

# PRINCIPAL'S PASSAGE

*St. Mary's School educates the whole child within a nurturing Catholic Christian environment.*

11-16-18

The weather next week looks mild so hopefully everyone and their families will have safe travel conditions during our Thanksgiving break. It has been a great start to the school year and I know the students and teachers are looking forward to a well-deserved vacation. Next week parents, teachers, and students will gather to celebrate all the great work that has taken place thus far and set goals for improvement. After conferences, there are a lot of events taking place. Today's passage will cover the information and events coming up at St. Mary's School.

**Report Cards Are Online** – Report cards are currently available to view on FastDirect. **Paper copies are not sent home.** It is asked that parents view, **print**, and bring the report cards with to conferences for discussion.

**Conferences** - All of you have been given your conference schedules for either November 19 or November 20. Please contact the classroom teacher if you cannot attend the set time or if you are running late.

**Calendar Raffle Sales** – During conferences all families will be getting twelve (12) calendar raffle tickets to sell. To improve our profits and ensure that everyone is participating in the fundraising efforts, our Board of Education and Parent Advisory Council have agreed on the 100% participation requirement. If you are out of town during conferences, you can stop in the school office to pick up your tickets. Included with the raffle tickets are the selling dates and incentives offered to those who sell more than their booklet. The easiest way to sell your tickets is to St. Mary's parishioners after Mass on the weekends. We will again be using the SignUpGenius online scheduler to reserve your spot to sell after Mass. This link will be sent via FastDirect soon!

**School Accreditation** - St. Mary's School is participating in an accreditation renewal through the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accreditation Association (MNSAA). During this process, we will conduct surveys, complete a Self-Study, develop a new long-range plan and host a site visit in 2019. As part of the Self-Study, we are required to participate in a Mission and Philosophy discernment with all stakeholders. During conferences all of you will have the opportunity to help with this discernment by sharing your ideas on our Mission and Philosophy statements. Coming in December, everyone will be invited to share their thoughts on a school survey.

**Lost and Found** - We have an entire table full of student clothing. When you attend conferences next week, please rummage through the table and look for that missing glove, hat, coat, or sweatshirt. To help us sort through this pile in the future, please label as much of your clothing as possible. All clothing that is left behind after conferences will be donated.

**Magazine Sales** - Thank you to all who participated in this year's magazine sales. The chicken collectable incentive was very well received by the students. Hopefully it didn't cause too much distress at home. Even though our student incentive portion has ended, you can still renew or order new magazines online throughout the entire year for our school to receive 40% of the subscription price. To order magazines log on to [www.gaschoolstore.com](http://www.gaschoolstore.com) and click I'm Ready to Shop. In the school ID section type in 2582419 and follow the directions for a non-student ID. Once that is complete you will see St. Mary's School on top of the order page. This link and directions will be posted on our website for future reference as well.

**Cold Weather Dress** – The early snow and cold temperatures snuck up on all of us and it is looking like it is going to stick around. It is important that all students have a pair of boots to wear for outside at recess. If the temperature and wind chill are above zero, we will continue to go outside for recess. This means that students need to be coming to school with warm coats, hats, boots and gloves.

**Communion Service** – Last Friday, we had a unique situation take place during our daily Mass time. With Father Steve away on vacation, the retired priest who was scheduled to fill in for him did not show up for Mass. Instead of sending everyone away, Laurie Youngers, St. Mary's Liturgist, stepped up and led the students and parishioners in a Communion Prayer Service. After the service, teaching staff used this experience as a teachable moment on the difference between a Communion Prayer Service and Mass. For parents and parishioners this is a teachable moment as well. Coming soon from Father Steve will be an article "Communion Service and Mass: What's the Difference?" This will be shared with all parents and posted in the bulletin as well.

Have a great conference(s) and Happy Thanksgiving - Mr. Sladek