



JANUARY NEWSLETTER



SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL

P.O. Box 67
Loretto, PA 15940
Telephone (814) 472-9117

January 4, 2018

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Happy New Year! Let us take time to reflect on the year gone by and look forward to this New Year as an opportunity for renewal, peace, and hope. We as a school family are anticipating 2018 to be filled with success through our continued dedication and commitment to Catholic education. Together, let us make every effort to live as Jesus taught us to live.

Lord, let this year be filled with the things that are truly good --- with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help and the humility and openness to accept help from others.

As we make our resolutions for the year ahead, let us go forward with great hope that all things can be possible---with Your help and guidance.

Amen.

Anonymous

IN APPRECIATION

Thank you for your generous response to our Advent/Christmas Love Tree project! Together, we helped to make Christmas brighter for a local family.

Due to your generosity in contributing fruit or candy for our Advent fruit basket service project, the 8th grade students made and delivered approximately one hundred fifty fruit baskets! Thank you 8th grade for doing such a great job in creating the fruit baskets and for representing Saint Michael School throughout the community! We have received many cards and letters from those whom we visited expressing how much they appreciated being remembered by our school students.

We are grateful to the following parents who helped with the delivery of the fruit baskets: Mary Lou Buck, April Cocho, Pamela Duke, Theresa Domicica, Joan Krug, Jimmy Wyland, Britt Krug and Grandma Gerry. Your time and service are greatly appreciated!

Thank you to all our students who sang so beautifully at the 7pm Children's Christmas Eve Liturgy. We also extend gratitude to all our students who volunteered to participate in all the ministries during the Mass as readers, altar servers, and gift bearers. In addition, appreciation is extended to the students who were part of the Nativity program. Together, you all made the celebration of Christ's birth a beautiful and memorable experience! No better gift to the Christ Child than praising Him for our salvation!

We also thank Mr. Jonathan Nagy for providing the organ, piano, and keyboard accompaniment for the choir, Ms. Ashley Kelly for conducting the students and Miss Abby Kelly for providing accompaniment with the bells. The sharing of their time and talents are invaluable resources to our school and certainly appreciated by all!

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for your thoughtful Christmas gifts! I appreciate you thinking of me and am humbled by your expressions of gratitude. I appreciate each member of our school family. You are all blessings to Saint Michael School and will be forever remembered in my prayers throughout this New Year!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Faye Butterbaugh was the winner of the nativity set and Julie Nagle was the winner of the 50/50. Thanks to all who bought chances and participated in these fundraisers.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Friday, January 12th, will mark the end of the second report period. Report cards will be distributed to the students on **Thursday, January 18th**. If you would like to request a conference with any of your child's teachers, appointments may be made by calling the school office. We remind you that if any student receives a failing average for the year in two or more solid subjects, that will result in his/her being retained in the same grade for the next school year.

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 or have not made any attempt to pay down your balance after the second nine weeks of school, 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. We also reserve the right to restrict access to your PowerSchool account. If you are having financial difficulties, please bring this to our attention now so we can work together to arrange a payment plan.

PLEASE SIGN REPORT CARD ENVELOPES (Gr. 1-8) AND RETURN THEM TO SCHOOL BY MONDAY, JANUARY 22nd.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please Note: School will **NOT** be in session on **Monday, January 15th** (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day) or **Tuesday, January 16th** (In-Service Day).

UPCOMING BISHOP CARROLL EVENTS

Bishop Carroll Catholic High School will be holding their annual **Open House** for prospective high school students and their families on **Wednesday, January 31st @ 6:00PM**. A **financial aid** meeting will follow @ **7:00PM**. Please plan on attending to explore all the great opportunities to continue your child's Catholic education enriching their spirit, heart, mind, and body!

CAFETERIA

This month we invite the parents and grandparents of students in Second Grade to join their child (grandchild) for lunch on **Monday, January 22nd**. Lunch will be served approximately at **11:30 AM**. Additional information for our second grade families will be forthcoming.

MARCH ON THE MOUNTAIN

In order to promote the Pro-Life Message **Saint Francis University** will hold its own **March for Life** on **Monday, January 22nd**. Students in grades **6,7, & 8** along with their teachers will represent Saint Michael School by participating in the "*March on the Mountain.*"

The Rosary will be recited prior to the March in the Immaculate Conception Chapel, located on the Loretto campus, beginning at 10:30 am. The March itself will begin at 11 am in front of the Chapel. The walk will then commence around the mall in the center of campus and will conclude at approximately 11:55 am for those that wish to attend the 12 pm Mass. Adoration will follow Mass at approximately 12:30pm.

Parents are welcome and encouraged to join us and serve as chaperones. If you plan on attending, please make sure you have all required paperwork pertaining to mandated clearances and have the proper documentation stating your participation in the Diocesan Youth Protection Program.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week will be observed the week of January 28th – February 3rd. This year's theme is: ***Catholic Schools: Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed.*** Our kick-off celebration will take place on **Saturday, January 27th** at the **4:00 pm Mass** followed by a Pot Luck dinner in Our Lady of Loretto Community Hall. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending as part of our school family!

If you have a child or know of a child who will be eligible to attend Kindergarten next year and would like an invitation sent to them for our annual “**Kindergarten Visitation Day**” please call the school office with their name and address.

Details about our school and community celebration will be forthcoming very soon!

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE RAFFLE

Reminder: All sold and unsold tickets are due in the school office by **Friday, January 26th**. As stated in the letter that accompanied each family’s ticket envelope, it is mandatory that each family sell or purchase the tickets assigned to you. If you choose not to participate, the amount due for your unsold tickets will be added to your tuition. Extra tickets are available in the school office if anybody can sell additional chances. The money raised from this fundraiser will be used to maintain our school and update curriculum.

REGISTRATION/REREGISTRATION

It will soon be time to register your child for Kindergarten and to reregister the students in Grades K-7 for the 2018-2019 school year. It is our hope that all of you are planning to keep your children in our school. By focusing on the basics and demanding excellence, a Catholic education prepares your child for the future.

More and more parents are looking to the Church for practical help in educating their children. The demands on parents today can be overwhelming and one of the most concrete and practical ways the Church can support parents and family life is through the sponsorship of Catholic schools. We are fortunate that our parish supports the school and makes Catholic education available to parents who want it for their children. Catholic education helps instill the self-esteem, respect for others, and real spirituality that tomorrow’s adults will need to create a brighter future.

Our goal is to continue to increase the enrollment at St. Michael’s to continue to provide quality education. We are challenging each family to bring a new family into our school community for the 2018-2019 school year. Tell your friends, relatives and neighbors about our school and encourage them to discover, choose and support St. Michael School. **Spread the Good News!**

FACTS GRANT & AID ASSESMENT

An informational flyer pertaining to the **FACTS** financial aid application for the 2018 – 2019 school year will be forthcoming once it is received. The FACTS application deadline is **March 15, 2018**. Families must send or fax their tax information by **April 15, 2018** to be included in the first round of Second Century awards.

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

Last April, important information outlining new requirements set forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for individuals wishing to volunteer in schools was sent home. We as Catholic schools are required to follow these directives.

Volunteer positions include, but are not limited to coaching, library aids, cafeteria, recess, chaperones for field trips, assistance at Home School sponsored events i.e. Santa Secret Shop, advisors for extracurricular activities, etc. If you wish to continue to volunteer or are thinking of assisting in any capacity at our school, ALL components of the required paperwork must be on file in the school office **before** you can volunteer as outlined by Diocesan and State requirements that legally permit you to interact with our students.

Please make obtaining this documentation a priority as you are a necessary member of our Saint Michael School Family. It is with sincerity that we hope you will continue to support and assist Saint Michael School in future endeavors through the sharing of your time and talents. If you have any questions or need assistance in acquiring any of the required paperwork, please do not hesitate to ask for our assistance. All paperwork (clearances, Youth Protection etc.) must be completed by the first day of the preceding month in which you wish to volunteer. **For example:** if you do not have your clearances and you wish to chaperone your child's field trip in May, you must have all required documentation in by April 1st for approval.

ATHLETIC REMINDERS

As a courtesy to our coaches and adherence to the newly implemented requirements, issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pertaining to mandated clearance laws when working with children, we are asking your cooperation with the following:

- Due to the seasonal, cold temperatures, students attending basketball practices and games are to be dressed for the weather regardless if practices are directly after school or later on in the evening. **Students must wear athletic or sweatpants over their shorts going to and from practices and games.** Coats must also be worn when going in and out of the gym.
- When arriving for scheduled practices, please wait in the **lobby** area outside the main gym with your child until your child's coach is ready to begin their team's practice. If your child(ren) go directly to practice after school, they will not be dismissed until after their coach arrives to supervise them.
- Under no circumstance are players from other teams permitted to be on the gym floor during another team's allotted practice time.

- Due to liability issues, older and /or younger siblings are **NOT** permitted to participate in practices other than those of their assigned team. In addition, students awaiting their practice time, whether before or after a sibling are not to be left unattended. If they are to remain at the gym until their practice begins, a parent **MUST** stay with them.
- When picking your child(ren) from practice, please wait in the lobby. Your child will come to you when their practice is over. Only cleared, coaching staff members are to be on the gym floor with **their team**.
- If you have decided that you want to assist in the coaching of your child's team and did not previously express an interest prior to the season, you **MUST have all mandated documentation in the school office PRIOR to helping**. Please DO NOT attend any practices until you have been cleared by our athletic director and school administration. **It's the law.**

MISCELLANEOUS REMINDERS

1. Dress crew type or knee socks are to be solid navy blue or white. Low cut sport socks are not permitted. Socks must be free of designs. Argyle socks are not permitted. **Socks must be two (2) inches above the ankles.** (Girls may wear NAVY tights during the cooler months).
2. **Solid, dark colored dress shoes**, which are practical and safe for the school environment, are to be worn. They may not be opened back or opened toed or have a measurement of more than 2 inches in combined height of sole and heel (no skinny heels are permitted). Students who wear boots to school in the winter must bring dress shoes to wear during the day, unless they have phys.ed. then students may wear sneakers.
3. School delays and/or cancellations will be announced through School Reach and on the local radio and television stations. **If Penn Cambria delays or cancels, we are also delayed or cancelled.**
4. We trust that you, as parents, are interested in the success of your child in school and are, therefore, aware that **regular attendance** is essential to successful schoolwork. Most subjects are taught in sequence, requiring the understanding of each concept in the order of its presentation. **Habitual absenteeism and tardiness creates a genuine hardship for students and teachers.**
5. Absences from school are discouraged, so every effort should be made to schedule a child's doctor or dental appointment **after** school hours. Discretion should also be used when planning **family vacations**. Although summer may not be an ideal time to vacation as a family, it is an opportune time for your children as not to miss out on valuable instruction.

6. **Parents** are asked to call the school **before 8:30 AM** when their child is absent. This is done as a safety precaution. Failure to do so necessitates the school calling home to verify the absence.
7. According to our school policy, a note explaining the **REASON** for your child's absence must be sent to the homeroom teacher when he/she returns to school after any absence. These notes must be kept on file at the school for a year. The **official St. Michael School Excuse Form** can be obtained from our school website www.st-michael-school.org, the Basilica's website www.basilicasm-loretto.org or the school office as needed. Please utilize this form anytime your child(ren) are absent from school. Thank you for your cooperation.
8. A student who is absent from class for any reason is responsible for making up any work assignments that were missed.
9. **Appropriate dress for weather is urged.** Please make sure children have hats, gloves, boots, etc. during the cold, wintery weather. Also, some classrooms are sometimes cool, and the children are encouraged to bring a sweater with them to be worn if they feel chilly. This may be left in the classroom for whenever they would need it.
10. Book bags are required to help protect textbooks and to avoid damage. Please be sure that your son/daughter has one and uses it. Also, **ALL TEXTBOOKS ARE TO BE COVERED AT ALL TIMES! If your child needs a cover for his/her books, they will be provided by the school office or their teachers.**

DIOCESAN MOBILE APP FOR SCHOOLS

Below is a link with directions on how to download the app to your mobile device(s). The first time you open the app you will be prompted to choose which schools you wish to follow. This step is important so you receive the alerts/notifications on your mobile devices. If you forget to do this step you can always go back into the app and select or deselect schools in "settings".

<http://launch.customschoolapp.net/altoonajohnstowndiocese/>

Thank you for your continued **support, dedication, and commitment** to Catholic education! **You** are who make Saint Michael School a special place! How **blessed** we are to have **you** all as part of our **Saint Michael School Family!** We are, as always, **grateful** for your support. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

Best wishes for a New Year filled with peace, happiness, and prayer!

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.*