



SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL
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October News

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

The most colorful season of the year is upon us; a season to behold nature's palette; a festival of colors blanketing the green grass of summer. The fragrant aroma of pumpkin, cinnamon, and the sweet smell of the cool, crisp, fall air are sure signs that summer has fallen into autumn bringing shorter days and longer nights.

Our school year has begun and is off to a great start. Students as well as parents are settling into the routine of school. It has been wonderful to see all of our returning parents and students as well as meet and greet those who are new to our school family.

Working together as partners in your child's education is essential for their future school success. **Research shows that supporting your child's education at home encourages them to do well and value the importance of their education. Conversing with your child on a daily basis about their day emphasizes to them that you care about their success and that learning is important.** Some ways to begin your conversations include, "Let's see what you brought home," "Show me what you have for homework," "Describe a book you enjoyed," or "Tell me what you learned that you would like to know more about." A few minutes of your time can add up to be a priceless investment in your child's future.

In all our busyness, we must remember to take the time to look around and fully appreciate the beauty in the world that God has given us. Let us thank God for the wonderful gift of creation and be faithful stewards in caring not only for the earth, but for one another.

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

Our **38th Annual Arts & Crafts Show & Sale** is only a few weeks away. A special letter regarding the Arts & Crafts Show was sent home two weeks ago. Thank you to all our families who have returned their volunteer form. If you haven't returned your form as of today, please do so this week. **We are still in need of volunteers for Saturday afternoon (12:30-4:00) in the kitchen and Home School Booth.**

Our Arts & Crafts Show will take place on **October 21st and 22nd, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.** As usual, this promises to be a great event. We are asking for your help and support, as well as your time and talent, so please plan to attend and to assist in any way possible.

Haluski will be made for the Arts & Crafts Show & Sale on the evening of **Thursday, October 19th, at 6:00 PM.** We will also be wrapping baskets. In order for this fundraiser to be successful, **we need the help of each family.** Your response in the past has been terrific, and I'm sure you will once again respond generously with your time. Thank you for having a vested interest in the life of our school!

MONTH OF THE ROSARY

October is the month of the rosary and our school children will be praying the rosary throughout the month asking Mary for the graces we need in our lives. Let us pray, too, that we may live out the Gospel message in our own daily lives.

Please join us on **Friday, October 13th** as we honor our Blessed Mother as a school family by participating in a Living Rosary led by our students at **Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine at 2 PM.**

On **Friday, October 13th at 6 PM,** Saint Michael School students have the opportunity to lead the rosary during Fatima Devotions that will be held in our Basilica. If your child is interested in participating, please write a note or call the school office. Thank you in advance for your willingness to represent our school and honor our Blessed Mother.

CAFETERIA

We are inviting the parents and grandparents of our **3rd Grade** students to join us for lunch on **Wednesday, October 25th.** The students enjoy having guests during this special time and we hope as many as possible will be able to attend. The cost of an adult lunch is \$3.10. Lunch will be served at 11:30AM.

Please note: On days that we are hosting parents/grandparents for special luncheons, no alternate entrees (peanut butter & jelly, salads, etc...) can be ordered. All students must eat a regular lunch or pack a lunch that day.

Applications for **Free and Reduced Lunches** are still being accepted. All it takes is a few minutes of your time to fill out the application. Even if you think you may not qualify, it may be worth your while to try. **Any family who has received Free and Reduced lunches in the past and has not resubmitted their application will lose benefits on October 6th.**

At any time throughout the school year should your financial situation change, you are eligible to apply for *Free* and *Reduced* lunches. Just contact the school office and we will forward you an application. All information provided on the application is strictly confidential.

MID-TERM GRADES/WARNING NOTICES

Thursday, September 21st, marked the **mid-point** of the first report period. Mid-term grades and warning notices were sent home on Monday, September 25th to the parents of students in grades 4-8. Please be sure your child is putting forth his/her best efforts for the remainder of this first marking period. There is still time to improve. The end of the first grading quarter is Wednesday, October 25th.

As a reminder, your child's conduct grade is just as important as his/her academics. Conduct grades **WILL** affect your child's high honor roll and honor roll status. Blurting out, talking while the teacher is speaking, being disruptive etc...will NOT be tolerated. Your full support is appreciated.

SCHOOL PICTURES

On **Monday, October 9th** "**Lifetouch Studios**" will be here to take fall portraits. It is optional as to whether or not you choose to purchase any portraits. All students will be photographed and a proof sheet will be provided for your perusal in the event that you choose to order portraits at a later date. Each student will also receive a "Safe Smile Identification Card" that will include their most recent photo. There are several options for payment. You may pay by cash or check by filling out the order/payment envelope and return it to school on picture day or you may visit their website at **mylifetouch.com** to place your order, and make your payment using a credit card. **Regardless if you prepaid online, everyone must return the attached picture form on picture day.**

Lifetouch Studios offer a variety of backgrounds and packages. Additional add-ons can also be purchased. Please visit **mylifetouch.com** for additional information, choices, and product availability.

Students do not have to wear uniforms on school picture day. **They may NOT wear jeans, shorts, jeggings, t-shirts, or sweatshirts**, but they may wear **DRESS CLOTHES** or their school uniform for pictures. **Leggings may be worn with a long shirt or sweater that is at least mid-thigh in length.** The photographer suggests that for better pictures **dark or bright colored** clothing should be worn.

Pictures of preschool children will also be taken. Young children may be brought to school between **9:00 and 10:30 AM**. Envelopes will be provided at that time.

GYM CLASSES WILL NOT BE HELD ON PICTURE DAY.

POWER SCHOOL

Power School is up and running! Please take advantage of this program to monitor your child's progress and check your lunch account balances. You can access Power School by using the access ID and password that was issued to you when we initially instituted the Power School program. In addition to Power School, school messenger and the Catholic Schools Community App provide many sources to keep open communication between the school and our families.

We will be utilizing the "**SCHOOL BULLETIN**" feature on Power School. Throughout the week we will post important information pertaining to practices, important notices, etc. to keep you up-to-date with school happenings. Announcements will change weekly, sometimes daily. Make it a habit to check Power School frequently.

Please Note: **Teachers are required to update grades weekly not daily.** We ask for your utmost patience and cooperation.

BASKETBALL

Students interested in playing Parochial Jr. Varsity and Varsity basketball have signed up and are getting ready to begin the season. I will be meeting with all students who are taking part in basketball and will remind them of their responsibility in regard to our school athletic eligibility policy.

In implementing this policy, we will be using a weekly checklist. Each teacher will evaluate the student's **class work, homework**, and **conduct** inclusive during the week as being satisfactory or unsatisfactory. If a student receives an unsatisfactory mark in any subject area or in conduct for the week, he/she will not be permitted to take part in basketball practices or games for the coming week. The period of ineligibility will extend from Friday to Friday each week. If the student improves the following week, he/she will again be permitted to participate in practices and games.

Each Friday the coaches will be notified of any student who is ineligible to participate in the athletic program that week. Parents will also receive a written notice sent home with their son/daughter stating that their son/daughter is ineligible to participate.

Coaches are also expected to comply with our school policies pertaining to academic eligibility and absences as not to give mixed messages to our students.

***** If a student is absent from school or goes home early because of illness, he/she may NOT attend practice that evening! If a student is absent on Friday, he/she may not play in Saturday's game, but could play on Sunday.**

All students (Grades 1 – 8) who will be participating in the basketball program must have a physical. Hopefully, this has already been completed. Insurance information and fees should have already been returned to the school office or to your child's coach.

DRESS CODE REMINDERS

As of October 9th, **shorts are no longer permitted to be worn to school.** This includes Kindergarten students. Beginning October 9th, girls in grades 1-8 have a choice of the following.

Green plaid jumper/white or light blue blouse

Green plaid skirt or culottes/white or light blue blouse/navy vest

Navy/Khaki slacks/white or light blue knit shirt or blouse/navy vest

Girls may NOT wear make-up, nail polish, hair glitter or excessive jewelry. Earrings are to be SMALL and NON-DANGLING.

Boys may choose from the following:

Navy dress slacks/white, light blue or navy blue dress shirt or knit shirt

Khaki dress slacks/white, light blue or navy blue dress shirt or knit shirt

“Dress slacks” means that no sports pants, jeans or jean type fabric with rivets may be worn. Painter or cargo pants, pants with external pockets and/or zippers on the pockets are not allowed. This includes *DICKIES* brand pants.

As the weather begins to get cooler, we ask that the students bring a sweater to school that can be worn if they feel chilly. A **solid** navy cardigan sweater may be worn for warmth. This may be left in the classroom for whenever they would need it. It is a good idea to have your child's name on the sweater.

Students are not permitted to wear coats, jackets, hoodies or sweatshirts during the school day.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

Information pertaining to our **\$100/20 WEEK CLUB TICKET and Recreational Vehicle Raffle** will be sent home within the week. These fundraisers have the potential to raise \$25,000. Tickets for both events will be available from the school office beginning **Thursday, October 5th**. Although they are not due for several months, we wanted to give you the opportunity to sell these tickets throughout the holiday season.

Ticket sales for the recreational vehicle will begin on October 5th and end Friday, January 26th. The \$100 Club ticket sells will begin in February and will end Monday, April 9th. However, if you would like to receive the \$100 Club tickets before February please contact the school office and they will be sent home. **It is mandatory that all families participate in both of these School Council sponsored fundraisers.** Your response in the past with these fundraisers was well received! Thank you in advance for your cooperation in selling your fair share of tickets. The proceeds will go towards expenses incurred associated with maintaining our school facility and curriculum updates. Additional tickets are available upon request.

Our fourth annual **Toy-A-Rama, renamed as our “Christmas Gift Extravaganza”**, will be held on **Saturday, November 4th**. Your help is needed to make this fundraiser a success. Monies generated from the Christmas Gift Extravaganza over the past two years has assisted in providing for the educational needs of your child(ren). Additional information and tickets to be sold will be coming home soon.

HALLOWEEN

We will have our Halloween Grand March on **Thursday, October 26th**. Students may bring costumes to school that day and change into them in time for the Grand March. When choosing a costume, please make it as simple as possible. **Costumes that require full face make-up or colored hair spray are not permitted. No costume accessories that represent a weapon are allowed (plastic swords, guns, sticks, hammers, hatchets, etc.). Considering the recent media coverage pertaining to clown sightings and Stephen King’s “IT” movie, clown costumes are NOT PERMITTED as not to frighten our younger students. Thank you for your cooperation.**

More information will be sent home later in the month pertaining to individual classroom celebrations.

DIOCESAN TEACHER IN SERVICE

School **will not** be in session on **Friday, October 27th** due to a diocesan in-service. Classes will resume on Monday, October 30th.

HOSS’S COMMUNITY NIGHT – MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Home-School Association will be sponsoring a Hoss’s Community fundraising event at the Ebensburg Hoss’s Steak & Sea House on **Sunday, November 5th**. For each family who dines at Hoss’s, at any given time on that date, Hoss’s will donate 20% of your guest check back to the school. **The school can earn an additional 10% when you use Hoss’s gift cards purchased from our school SCRIP–GIFT CARD PROGRAM.** Mark your calendar now to reserve the date. More information will be sent home in the near future.

SCHOOL COLLECTIONS

Project A+ redemption labels from Tyson products, **empty ink cartridges**, and **Box Tops** for education are collected on a regular basis by our students to generate funds for our school. I take this opportunity to **thank you** for your support in the past. With your help, we are able to obtain useful and needed materials for our school program. Please encourage relatives, friends, and neighbors to save their Box Tops, Tyson Labels, and empty ink cartridges to benefit our school.

Collecting Box Tops has never been easier! No cutting necessary! Just download the “Bonus Box Tops” app onto your phone by following the steps below and see Saint Michael School profit right before your eyes.

Sign Up Online:

1. Go to www.boxtops4education.com
2. Find our school by typing in school name, zip code, or city and state
3. Hit “select this school”
4. Select “Join” – sign up with your First Name, Last Name, and Zip Code
5. Create your login with a username and password, provide an email address

Download the Bonus Box Tops app (available for IOS and Android):

1. In iTunes (IOS) or Play Store (Android), search for the app “Bonus Box Tops” and download
2. Sign in with the account created online to link your app to St. Michael School
3. Bonus Box Tops Offers are listed in the app – when you purchase one of these items, select the offer, then click “Scan Receipt”
4. Take a picture of your receipt – you can take several pictures if it doesn’t fit on one frame; click submit and once the receipt has been verified, the bonus monetary amount will be added to our school’s account. You’ll see your activity in your app, and can see the earnings on the website.

THANK YOU!

We thank those families who participated in our annual magazine drive and cookie dough fundraiser.

Delivery of our **cookie dough** is scheduled for **Friday, November 3rd**. Parents can pick up their cookie dough between the hours of **3:15PM – 6:00PM** downstairs in the cafeteria.

I ask that you **do not** park in the school parking lot **prior to 3:15 PM** as buses will be entering and exiting through the lot. Please do not arrive before 3:15 PM as we will be busy with dismissal and will not be able to be downstairs to dispense orders. Thank you for your cooperation.

If anyone is available and willing to sort orders please call the school office. Your help is **invaluable and appreciated!** Delivery time to be announced.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate **Derek Domicica** and **Aubrey Strait** for being selected as **winners** of the “**2017 School Bus Safety Poster Contest**” sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in conjunction with Wilkinson Bus Lines. **Derek** was selected as the **2nd Place Winner** and **Aubrey** was selected as the **3rd Place Winner** in their respective divisions. They along with their families are invited to attend an awards ceremony held at the Pennsylvania Governor’s Residence on October 17th to be recognized for their achievement. Congratulations to both of you. Thank for making us Saint Michael School proud!

We congratulate **Mrs. Stevens** for being recognized for her **20 years** of service as a teacher in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. We appreciate her **dedication** to Catholic education! We are **blessed** to have Mrs. Stevens as a **valued member** of our faculty and Saint Michael School Family!

REMINDERS

- Physical education is a required class. A **doctor’s excuse** is necessary if a student is unable to participate in this weekly requirement for any reason. If a student does not have an excuse from the doctor, participation in gym class is mandatory.
- Our school policy states that **students may not call home** to ask for permission to go to someone’s house to play, to obtain homework, reports, other forgotten items or **to attend practices** when they have had previous knowledge.
- Beginning immediately, students who request another newsletter, permission slip, class notes, lost worksheets, or any other information that was sent home will be charged **.25 cents per copy**. This is our effort to encourage them to be more responsible.
- **Homework books** are to be **signed nightly**. This serves as a daily communication tool between parents and teachers. Students have the responsibility of making sure their homework is written down, completed and

that their homework book is signed. If your child habitually comes to school without their homework book signed, warning notices will be issued and consequences will follow.

- Parents should not arrange vacations while school is in session unless there is no alternative. Calendars are distributed at the beginning of the school year so that parents may plan their schedules accordingly. **No homework will be sent home BEFORE or given to be completed DURING vacation. All work must be completed AFTER the student returns to school. An official vacation form must be filled out.**
- **Cough drops** are **NOT** to be brought to school for use by students throughout the school day. As stated in the letter pertaining to over-the-counter medications that was sent home at the beginning of the school year, we are no longer permitted to dispense any medications.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parent/Teacher Conferences	Monday, November 6 th & Wednesday, November 8 th
November Special Lunch	Kindergarten-November 16 th , Pow Wow @ 11:15 AM Lunch @11:30AM
December Special Lunch	5 th Grade – December 5 th @11:30AM
Santa Secret Shop & Home School Luncheon	Friday, December 8 th
Catholic Schools Week Opening Mass Open House & Potluck Luncheon	Saturday, January 27 th , 4:00 PM

Communication is key – please contact me should you have any questions, concerns, or comments. Research shows, and common sense tells us, that when schools and families work together, children benefit.

As the changing colors and falling leaves surround us, may we take time to appreciate beauty in the world God has created.

If I may be of assistance to you in any way, please call me.

Peace, Blessings, & Good,

Mrs. Phister
Principal