



MARCH NEWS

Saint Michael School

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March 1, 2018

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

February has come and gone by quickly. Now, the “March Madness” begins!

With spring right around the corner, it can be hard to keep children focused on learning. **Make school attendance a priority.** Let your child know that unless they're sick, they must go to school. Attendance is important!

“It's just one day, Mom,” your child says. “Missing one day won't hurt, will it?”

The answer is **yes** – missing school will hurt! Each day's learning builds on what was done the day before, so a child who misses a day has missed an important building block. Being in school every day – and on time- will help your child do well. If he or she is not in school, they can't learn. If he or she is late, they may miss something important. To promote regular attendance:

- **Tell your child** that you expect him or her to go to school every day. What's important to you is important to them.
- **Don't accept excuses.** Not feeling like getting out of bed isn't a good reason to stay home.
- **Schedule medical appointments** outside of school hours.
- **Plan family vacations** during school breaks.
- **Help your child** set the alarm clock earlier if he or she has trouble getting out of the house and to school before the bell.

Of course, if your child is truly sick, do keep your child home—especially if the illness is contagious.

Source: “Fingertip Facts”, www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us

LENT

Easter might not seem as big of a deal as Christmas, but the truth is, it's a BIGGER deal. Jesus rose from the dead! Before we get into the joy of Easter, we have a lot of preparing to do, a sort of spring cleaning of our souls. In the church year, this time is called Lent.

Lent is the time we set aside before Easter to help us clear out the things that get in the way of our goal of eternal life in heaven. We have a lot of clutter and sin separating us from God.

For most of us, however, spending forty days –six long weeks- in a penitential mode is challenging, and it's easy to lose steam and give up on the whole thing. Try to plan a quiet moment each day, and spend it together as a family praying and reflecting upon scripture readings, praying the rosary, or creating your own prayers as an offering to Jesus as a means to deepen your faith.

As we journey through the Lenten season, our students will have the opportunity to participate in several meaningful activities that focus on the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We will pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday afternoon, participate in a "Pie in the Face" contest on "PI" day to raise funds for the Missionary Childhood Association, students will participate in classroom initiated activities that focus on the Corporal Works of Mercy, "fasting" from five minutes of recess daily to pray for others, receiving the sacrament of penance, and reflecting on classroom scripture readings.

May your Lent be filled with blessings this year, and may your Easter be more joyful due to your time spent together throughout the days ahead. Our reward, our hope, will be eternal life with Jesus in heaven.

After the chocolate bunnies are long gone, we still have before us our risen Savior. He is the reason for our alleluias, and the hope we hold on to long after Easter.

Source: "Welcome Risen Jesus" – Sarah A. Reinhard

EARLY DISMISSAL/EASTER VACATION

Students will be dismissed at **12:00pm on Thursday, March 29th**. Since bus service **will not** be provided, parents must arrange for transportation home. Students will be dismissed through the bottom bus doors that exit into the parking lot closest to the cafeteria. We would like to dismiss in an orderly manner as to avoid confusion and chaos. Please **DO NOT COME INTO THE SCHOOL** for your children. Teachers will accompany them outside and help them locate you. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. School will resume on **Tuesday, April 3rd**.

SPRING FUNDRAISER

Since we had such a positive response last year, once again, we will be participating in the **Hoss's Dinner Kit** fundraiser this spring. Proceeds help to offset graduation costs for our eighth-grade class as well as assist with expenses for the 8th grade class trip. Each one of you will have an eighth grade graduate at some point and they too will benefit from our entire school family working together to raise funds to assist with these extra expenses: Kennywood admission tickets, charter bus, yearbooks, and class t-shirts. It is **mandatory** that each **eighth-grade student participates in this fundraiser.** A letter will be forthcoming to all eighth-grade families outlining each student's financial obligation towards their class trip and other aforementioned expenses. Once a total is calculated, the profit from your **individual sales** will be deducted. Then, profits from all other participating school families will be **divided equally among each 8th grader who sold items themselves**, from your total due. The remaining balance will then have to be paid by each individual family. **So, the more you sell, the less out of pocket you will have to pay.**

We will kick-off this fundraiser on **Monday, March 19th through April 9th**. Delivery of the dinner kits will take place on **Thursday, April 19th**. **Orders and money** are due in the office by **Monday, April 9th**. We ask that **one check be used to pay for your order**. Thank you in advance for supporting this fundraiser! **We greatly appreciate every family's willingness to purchase and/or sell the Hoss's Dinner Kits.** Working together as a school family will continue to help us achieve great things. **The 8th grade students appreciate your help and support!** Additional information and order forms will be forthcoming.

CAFETERIA

This month we have invited the parents and grandparents of 8th Grade students to join their children (grandchildren) for lunch on **Monday, March 12^h**. Students and their guests will go to lunch at **11:30 am**.

IMPORTANT

Hopefully, you are working on the **FACTS Aid Tuition Grant Application**. More families than ever received grant money this year as compared in the past. The deadline for filing is **March 15th**. **Reminder: the application can only be filled out online. To apply for financial aid, visit online.factsmgt.com/aid.** If we can be of any assistance throughout the application process, please do not hesitate to call.

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 in regard to 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.

PRINCE GALLITZIN QUADRANT FORENSICS COMPETITION

The Prince Gallitzin Quadrant Forensics Competition will be held on **Friday, March 16th** at **Bishop Carroll High School**. This competition is open to all students in grades 6 through 8. This year, sixteen of our students have chosen to take part. We wish the best of luck to: Travis Adams, Colleen Barnett, Alaina Toth, Braden Wherry, Maya Baker, Haley Gray, JoAnna Hoover, Jude Koehle, Tia Bradley, Faye Butterbaugh, Derek Domicca, Aaron Duke, Kallie Gailey, Sydney Greene, Nathan Little, and Erin Talko. Students who place in their category will then move on to the Diocesan Forensics meet on **Tuesday, March 20th, at Bishop McCort High School**. We thank Miss Sarah Steinbugl for coaching the forensics team. We also thank Mrs. Sarah Adams for assisting Miss Steinbugl in preparing our students for competition. Additional information will be sent home closer to the event.

CONGRATULATIONS

We commend our students who played on the Pee Wee and Varsity basketball teams this year. These athletes put much time and effort into developing necessary skills and, at the same time, maintained academic standards. Great Job!

THANK YOU

Special thanks to Jeff Talko, Jennifer Erculiani, Liz Phister, Matt Statler, Mike Strait, Lew Klatt, and Justin & Abby Rice for coaching our basketball teams this year. Their time, patience, and dedication in working with our children is greatly appreciated!

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH DAY – “WWJD (What Would Jesus DO? WWYD (What would YOU DO? Four Simple Letters! Two Simple Answers! Understanding your call to love, care for and respect others.”

Junior High Youth Day will be held on **Sunday, March 18th** at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School from **11:00 am – 4:00 pm**. Students will partake in a day full of faith, fun, and friendship! Mass will be celebrated with Bishop Mark. Registration forms were sent home with all students in grades 6, 7, & 8. **Deadline to register is Friday, March 2nd**.

WEATHER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE

During this month, students will learn what they should do in case of a severe weather emergency and will participate in a weather preparedness exercise conducted by the **Department of Emergency Services**.

REPORT CARDS

Tuesday, March 20th, will mark the end of the third report period. Report cards will be sent home on **Tuesday, March 27th**.

RE-REGISTRATION

The re-registration form and fee of all students currently attending Saint Michael School is due in the office by **Friday, March 9th**.

Please be prompt in returning your re-registration as books and supplies will need to be ordered for 2018-2019 school year. If you have misplaced the re-registration form, let us know and we will send one home with your child. Thank you for your cooperation!

PLEASE NOTE: There is a **\$40.00** registration fee for your first child and **\$5.00 for each additional child per family**. If you have already registered a child for Kindergarten, this fee has already been paid. Simply return the re-registration form.

HOSS'S COMMUNITY NIGHT

We thank all our families who participated in the Hoss's Community Night on February 11th. A profit of **\$372.75** was realized from the event with an additional **\$88.00** profit from the sale of Hoss's gift cards. We also thank Theresa Domicica for once again coordinating the event! Your time and talents are greatly appreciated!

SECOND ANNUAL LENTEN MISSION (March 11th – 16th)

Information about our **Lenten Mission** was sent home with students in **grades 2-8**. We need **students to read the petitions and carry up the offertory** every evening throughout our mission week. We thank everyone who has already volunteered their time. **We no longer need volunteers for Monday**. However, there is ample opportunity for participation Tuesday-Friday. Your child's participation would be an excellent form of penance and prayer as they prepare their hearts for the risen Christ. Please discuss this

opportunity with your child and encourage them to sign up. It would only be an hour of their time.

COMING SOON

We are pleased to announce that beginning in April, students in **first through eighth grade** will have the opportunity to sign up for **soccer**. Practices will be held weekly. Registration information and additional details will be sent home very soon.

SCRIP UPDATE

Thank you to **all** our school families who support our SCRIP Program! A few statistics to show the profits **YOU** have generated. During the month of February, we generated a profit of **\$720.41!** Thank you for your efforts and it is our hope that more families will participate in our SCRIP Program throughout the coming months! You are making a difference!

CLASSROOM BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays are a very special day; an opportunity to celebrate God's gift of life. We at Saint Michael School love to share in this special occasion with your child, however we are asking that students contain the distribution of their special birthday treat within their own classrooms. The faculty, staff, and I are **very appreciative** of your thoughtfulness to include all of us, however, when students visit other classrooms unexpectedly, distractions occur causing the interruption of instruction. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

MEN'S DINNER

Our **56th annual Men's Dinner** will be held on **Sunday, March 18th** from **12 noon – 4:00 PM**. In addition to our reputable, delicious meal, there will be a basket raffle. We are asking for basket and/or gift card donations. Please donate a basket for this major parish fundraiser. Help will also be needed to collect tickets, and clean up. **Any school family wishing to donate a basket or gift card can drop them off at the school.** **Thank you for supporting our parish family fundraising efforts!**

LOOKING AHEAD

Important dates to mark on your calendar:

Chipotle	
School Spirit Fundraiser	April 18 th (Wednesday) Chipotle – 5:00pm – 9:00pm
First Communion	May 6 th (Sunday) 10:30 am Mass

May Crowning Field Trip (K-1)	May 13 th (Sunday) May 11 th	10:30 am Mass Mountain Playhouse/ Faranda Farm
Field Trip (6-8) Field Trip (Grades 2-5) Eighth Grade Class Trip	TBA May 16 th TBA	Pittsburgh Natural History Museum Kennywood
*Eighth Grade Graduation	May 23rd (Wednesday)	6:30 pm - Basilica
*Kindergarten Graduation	May 24th (Thursday)	6:30 pm - OLOLH
*Last Day of School	May 29th	Dismissal Following 8:45 am Mass – Parent Pick up

These dates are tentative and subject to change

Let us pray that the remaining Lenten season will bring forth in each of us a renewed commitment to sacrifice and service to one another.

May this Easter bring you and your family joy, ready to welcome the risen Jesus!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Phister, Principal

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Catholic education, especially
Saint Michael School.*

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Your support directly benefits
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