Dear SMCS Parents:

Happy February! Many thanks are extended to everyone who helped us celebrate Catholic Schools Week and the 145th Anniversary of SMCS. What an absolutely memorable week for students, staff, grandparents, parents, and alumni! The students will say CSW is the best week of the year and I would have to agree after experiencing all our cherished traditions and events. We were blessed with a snow-free week, which is unheard of for the last week of January. The Pancake Breakfast brought back many alumni, as well as current families. One alum told me that SMCS still feels like home and some alumni even wore their eighth grade t-shirts. Grandparents are always a joy to have in our school. Hopefully, as parents, after spending time in the classrooms, your commitment to Catholic education for your children is renewed.

Our 145th Anniversary Mass was just beautiful. Having the Most Reverend Bishop Parker accompanied by five priests celebrating this Mass in recognition of the 145th Anniversary of St. Mary Catholic School was just amazing. Bishop Parker is an advocate for Catholic education and delivered a meaningful homily. He asked the children to thank their teachers for helping them learn in a faith-filled school and to thank their parents for all the sacrifices parents make in choosing Catholic education for them. There were many visitors in attendance with a number of them being from the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the local community. All were so impressed with our children’s reverence during Mass and their strong participation in singing the hymns. Afterwards, many of our middle school students served as ambassadors and ate lunch with our special guests, our dignitaries. I received glowing comments about our students from the dignitaries who were so impressed with our children. They were ambassadors in every sense of the word!

In addition to celebrating the Mass for our 145th Anniversary, Bishop Parker exercised his power to award SMCS students and staff a day-off in honor of the school’s significant anniversary. I am not sure who cheered louder, the students or the teachers! Once this special day off is selected, I will send the date out in an email.

As always, I ask for your prayers to the Holy Spirit to give me the guidance and wisdom needed to serve as principal of St. Mary Catholic School.

May God Bless you!
Patricia A. McDermott
A group of SMCS parents and students participated in the March for Life in Washington, D.C., on January 24. Attendees included Henry Ortiz, Dominic McCormick, Collin Ambush, Sullivan McGreevy, Nick Knod, Jacob Kijowski, Sebastian Wilkinson, Mrs. McCormick, Mr. Ambush, and Ms. Ward. Our SMCS group joined thousands who wanted to show their support to RESPECT LIFE!

**FEAST OF ST. BLAISE**

February 3 is the feast day of St. Blaise. A special blessing of throats will take place before our First Friday Mass on February 7. *(May God, through the intercession of Saint Blaise, preserve you from throat troubles and every other evil.)*

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS**

Please join us on Friday, February 7, at 10:30 A.M., for our school Mass.

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Ash Wednesday is February 26. All SMCS students will attend Mass on Ash Wednesday and receive ashes at 10:30 A.M.

**LENTEN REMINDER**

Meat will not be served on Ash Wednesday or on any Friday during Lent.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Students in grades three through eight attend Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 2:00 P.M. Thank you, Father Cibelli and Father Langan, for giving our students the opportunity to attend Stations of the Cross during school.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **February 7**
  - 10:30 A.M. First Friday Mass

- **February 12**
  - Bring A Friend to School

- **February 17**
  - No School—President’s Day

- **February 18**
  - No School—Professional Day

- **February 20-21**
  - Middle School Social Studies Fair

- **February 22**
  - Family BINGO

- **February 26**
  - 10:30 A.M. Ash Wednesday Mass

- **February 28**
  - 2:00 P.M. Stations of the Cross
  - 6:00 P.M. St. Mary Parish Lenten Soup Supper
  - Hosted by SMCS School Board & HSA
  - 7:30 P.M. Children's Stations of the Cross

**Dates for 2020-2021**

**First Day of School:** August 31, 2020

**Last Day of School:** June 10, 2021

**Rummage Sale:** October 16, 2020
YEAR TO LEAD—I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME

But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. Isaiah 43:1 Students and parents assisted faculty & staff in many community activities that highlighted our call to lead and to serve throughout the month.

Each year for Catholic Schools Week, SMCS participates in a Community Care Drive to support a local organization. This year students and their families collected and donated educational supplies to Children In Need, INC (CIN). CIN supports children who qualify for free and reduced meals or attend the Head Start Program in Washington County. Its primary mission is to keep children in school learning with a good sense of belonging in order that they may learn, grow, and become productive citizens. Thanks to the generosity of our SMCS families this drive was a success!

STAND FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

The Archdiocese of Baltimore and St. Mary Catholic School are committed to providing a safe environment for children. Our procedures for volunteering in schools require that a volunteer who will have substantial contact with children must complete screening and training procedures that are outlined on the www.archbalt.org website.

The current and effective version of the Archdiocese of Baltimore’s Child and Youth Protection Policies and Procedures, including the Statement of Policy for the Protection of Children & Youth and the Code of Conduct for Church Personnel of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, which incorporates any revisions to the Archdiocese of Baltimore’s Child and Youth Protection Policies and Procedures that may be made from time to time, is available on the Child and Youth Protection page of the Archdiocese of Baltimore’s website and on the Archdiocese of Baltimore’s online compliance management system, VIRTUS.

Please register as a St. Mary Catholic School Volunteer, at http://www.virtusonline.org/. All new volunteers should complete the process as soon as possible. Please contact Jan McCarter, our screening coordinator, at jmccarter@saintmarysonline.org, or (301)739-0390, ext. 129, with any questions or concerns.

Virtus training IS NOT complete until all parts of the process are fulfilled including the background check. Just completing the online training itself DOES NOT fulfill the requirements for volunteering.

TRIMESTER NEWS

T2 PROGRESS REPORTS

The second trimester of the 2019-2020 school year ends on Friday, March 6. Progress Reports will be distributed on March 13.

A GENTLE REMINDER

The Trimester II progress reports are scheduled to be distributed on March 13. Please make sure that all your financial obligations (tuition through February, health & art fees, late fees, Phase II fundraiser, after-school care through January, classroom fees, cafeteria expenses, band fees, etc.) are paid in full by that time. Otherwise, progress reports will be held until all financial obligations are met. Please refer to page 52 of the handbook. Notifications will be sent home during the week of March 2 if you are still in arrears with anything at that time.

FAMILY COMMITMENT

The SMCS faculty and staff want to thank all our parents and grandparents who have been putting in their volunteer hours. The extra help we are receiving is truly amazing and very much appreciated! Please remember to log your hours in HELP COUNTER, ( http://www.helpcounterweb.com/ci/volunteer ). A minimum of twenty hours must be completed and logged in by midnight on March 6. Invoices for unfulfilled hours will be sent in March.

ACADEMIC NEWS

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPELLING BEE

St. Mary Catholic School middle school students displayed their spelling abilities on January 17. Participants in the spelling bee showed poise, self-confidence, communication and public speaking skills, and the ability to thrive under pressure. Each grade had a winner and a runner-up who will participate in the Washington
County Spelling Bee on March 21. Congratulations to all our participants and to those who will be representing our school at the County Bee.

**6th Grade Spelling Bee Contestants:** Murray Brauner, Miles Campbell, Samantha Ellis, Sabrina Harman, Olivia Kocevar, Johan Michael, Ayush Patel

**7th Grade Spelling Bee Contestants:** Diego Cabezas, Brooks Carpenter, Leah McCafferty, Sonia Qaum, Neekie Rahimian, Madelynn Renken, Raniya Shahid, Lauren Stine

**8th Grade Spelling Bee Contestants:** Cardin Dang, Katelyn Hubbard, Ethan Knipple, Dominic McCormick, Sullivan McGreevy, Mackenzie O’Berry, Emmalee Shives

Our winners and runners-up are:

**6th Grade**
Winner- Johan Michael  
Runner-up- Murray Brauner

**7th Grade**
Winner- Neekie Rahimian  
Runner-up- Lauren Stine

**8th Grade**
Winner- Cardin Dang  
Runner-up- Sullivan McGreevy

Special recognition goes to Johan Michael, who is the overall SMCS spelling bee champion! Our gratitude is extended to the HSA for providing the prizes for our winners and to Mrs. Marisa Bowers for serving as the judge for the bee. Much appreciation is also extended to Mrs. Karn for coordinating the event!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY BEE**

All SMCS middle school students participate in the National Geographic Bee. This year the finalists from our classroom competitions will compete on February 4 at 8:30 A.M. The 2019-2020 Geography Bee winner for St. Mary Catholic School will be determined at that time. Our gratitude is extended to Mrs. Marisa Bowers for coordinating this competition. Our finalists include Sabrina Harman, Ethan Baker, Brooks Carpenter, Adam Kershner, Neekie Rahimian, Henry Ortiz, Nick Knode, Ethan Knipple, Sully McGreevy, and Isabelle Becker. (Mackenzie O’Berry is the alternate.)

**DECEMBER GOOD SAMS**

*But a certain Samaritan being on his journey, came near him; and seeing him, was moved with compassion.* Luke 10:33

Each month teachers select a student who exemplifies our SMCS Keys for Success by being kind and gentle, respectful, and responsible, just as the Good Samaritan demonstrated on his journey. Teachers tie the SMCS Keys for Success back to the Bible verses that reflect these attributes.

**I want to congratulate our Good S.A.M.s from December**

Pre-Kindergarten – Grace Beck  
Kindergarten – Poppy Nicodemus  
First Grade – Easton Lowe  
Second Grade – Donovan Jackson  
Third Grade – Samuel DiFonzo  
Fourth Grade – Conor Buckley  
Fifth Grade – Ava Stumpf  
Sixth Grade – Ayush Patel  
Seventh Grade – Sonia Qaum  
Eighth Grade – Caroline Carpenter

Thank you for your Service, Attitude, and Manners!

The Good SAMs for January will be announced on February 7 before First Friday Mass.
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2020

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK KICKED OFF WITH OUR ANNUAL PANCAKE AND OMELET BREAKFAST.

The delicious aroma of pancakes, omelets, and sausage filled the school. This event really brings together current families, alumni, and friends of SMCS as everyone gathers in the gymnasium to share a meal and spend time together. Community is such a strength at SMCS. Many thanks are extended to Kelly and Kelly Byrne for coordinating this event and organizing all the wonderful volunteers who pitch in to make the Pancake Breakfast so memorable. We appreciate our event sponsors, iHop, Western Sizzlin, Weis, Martin’s, 28 South, Christmas Tree Shops, the Byrne Family, the Capobianco Family, the Corsi Family, the Diaz Family, the McCarty Family, the McDermott Family, and the Romsburg Family.

OPEN HOUSE

Mrs. Stumpf and Mrs. Beck, along with the teaching staff, gave of their time during the Pancake Breakfast to offer prospective families the opportunity to tour the school and learn more about SMCS.

SMCS STUDENTS AT MASSES

SMCS appreciates the support of our area Pastors in helping us spread the news about Catholic education. Our students spoke about their education at SMCS during the weekend Masses. These students did a remarkable job representing St. Mary Catholic School. Emma Karn, Louisa Poffenberger, Ava Stumpf, and Isabelle Becker spoke at St. Ann’s Parish. Annabella Kenny spoke at St. Augustine’s Parish. Peyton Gullickson spoke at St. James. Ava Stumpf spoke at St. Joseph’s Parish. Dominic McCormick spoke at St. Michael’s. Louis Maciulla, Ella Britton, Sabrina Harman, Collin Ambush, and Eric Cabezas spoke at St. Mary’s.

SHOW YOUR SCHOOL PRIDE

Students were encouraged to spread the news about Catholic Schools Week by wearing their uniforms over the weekend! Thank you is extended to all the students who showed their school pride in the community.

ST. MARIA GORETTI HIGH SCHOOL TREATS SMCS STUDENTS

St. Maria Goretti High School students (SMCS alumni) treated SMCS students to hot chocolate and cookies on Monday. We appreciate that SMGHS wanted to help us celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

STUDENTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO SPREAD THE NEWS ABOUT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK BY WEARING THEIR UNIFORMS OVER THE WEEKEND!

THE SMCS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM IS OFF TO A STRONG START! 2,863.60 VOLUNTEER HOURS HAVE BEEN LOGGED AS OF JANUARY 27! IT IS GREAT HAVING SO MANY PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE ENDLESS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES THAT EXIST AT SMCS AND THAT ARE VITAL TO THE MISSION OF OUR SCHOOL. THANK YOU!

OUR TOP TEN VOLUNTEERS PER HOURS LOGGED ARE:

Greg & Heidi Maciulla
Aggie Ndong-Cantave
Kelly & Kelly Byrne
Sarma & Tom McCafferty
Roy & Candice Romsburg
Tom & Crystal Strother
Cassie Kinna
Marilisse Gonzalez
Diane McCormick
Kelly Ghanayem

Remember to log into HelpCounter (http://helpcounterweb.com/ci/volunteer) to track your hours. You will receive a monthly summary from HelpCounter at the end of each month. Trimester II started on November 25, so a minimum of 10 hours must be logged by midnight on March 6, or notify the principal of your plan to complete the required hours. Questions can be emailed to volunteer@stmarycatholicschool.org.
**GRANDPARENT DAY**

Grandparent Day is truly one of the highlights of Catholic Schools Week. It is an opportunity for grandparents to visit their grandchildren’s classrooms and then be treated to a delicious lunch! It is also the day our students enjoy their student appreciation luncheon. Hopefully, our students and their grandparents feel how much they are loved! The tasty lunch and ice cream sundae bar were prepared and served by Leslie Kocevar (Coordinator), Candice Romsburg, Kelly Byrne, Cassie Kinna, Sarah Warner, Ratha Rossi, Tammy Shultz, Patti Perez, Kate Ignatowski, Stash Nicodemus, Matt & JoDee Westfall, Stacey Stine, and Andrea Garcia. We appreciate our parent volunteers who gave their time, effort, and love to provide such a special luncheon to our grandparents and students!

**VOLUNTEER RECEPTION**

An appreciation reception for volunteers was hosted by the faculty and staff in recognition of all the support parents, grandparents, and friends provide to our school. Many thanks are extended to Mrs. Stumpf for coordinating the event. Our volunteers certainly enjoyed the entertainment provided by our students in Pre-K, Kindergarten, First Grade, Fourth Grade, and Eighth Grade.

**PARENT VISITATION**

SMCS teachers and students enjoyed sharing their day with all our parent visitors. Hopefully, this event gave parents an opportunity to have a glimpse into a day in the life of an SMCS student and reinforced why sacrifices are made to ensure our children have a Catholic education. Many thanks are extended to Mrs. Shultz, Mrs. Brooks, and Mrs. Weaver for offering parents the opportunity to eat with their children.

**145TH ANNIVERSARY MASS**

One of the most beautiful sights during Catholic Schools Week was seeing so many priests on the altar celebrating a special Mass in recognition of the 145th Anniversary of St. Mary Catholic School. The Most Reverend Bishop Adam Parker, Father Cibelli, Fr. Langan, Fr. Limmer, Msgr. Jarboe, and Fr. Collin Poston were the celebrants.
SMCS invited many local dignitaries to have lunch with middle school student ambassadors. Our guest list included: The Most Reverend Bishop Adam J. Parker (Archdiocese of Baltimore), Fr. Cibelli (St. Mary Church Pastor), Fr. Langan (St. Mary Church Associate Pastor), Fr. Limmer (St. March Church Pastor Emeritus), Msgr. Jarboe (St. Ann Church Pastor), Seminarian Thomas Pressley (Mt. St. Mary’s Seminary), Mrs. Karen Murphy (AOB Associate Superintendent), Mrs. Regina McCurdy (AOB Sr. Employee Relations Manager), Ms. Mary Destino (AOB Director of School Excellence), Mrs. Lauren Robinson (AOB Director of Marketing for Catholic Schools), Mr. Joe Oleszczuk (AOB Director of Educational Technology), Ms. Jennifer Lindstrom (AOB Ed Tech Support Analyst), Ms. Nan Sheridan-Mann (Hagerstown office of U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen), Ms. Kitty Clark (City of Hagerstown), Chief Lohr (Hagerstown Fire Department), Battalion Chief Cleck (Hagerstown Fire Department), Mrs. Mo Tedeschi (SMCS School Board), Mr. Chris Cosentino (SMGCHS President), Mrs. Jennifer Carbaugh (SMCS HSA Co-President and SMGCHS Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and Admissions), Mrs. JoAnn Hevey (SMGCHS Director of Finance), Ms. Lois MacCumbee (Retired SMCS Teacher), Mrs. Susan Bloom (Retired SMCS Office Assistant), Mrs. Wanda Gerstner (Retired SMCS Teacher), Mrs. Deborah Bockrath (Retired SMCS Librarian/ Marketing & Development Director), Mrs. Cassie Kinna (SMCS HSA Co-President), Ms. Aggie Cantave (SMCS HSA Vice-President), Mr. Steve Hummel (St. Mary Parish & School Finance Chair), Mr. Buddy Sommerville (SMCS Basketball Coach), Mrs. MJ Sommerville (SMCS Alumni Volunteer), Mrs. Emily Britton (SMCS substitute nurse), Mrs. Linda Field (St. Mary Catholic Daughters), Mr. Frankie Corsi (St. Mary Church Lay Corporator), Mrs. Marilyn Hembrock (American Legion Ladies Auxiliary), Patrick Kwankam (1015 Media, producer of SMCS videos), and Wallace Lee (Washington County Museum of Fine Arts).

Our student ambassadors were Collin Ambush, Isabelle Becker, Caroline Carpenter, Cardin Dang, Annabella Kenny, Nicholas Knodle, Zachary Kumar, Brynn Lietuvinikas, Dominic McCormick, Sullivan McGreevy, Mackenzie O’Berry, Henry Ortiz, Savannah Perez, Juliana Rodriguez, Emmalee Shives, Murray Brauner, Miles Campbell, Jocelyn Dunahugh, Samantha Ellis, Owen Ghattas, Olivia Kocevar, Diego Cabezas, Brooks Carpenter, Grace Hollingsworth, Owen Ignatowski, Adam Kershner, Louis Maciulla, Leah McCafferty, Madeline Mercurio-Vitulli, Sonia Qaum, and Lauren Stine.
Another St. Mary tradition was started by Father George Limmer about 15 years ago with the conception of the SMCS Annual Fund, (http://stmarycatholicschool.org/support/annual-fund/). Father Limmer started the Pastor’s Circle by contributing $1,000 to the First Annual Fund and challenged others to make the same financial commitment to our school. Father Limmer then invited all Annual Fund donors who contributed $1,000 or more to a special dinner, his treat! This event continues to this day with the generosity of Father Cibelli who financially supports the Annual Fund and hosts the Pastor’s Circle Dinner during Catholic Schools Week for all donors who match or exceed his $1,000 donation. School leadership also attends the dinner, shares the good works of the Annual Fund, and expresses gratitude for support of SMCS!

**TALENT SHOW**

*America’s Got Talent* needs to look no further than the SMCS Talent Show! Our students entertained the audience with their amazing performances. Our star performers for 2020 included:

Emma Karn—Song  
Emma Karn—Dance  
The Basket Cases (Middle School Girls Basketball Team)—Dance  
Brynn Lietuvnikas—Original Song  
BAM (Brynn Lietuvnikas, Annabella Kenny, and Mackenzie O’Berry)—Original Song  
Fourth Grade Class—Song  
Eli Rodriguez—Piano  
Zach Rossi—Electric Guitar  
Eighth Grade Class—Song & Dance  
SMCS Faculty & Staff—Song & Dance

Many thanks are extended to Collin Ambush, Leah McCafferty, Annabella Kenny, Sullivan McGreevy, Brynn Lietuvnikas, Diego Cabezas, and Samantha Ellis for attending the rehearsals and assisting with the production. Of course, as always, Mrs. Forsythe should be commended for all her efforts in bringing us such a special show each year.

**POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS**

SMCS students have been earning keys throughout the month of January. We are truly blessed to have students who care about each other, who strive to excel in their academics, and who greet each school day with a smile.

As of January 27, the Key Count for students by grade level is as follows:

- **Pre-Kindergarten:** 100 keys  
- **Kindergarten:** 176 keys  
- **First Grade:** 137 keys  
- **Second Grade:** 130 keys  
- **Third Grade:** 230 keys  
- **Fourth Grade:** 72 keys  
- **Fifth Grade:** 93 keys  
- **Sixth Grade:** 70 keys  
- **Seventh Grade:** 87 keys  
- **Eighth Grade:** 65 keys

A total of 1,160 keys has been earned by SMCS students!
EIGHTH GRADE RECOGNITION

During the talent show, the St. Mary Catholic School Graduating Class of 2020 was recognized. Thanks to the HSA, our eighth graders received their CLASS T-Shirts on this day. Eighth graders will be wearing their special T-Shirts on Fridays as recognition of their years of hard work as St. Mary Catholic School students. The Class of 2020 includes Collin Ambush, Isabelle Becker, Caroline Carpenter, Cardin Dang, Katelyn Hubbard, Annabella Kenny, Ethan Knipple, Nicholas Knode, Zachary Kumar, Brynn Lietuvnikas, Dominic McCormick, Sullivan McGreevy, Mackenzie O’Berry, Henry Ortiz, Savannah Perez, Juliana Rodriguez, and Emmalee Shives.

CAREER DAY

Our annual Career Day provides students with a personal view of a variety of careers, as well as connecting their academic pursuits with possible future endeavors. Many thanks are extended to our phenomenal guest speakers, who shared their passion for their careers with our students. The speakers included: Vicki Hammer (Math/Banking/Analytics), Linda Mercurio (Law Professor), Carrie Stumpf (German Translator), Trooper Dave Thompson (Police Officer with K9 Unit), Mark DiFonzo (Explosives Engineer), Trooper Kocevar (Maryland State Police), Leslie Kocevar (Director of Mary Kay Cosmetics), Derrick Kinna (Crane Operator), Jack Dill (Police Officer), Dr. Harriet Michael (Pediatrician), and Ash Azadi (Commercial Airline Pilot).

STUDENT APPRECIATION

Thanks to the efforts of the Student Council, all students received a special coupon for a free ice cream treat as an appreciation gift for supporting the many events and service projects that occur during the year. The Student Council also presented a special gift to the faculty & staff.
TEACHER APPRECIATION

The faculty and staff truly appreciates the efforts of our H.S.A. Executive Board in helping throughout the week with all the Catholic Schools Week events. A special thank you is extended to Cassie Kinna, Jennifer Carbaugh, Aggie Cantave, Kelly Byrne, Sarah Warner, Jennifer Prosa, and Crystal Strother for the lovely luncheon provided to the staff.

BOOK FAIR

Browsing and shopping at the Scholastic Book Fair was again a favorite experience during Catholic Schools Week for our students. Everybody loves a good book, especially with as much as our students enjoy reading! Many thanks are extended to Mrs. Melanie Rosengart for serving as the coordinator and to her team of helpers that included Patti Perez, Sherri Goetz, Ratha Rossi, Andrea Garcia, Blair Gosnell, Sarah Warner, Amy Blanco, Kate Ignatowski, Diane McCormick, Erika Marks, and Jackie Staley.

SMCS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

During Catholic Schools Week, each school in the Archdiocese of Baltimore recognized a Teacher of the Year. The teacher selected has excellent instructional abilities, is dedicated to professional growth, is committed to the mission of the school, and is committed to the Archdiocese of Baltimore theme, Year to Lead—I Have Called You by Name. Mrs. Tina Forsythe was selected as the 2020 Teacher of the Year for SMCS. As a certified teacher in the State of Maryland, Mrs. Tina Forsythe creates joy in learning with her first grade students. She sets high expectations for her students, encourages with positive affirmations, and acknowledges every child’s potential. She uses a variety of strategies to foster excitement toward learning, as well as maintaining a respectful climate, reflecting genuine warmth, caring, and sensitivity to students as individuals. Her effective communication with parents has enhanced her relationship with the children and has helped them grow academically and socially. Mrs. Forsythe implements new strategies gained through professional development. She designs and implements lessons that are differentiated to cater for a range of abilities and learning styles. These strategies are highly effective in engaging all students during her lessons as the students participate in the Daily 5. She plans and adjusts her lessons to accommodate various learning needs of students by utilizing strategies from Universal Design for Learning and from Differentiated Instruction. It is fun to watch her students gain more independence, accept more accountability for their own learning, and become more eager to accept challenges throughout the year. Mrs. Forsythe accepts the call to lead at St. Mary Catholic School each year through serving as the moderator of the Student Council. Although she teaches first graders, she maintains a strong rapport with the middle school students, many of whom were in her first grade classroom years ago. Through her
guidance and support, the student council officers and homeroom representatives are given opportunities to showcase their leadership skills. Our very active student council helps plan and coordinate service projects and special events throughout the year. As the moderator, Mrs. Forsythe challenges the middle school students to be good role models, participate in service, and be active leaders of the school community.

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION—HSA NEWS

RESTAURANT NIGHTS

SMCS has three opportunities for families to eat at local restaurants and earn money for HSA. A portion of your bill will be donated back to the school if you eat out at the following restaurants: February 6 (Texas Roadhouse); February 13 (Chili’s) and February 24-29 (Bob Evans). Show your school spirit by wearing your SMCS uniform or Spirit Wear at all of our Restaurant Night fundraisers!

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL

Middle School Social will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 on February 7. A dollar donation is required to help offset the cost of drinks and snacks.

BAKE SALES

February 5: Fifth Grade
February 12: Third Grade

SCRIP SALES

SMCS families are able to keep Catholic education affordable by participating in the SCRIP Program. SCRIP can be ordered each Monday.

HERSEYPARK TICKETS

Hersheypark ticket fundraiser forms were sent home with oldest/only children. You may have noticed that the ticket prices are a significant savings over the gate price; in fact, if you purchase tickets before March 26th, the cost per ticket is only $42, which is a savings of over $30! What you may not know is that our school makes a profit for every ticket sold, so it is a win-win situation! Please help us to sell as many Hersheypark tickets as possible to raise money for our school! If you would like additional copies of the flyer to take to work, to church, to pass out to friends, etc., please contact the school office. Act fast to make sure you can take advantage of the special discount Early Bird pricing; these $42 tickets are only...
available until March 26. After that date, the price increases to $45. If you sell 20 or
more tickets, your name will be entered into a raffle to win **two free regular
admission tickets!**

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**CANDY SALE**

Gertrude Hawk Candy is back! This is an optional fundraiser that begins February 10 and ends March 2. Candy will arrive in time for Easter. Order forms are forthcoming.

**FAMILY DANCE**

The HSA is hosting a Family Dance on Saturday, February 8, from 6:30 to 9:00 P.M. in Fatima Hall. Tickets are $25 for one parent and one child. Each additional parent/child is $5.00. Spots are limited. Please send your payment and ticket order via kidmail in an envelope marked HSA Family Dance by February 3.

**FAMILY BINGO**

Our annual Family BINGO Night is scheduled for Saturday, February 22. Come enjoy dinner and an evening of fun for the whole family. Meal includes pizza and drinks. Baked goods will be for sale. Following dinner we will play 12 bingo games for great kid-friendly prizes. Doors open at 6:15 P.M. Bingo games will start promptly at 6:45 P.M. Registration forms are coming February 3.

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**STUDENT COUNCIL**

**STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS**

- **President:** Collin Ambush
- **Vice-President:** Leah McCafferty
- **Secretary:** Annabella Kenny
- **Treasurer:** Sullivan McGreevy
- **Parliamentarian:** Brynn Lietuvnikas

**TAG DAY**

Students who brought in a donation during Catholic Schools Week for the Community Care Drive that benefitted Children In Need may come out of uniform on Friday, February 14. The theme is Valentine’s Day colors.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE**

The last dance of the year will be held on Friday, May 15. Theme and attire guidelines are forthcoming.

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**NJHS**

Attention parents of 6th graders and new middle school students:
It is time to begin thinking about our upcoming application window for National Junior Honor Society! Students interested in joining our chapter should be working on service and leadership activities both in and out of school. A well-qualified candidate for admission is someone who meets these criteria:
- Minimum 3.7 cumulative G.P.A. in core academic classes (we look at 6th-8th grade G.P.A.)
- Active in service activities, such as altar serving, volunteer work in the community, participation in school and church service projects, etc.
- Demonstrates leadership qualities, such as spelling bee or geography bee finalist, student council officer, team captain, etc.
- Positive role model: someone who exemplifies the SMCS Keys for Success
- Strong character and displays integrity and honesty

The G.P.A. of all middle school students is reviewed at the end of Trimester 2. Anyone who meets the minimum 3.7 G.P.A. is extended an invitation to apply. Once all applications are received, the NJHS faculty council meets to review the applications and to determine which candidates will be extended an invitation to join NJHS. A formal induction ceremony will be held on April 29. Questions about membership should be directed to Mrs. Jennifer Karn, chapter advisor.

**Executive Board members are:**

- Ethan Knipple – President
- Lauren Stine – Vice-President
- Louis Maciulla – Secretary
- Neekie Rahimian – Treasurer
- Diego Cabezas & Brooks Carpenter – Co-Parliamentarians
FACTS GRANT & AID

FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment conducts the financial need analysis for St. Mary Catholic School. For the upcoming 2020-2021 school year, families applying for financial aid will need to complete an application and submit the necessary supporting documentation to FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment by February 28, 2020, for Archdiocesan Assistance, or by April 1, 2020, for tuition assistance from your parish. All families (Catholic and non-Catholic) are encouraged to apply; in fact, it is required if you will be requesting assistance. Applicants should apply online at www.stmarycatholicschool.org (Select Admissions tab; click on Financing Education) or at https://online.factsmgt.com/aid.

PRE-K STORY TIME WITH MRS. ABE

Current 3 and 4 year olds are invited to attend Pre-K Story Time. This is a free event. Saturday, February 8 - 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Enjoy a morning of reading, crafts, and snack hosted by Mrs. Penny Abe, SMCS Pre-K Teacher. Must register. Space is limited. RSVP by February 5, 2020. Call 301-733-1184 or mail cstumpf@stmarycatholicschool.org. *Parent/guardian must stay with child during story time.

HEALTH NEWS

The Washington County Health Department will be at SMCS for vision and hearing screening on February 4 for grades Pre-K, 1, and 8 as well as new students to our school. The re-check date is March 12. If you have any health-related questions, please contact Ms. Paula Radley at (301)733-1184, ext. 104, or by email, pradley@stmarycatholicschool.org.

MEMORY BOOKS

Once again, Ms. Mary Poffenberger can be seen with her camera taking pictures at our special events in order to create a beautiful keepsake, The 2019-2020 SMCS Memory Book, of our school year. To order your memory book online, visit memorybook.com/online-pai/parent-pay, and enter the pay code 911057. Books pre-ordered online by February 21 are $20.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember Judy Jarvie (grandmother of Bailey and Brayden Barbitta) and Gabby Hess (great-grandfather of Kaylee Kinna) who passed away this past month. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

NEW STUDENT REFERRAL PROGRAM

SMCS is implementing a New Student Referral Program for the 2020-2021 school year. Current SMCS families can earn a $300 tuition credit ($100 tuition credit per trimester for enrolled status) for each new student that is referred and actually enrolls in grades Pre-K full day through grade 8 and attends SMCS during the 2020-2021 school year. (Refer a family that enrolls two students and receive a $600 tuition credit. Refer a family that enrolls three students and receive a $900 tuition credit. Maximum tuition credit amount annually is $900). The tuition credit amount for referring a family who enrolls a student in the Pre-K half day program is $150 ($50 tuition credit per trimester for enrolled status). Details about the program were included in the re-registration email sent out on January 2, 2020.

BRING A FRIEND TO SCHOOL DAY

SAVE THE DATE - February 12, 2020
Do you have a friend who is interested in learning more about St. Mary Catholic School? Invite them to spend the day with you!
Spotlight on Learning

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Pre-K had a "snowtastic" January! We worked on developing concepts of print, with an emphasis on punctuation. We enjoyed several Jan Brett texts and focused on recalling details and comparing texts. We became expert mathematicians in identifying 3D shapes and putting numbers together (addition). We engaged in several fun "snow activities," including building igloos with our 4th grade friends and snowball battles!

KINDERGARTEN

The kindergarten class has enjoyed painting this month!
FIRST GRADE

First grade making snowflakes for our Mystery Science lesson.

SECOND GRADE

Pretending to be on an island, second grade students had to create a hat to protect themselves from the weather.
THIRD GRADE

Third graders enjoyed playing the game, *roll a grandparent*, to find out some interesting facts about their grandparents when they were younger.

FOURTH GRADE

Fourth graders update their Mele Kalikimaka door for Catholic Schools Week.

Fourth Graders create a timeline of early European explorers in Maryland.
Fifth Grade continues to practice their Oral Language skills by participating in First Friday Mass and by presenting their American Legion essays to the class.

Sixth graders are working on presentations that show their knowledge of an article read in class on the Loch Ness Monster.
Sixth graders researched gods and pharaohs and created a Google presentation. For extra credit, students could bring in an item pertaining to their pharaoh.

Sixth graders practice their family vocabulary playing I Carumba.
Eighth grade students designed their own solar cooker and tested its ability to cook noodles.

Seventh graders use Piskel 2D animation.
Fifth graders did an investigation on displaying data and interpreting it through line graphs in a cooperative learning setting.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Kids Heart Challenge Time
Primary grade students watched an interactive American Heart Association video to kick off our Kids Heart Challenge fundraiser. The event will be the week of February 10th!