



February



Saint Michael School
301 Saint Elizabeth Street
Loretto, PA 15940
(814) 472-9117

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Throughout the month of February, let us reflect on the many ways the Lord shares His light and blessings with us every day of our lives, let us take time to think about the meaning of genuine love, and pray that each of us may grow in this virtue.

... Love is patient, love is kind. Love is not jealous,
it does not put on airs; it is not snobbish.

Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not
prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries.

Love does not rejoice in what is wrong, but rejoices
with the truth.

There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust,
its hope, its power to endure. Love never fails.....



1 Corinthians 13: 14 – 18

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Our 2018 Catholic Schools Week celebration was enjoyed by many. We certainly praise God for affording us this auspicious occasion to celebrate the treasure we have in Saint Michael School!

We are grateful to Father Byrnes, our special guests, faculty & staff, all parents, grandparents, parishioners, friends, alumni, and volunteers who assisted in so many ways throughout the week making our celebration meaningful, fun and memorable. A special thank you to our families for the time and effort you put into your CSW family project! They were such a welcome addition to our celebration. We are always amazed at your creativity.

A special thank you goes out to our children's choir members for the spectacular job they did singing at our CSW opening liturgy. The following have been faithful members throughout the school year singing at our Youth Masses in addition to Christmas Eve

and CSW: Nicholas Clark, Briette Hite, Conner McMullen, Brenna Phister, Meghan McMullen, Gigi Canineu, Belle Eckenrode , Molly Itle, and Logan Krug. We greatly appreciate their dedication. New members are always welcome. Students in second through eighth grade are eligible to participate.

Catholic education is a team effort that encompasses our entire parish and faith community. It is together that we continue to provide our youth with the gift of a Catholic school that nurtures a closer, fuller relationship with God. Saint Michael School provides an environment where learning not only happens with minds, but with hearts as well, in making good choices that positively affects all who we encounter. It is through God's guidance that we continue our journey to provide an academic, Christ centered education to our students going forth to serve the Lord and one another. Our hope is that through your continued support, the "Good News" in Catholic education will continue to demonstrate to others the value of sending their children to a Catholic school.

CAFETERIA

This month we will invite the parents and grandparents of students in **fourth** grade to join their child (grandchild) for lunch on **Monday, February 12th**. They will go to lunch at approximately **11:30 am**.

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTIES

Classroom celebrations will take place on **Friday, February 9th**. Your child's classroom teacher will provide details for their individual classroom celebrations. Students may dress up or dress down wearing red, white, or pink.

MATHCOUNTS

We wish the best of luck to our Mathcounts team who will be competing **Saturday, February 10th, at UPJ**. Registration begins at 8:30am. The following students will represent Saint Michael School at the competition: Jack Corcoran, Kallie Gailey, Sydney Greene, and Mark Mento. We thank Miss Steinbugl for sharing her time and talents in preparing our students for the competition and for serving as the moderator.

HONOR ROLL

We congratulate the following students on attaining **HIGH HONORS** for the second report card period: Tia Bradley, Faye Butterbaugh, Sydney Greene, Mason Hogue, Haley Gray, JoAnna Hoover, Jimmy Beiswenger, Trevor Fahr, Mark Mento, and Alaina Toth.

We also congratulate the following students on attaining **HONOR ROLL**: Jack Corcoran, Derek Domidica, Aaron Duke, Kallie Gailey, Nathan Little,, Erin Talko, Maya Baker, Nicholas Clark, Jude Koehle, Michael Poorman, Travis Adams, Colleen Barnett,

Josh Corcoran, Billy Krug, Alec Kubat, Abby Lee, Kayden McMullen, Braden Wherry, Madison Cocho, Riley Diehl, Hudson Farabaugh, Austin Gray, Briette Hite, Brenna Phister, Gage Spielvogel, Levi Baker, Allie Dziabo, Travis Kubat, Hannah McMahon, Alena Nagle, Alivia Nagle, Jackson Rice, John Seymour, and Michael Watt.

ART NEWS

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art is having its annual Artists of the 21st Century: Student Art Exhibit. The **Opening Reception** will be held on **Saturday, February 24th from 1- 4PM**. The **Student Exhibition** showing will be held from **February 2 – April 7, 2018**. Museum hours are as follows: Tuesday – Friday 10AM – 5PM, Saturday 1PM – 5PM, and is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Our featured young artists whose work will be showcased include: Faye Butterbaugh, Mason Hogue, Erin Talko, Haley Gray, Michael Poorman, Jimmy Beiswenger, Abby Lee, Madison Cocho, Brenna Phister, Hannah McMahon, Alena Nagle, Alex Krug, Lilyann Strait, Krista DellaValle, Austin Fahr, Zoey Link, Zac Krug, Erin Statler, Bennett Clark, and Mina Lego. All are welcome to attend the opening reception and view our students' pieces. We thank Mrs. Nadine Toth for sharing her expertise with the students and for all her hard work in getting the pieces ready for exhibition! We are truly blessed to have such a talented and creative artist willing to impart her knowledge on our students, fostering their artistic abilities.

EARLY DISMISSAL/PRESIDENTS' DAY

Students will have an early dismissal **on Friday, February 9th** (teacher in service). Walkers and bus students will be dismissed at **12:40 pm**.

Due to the President's Day holiday, students will **NOT** have school on **Monday, February 19th**.

HOSS'S COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING EVENT

Our Home-School Association will be sponsoring a Hoss's Community Night at the Ebensburg location on **Sunday, February 11th**. Enjoy **LUNCH** or **DINNER** between the hours of **11am-9pm** with your family and friends while at the same time raising funds for our school! Our school will automatically receive 20% of your purchase. In addition, by purchasing Hoss's gift cards through our **SCRIP** program, our school will profit an additional 10%! We hope to see you there! Thank you in advance for supporting this fundraiser!

MID-TERM GRADES/WARNING NOTICES

Thursday, **February 15th**, will mark the mid-point of the third report period. Mid-term grades and warning notices will be sent home with students in grades 4 – 8 on

Tuesday, February 20th.

FACTS GRANT & AID ASSESSMENT

Information concerning **FACTS** financial aid applications for the **2018– 2019** is attached to the newsletter. I **strongly encourage** everyone to apply. Many of our families have and continue to be awarded grant monies to assist with tuition. **Application can only be made ONLINE.** To apply for financial aid, visit: **online.factsmgt.com/aid**. **The deadline for submitting the application is March 15th.** Please read over the informational flyer for additional information and guidelines.

REREGISTRATION

Reregistration of ALL families currently attending Saint Michael School will take place from **Tuesday, February 13th** through **Friday, March 9th**. **PLEASE BE PROMPT** in returning your reregistration form, as we need to begin ordering textbooks and supplies for next year. It is our hope that all students will be returning for the 2018-2019 school year as we continue to work as partners in your child(ren)'s education.

If you know of families in Loretto or surrounding areas with school age children, encourage them to consider Saint Michael School – we are NCEA certified and Middle States accredited!

REGISTRATION – KINDERGARTEN/NEW STUDENTS

Registration of **NEW** families and students in Kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year will take place on **Tuesday, February 13th**, from **8:30AM – 11:00 AM** and from **12:00PM – 3:00 PM**. Children entering Kindergarten must be five years of age by August 31, 2018. Parents must provide the following information: **birth certificate, Baptismal certificate** (if the child was not baptized at the Basilica), **child's Social Security number** and **current immunization record**.

There is a **\$40.00** non-refundable registration fee per family

**** Parents of students enrolled in this year's Kindergarten:** simply complete the reregistration form that you will receive on February 12th and return it to school. You do not have to come to the school for registration.

TUITION

It is hard to believe that almost half of our school year is over! With that in mind, please remember to keep your **tuition payments** current. **Our policy regarding outstanding balances applies to all students in grades K-8. If you have an unpaid balance prior to eighth grade graduation, kindergarten graduation, or the last day of school, your child(ren) will not be permitted to participate in graduation ceremonies or receive their final report card. In addition, their permanent records will not be transferred to any school until restitution is made.** If you are having financial difficulties, please bring this to our attention so that we can assist you now.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Attention all **sixth graders** entering seventh grade in the fall. This opportunity is for you! The Sister Theresa Nelen Scholarship Fund was established through the Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation of Altoona in 2006 by family, friends, and former students to honor Sr. Theresa on her golden jubilee of religious life. The creation of this scholarship was a means to thank her for the example she set for her former students by recognizing her outstanding work as an educator.

Each sixth-grade student will be given the opportunity to compete for a \$250 scholarship to be applied to his/her tuition upon entering the 7th grade and a \$250 scholarship towards his/her tuition upon entering the 8th grade at Saint Michael School. Once awarded, the scholarship is **non-transferable** to any other Catholic school. If the recipient chooses to transfer from Saint Michael School prior to the completion of his/her 8th grade year, the monies will then be awarded to the second runner up.

To apply, students are asked to describe in 300 words or less, "Why this scholarship would be financially helpful to you and your family AND why you want to remain at Saint Michael School through the completion of 8th grade." An official entry form will be given to each 6th grader. All entries must be submitted by **March 14, 2018**. The winner of this scholarship and their parents/guardians will be invited to the Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation's annual luncheon on May 17, 2018. Sister Theresa will address the sixth grade about the scholarship prior to the deadline. Please take time to discuss this opportunity with your child and encourage him/her to participate.

Contributions to this scholarship fund can be made to:
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
1330 11th Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601
Marked specifically: **SISTER THERESA NELEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Simple Influenza Prevention Measures:

1. Avoid close contact.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

2. Stay home when you are sick.

If possible, stay home from work, school and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others.

3. Cover your mouth and nose.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, or cough and sneeze into your elbow. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

4. Clean your hands.

Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

5. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.

6. Practice other good health habits.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.

\$100/20 WEEK CLUB TICKET

Ticket sales for the \$100 Club ticket will begin mid- February and will end Friday, April 6th. **However, if you would like to have your tickets earlier, please notify the school office and they will be sent home. It is mandatory that all families participate in this School Council sponsored fundraiser.** Your response in the past with this fundraiser was well received! **Thank you in advance for your cooperation in selling your fair share of tickets.**

LABELS/BOX TOPS/REGISTER TAPES

Please continue saving Tyson A+ Labels to enhance our school program.

Our Box Tops for Education collection is almost over for the 2017-2018 school year. Again, thank you for all your help in saving Box Tops, and please continue to save them throughout the remainder of the school year and summer months. **Please send in any Box Tops you may have presently at home.** Thank you.

RECYCLE!

Please continue to send your empty toner, laser and inkjet printer cartridges to school with your child. By doing so, we can earn credits that can be redeemed for office supplies. Thank you!

REMINDERS

- When dropping off your child in the morning, **please enter through the bus doors.** Please do not use the front entrance.

- If your child is staying for practices or any afterschool activity, we must have a **note** granting your permission for them to participate **first thing in the morning** as unforeseen circumstances arise. We ask your **full cooperation** with this matter. We understand that sometimes you may forget and need to call the school office. If so, please do so by **2pm**. As we get closer to dismissal it can get quite busy in the office and sometimes Viki and I are called out to be other places. Therefore, it is not guaranteed that **emails will be checked** and **messages** left at the last minute may not be received before dismissal. **For your child's piece of mind and safety, please write notes.** This policy applies to all grades.

I appreciate your hard work, cooperation and interest in your child(ren)'s education. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I welcome the opportunity to speak with you and to do what is necessary to continue to make Saint Michael School a special place!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Renee Phister, Principal

*Thank You to following businesses for supporting
Catholic education, especially
Saint Michael School.*

LEE'S INC. HARDWARE & SUPPLIES

KEYSTONE WASTE WATER SERVICES, INC.

INCO BEVERAGE, INC.

LINK COMPUTER CORPORATION

KNOPP & KLATT EXCAVATION & CONCRETE

*Please support local businesses.
Your support directly benefits
Saint Michael School.*