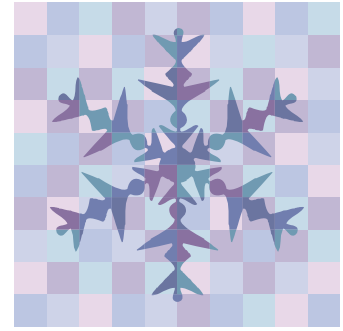




ST. MARY'S

Catholic Elementary School



Wednesday Word

January 20, 2010

Dear Parents:

Be sure to join us for our next Home & School meeting (TOMORROW NIGHT!) on Thursday, January 21st at 6:30 pm.

We have a full agenda of business items, financial information, and volunteer opportunities. You will have a chance to hear about Catholic Schools Week activities that are coming up the week of January 30th through February 5th. We will share information about our Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and parents can pick up a printout of their child's individual reports at this time.

We will also be giving away poinsettias that were donated by historic St. Patrick's on Locust and the big news is that every parent who attends will receive a FREE "jeans coupon" for their child to use at school!

We hope to see you there...all are invited and encouraged to attend.

Mr. C

P.S. Plan ahead for our next H&S meeting on February 25th when we share information on School Improvement for 2010-2011.

Wed. Jan 20	All School Mass – 4 th Grade
Wed. Jan 20	8B Basketball - Away
Thur. Jan 21	Home & School Meeting – 6:30
Fri. Jan 22	McLean Co. Dance Studio 10:00 Gym
Sat. Jan 23	IESA Cheer Competition, Peoria
Tue. Jan 26	6B Basketball Home 6:30
Tue. Jan 26	8B Basketball Home 7:30
Thurs. Jan 28	First Reconciliation 6:30 pm
Sun. Jan 31	Catholic Schools Week (CSW) begins
Mon. Feb 1	CSW Dress Up Day & Bishop's Mass
Tues. Feb 2	CSW Spiritwear Day 8 th Graders Explore Test at CCHS Pre-K/K Brunch CSW Stop, Drop, Pop & Read 1-1:30
Wed. Feb 3	CSW Dress up Day All School Mass Prayer Partner Bingo 1:45 – 2:45 Student/CCD Prayer & Song 6:25 pm
Thur. Feb 4	CSW Jeans & Team Jersey Day CSW Parent Picnic Lunch 11:30 – 12:30
Fri. Feb 5	CSW Catholic School Mass at St. Pat's CSW Staff Luncheon at Holy Trinity
	More info on Catholic Schools Week Will Follow!



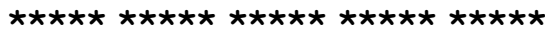
Drop Off Policy -- Please remember...
 Students eating breakfast can be dropped off at 7:20;
 Students NOT eating breakfast can arrive at 7:30.
 If you arrive before that and are waiting in the lot
PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK PARKING SPACES. Pull in to a
 parking spot so staff can park and get into the building.
 Thank You!



REMINDER:



The New Law regarding Cell Phone Use in a SCHOOL
 ZONE applies to the parking lot!
 If your vehicle is MOVING in the parking lot, YOU CANNOT BE ON
 YOUR CELL PHONE.
 Please help keep our children safe.



We still have LOTS of tickets for Illinois State Women's Basketball
 game on January 23 at 4:05 pm. If you need more - check with the
 office.



The St. Mary's Athletic Association will be selling
 "vintage" jerseys for a \$5.00 donation. These
 jerseys can be purchased at upcoming home games or
 by contacting Kathleen Ely at elyfamily@verizon.net
 There are a variety of sizes.

*Fish Fry information
went home to EVERYONE last week.
Please complete your volunteer form and
return it to the office ASAP.*

● *To sign up to volunteer on-line:*

Go to

<http://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=c.Signup&id=8606&mid=61595>

- *Click on "New Users" on upper right*
- *Fill in information*
- *On Green Tab on top, click on "Find a Sign Up"*
- *Enter the email "fishfry@stmarysschool.net "*
- *Choose the Fish Fry you would like to sign-up for.*

Contact Ray or Katrina Alvarez with any questions: katrina6578@aim.com

Fish Fry Childcare

We are still looking for volunteers for childcare for the Fish Fry's. Hours are 3pm – 8pm. Volunteers must have already taken Protecting Gods Children. Please sign up ASAP via the website or sign-up paper. Also, parents who are planning on dropping off their children, please sign-up on the website so we can get an idea of how many children will be attending.





Ever wonder what to do with all of your used greeting cards?

They can be recycled! Send your used cards to school. The 8th graders will prepare them to send to: **St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City, NV.**

There, the children will turn them into "Born Again Cards," sold in packets of 10, to help fund camping trips and fun extras at this home for unwanted and abused children. These big-hearted kids often donate a portion of what they earn through the sales of these cards to other worthy charities.

And we will be keeping them out of the landfills! Thanks!
DMZvonar

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St. Mary's Youth Group Pizza Fundraiser



Please remember to pick your Pizzas up after masses on
January 23 and 24th – that's THIS WEEKEND!

Middle School Language Arts News

January Book Orders go home today. Order online and pay by credit card, or send the form into school with a check. All orders help us earn new novels for the classroom!

5th Grade

We are continuing our journey through the Treasures book focusing on concepts of literature, grammar, and spelling. Students seem to be struggling with the concept of nouns; especially defining and identifying common and proper nouns. We have taken notes, completed group activities and reinforced the lessons with homework. Please take the time to point out nouns, both common and proper, in everyday life to make your child more familiar with the concept.

6th Grade

The 6th grade class is continuing to study concepts of literature through stories in their Treasures book. Along with literature, we have been working on writing in the persuasive form. This week, students will be persuading me (and others) to reduce, reuse, or recycle an "old" product into something "new". We have also been working with verbs; particularly *helping, linking, progressive forms, and perfect forms*. These concepts are new to 6th graders this year and will need to be practiced and studied.

7th and 8th Grade

A slight adjustment was made to the daily schedule for the 2nd semester. We will try to focus on 1 or 2 things/topics at a time instead of 3. It seemed students were rather "bogged" down during the 1st semester. In brief, we will take notes on a style of writing for approximately 1 week then follow the note-taking with a Writing-style Workshop that allows students to use that style of writing to create their portfolio pieces. At the same time as the Writing Workshop, students will also receive Grammar instruction which can then be directly transferred to their writing. The first Writing-style Workshop assignment will be due this Friday, January 22.



*****THE FIRST FISH FRY IS FAST APPROACHING*****

Each homeroom has chosen a theme to help fill Raffle Baskets.

Each St. Mary's student is asked to participate in donating an item for his/her homeroom raffle basket.

Please contact the room parent or teacher for your child(ren)'s homeroom with any questions.

Please send donated items or monetary donations with your child to give to the homeroom teacher by **February 11**.



HOMEROOM THEMES:

PK3- Fox 'n Hounds Spa

PK4- Road to Reading

K- Animals

1- Indoor Weekend Activities

2- St. Mary's School Theme

3- Movie Night

4- Crafts (a small Jean Day basket will also be assembled by room parents)

5- Reading

6- Funky Monkeys

7- Gardening

8- CCHS Sports

