Fruit Milk	Sausage Gravy Biscuits Fruit Milk



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

Bob Brookbank, Principal	brookbank.science@mystmarys.com
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

As of 02/14/2019:	\$704,186 raised
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Current Progress:

1. Mr. Brookbank is assessing if we can offer cafeteria next year. Mr. Brookbank and Mrs. Brothers have had meetings with individuals from St. John's regarding how they run their cafeteria. We need the cafeteria to break-even or have a profit at the end of each school year.
2. A letter of intent for enrollment for next school year was sent out. **Please return the completed form to the school office**, it was due by Friday, February 8, 2019. This should help in planning for staffing K-8 grades and hopefully provide some indication as to the viability of a pre-school for 2020-2021. He will be following-up that letter with direct phone calls and/or meeting with school-age families to encourage and recruit more student to increase the school census. Other more external efforts to market and recruit for the purpose of increasing the school census are still in the planning stages and/or are being considered for use in the total sustainability plan.
3. Bob, Ann, Mollie are working on the budget for next year. Once the details of the budget are finalized, the Finance Committee will need to approve the budget.
4. As far as a pre-school.....unless there are at least a double digit enrollment commitment, it would be too early to say we are having a pre-school for 2019-2020. It most likely may be 2020-2021 before we can prove a sustainable enrollment to for feasibility; however, as has been proven by the success of the funding campaign..... only God and time will tell.

Pending:

We still need a group of volunteers to organize a campaign to recruit more students and marketing for our school! Lyndsay Hays has volunteered to head this committee. We will be looking for additional volunteers to help her with:

- Mailing out to local and non-local business owners. We have a 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.
- This group of volunteers will also would for fundraising (above what PTO currently does), grant writing, seeking long term pledges, etc.

If you would be interested in being part of this committee, please contact Lyndsay at 812-907-0312.

Calendar of Events:

Tuesday, February 26th	Linda Rehtin – Musical Meeting at 7 p.m. in school cafeteria
Wednesday, February 27th	Early Release – Students will be released at 12:35 p.m.
Friday, March 1st	Mission Festival (Activity Center)
Friday, March 8th	3Q Ends
Friday, March 8th	Fish Fry – 1 of 5
Tuesday, March 12th	3Q Report Cards sent home
Wednesday, March 13th	St. Mary’s School Open House from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. -This is for parents of students entering Kindergarten through the 8th grade for the 2019/2020 school year
Thursday, March 14th	St. Mary’s Athletic Banquet (Activity Center) 5:50
Monday, March 18th – Friday, March 22nd	Provision Spring Break
Friday March 22nd	Fish Fry – 2 of 5
Monday, March 25th – Friday, March 29th	Spring Break – No School
Friday, March 29th	Fish Fry 3 of 5
Friday, April 5th	Fish Fry 4 of 5
Wednesday, April 10th	Early Release – Students will be released at 12:35 p.m
Thursday, April 18th	4Q Midterm
Friday, April 19th	Fish Fry – 5 of 5
Thursday, April 25th	4Q Midterm Reports
Saturday, April 27th	Celebrate St. Mary’s at Dearborn Country Club
Friday, May 3rd	Oldenburg Academy – Picnic for all incoming Freshman from 5 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 5th	1st Communion Mass at 11 a.m.
Monday, May 6th – Friday, May 10th	Teacher Appreciation Week
Friday, May 10th	St. Mary’s Musical – time TBD
Monday, May 13 – Friday, May 17th	8th Grade Class Trip
Monday, May 13th – Tuesday, May 14th	CYO Camp – 6th and 7th grade students
Wednesday, May 22th	End of 4Q
Wednesday, May 22nd	Kindergarten End of Year Celebration at 1 p.m.
Wednesday, May 22nd	8th grade graduation at 6 p.m.
Thursday, May 23rd	Last Student Day! – Grades 1 – 7