

+J.M.J.



September 14, 2022

Dear SMS Families,

Today is the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross! We remember the great sacrifice of unconditional love and mercy that Jesus made for us on the cross and the victory He won in doing it! A prayer we can pray is one that we say when we pray the Stations of the Cross:

***We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.***

The BEST thing you can do for your child to help them grow in virtue and our faith is to pray with them each day and model for them. Bedtime is an ideal time to pray with your child, and even as a whole family. If you're not already, I encourage you to start praying together. Begin with the Our Father, the prayer Jesus taught us, and your intentions (i.e. *Jesus, thank you for...; Jesus, please bless...; Jesus, please heal...*).

The BEST thing you can do for your child academically is to read to them and read to them often. Time spent reading together is builds connections with shared stories, can involve physical proximity, which children need so much, and of course, allows them to hear what a good reader sounds like, build their vocabulary, engage their imaginations, and grow in comprehension and wonder about the world around them.

The BEST thing you can do for your child to become a mathematician is to play with numbers. For families with younger children, count everything: stairs, road signs, pushes on the swing, etc. Consider skip counting too (counting by 2s, 5s, 10s, etc. and increase in difficulty to count by 3s, 4s, 6s, 7s, 8s, 9s, etc)! Counting by 1s and skip counting prepares children to be mathematicians and memorize their math facts.

### **In the News:**

SMS is pleased to welcome the following amazing people to our SMS Community: Fr. Brandon Kleckner (pastor), Deacon Marty Aubel (2<sup>nd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Religion Teacher), Mrs. Jaime Knicely (6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher), Ms. Kyla Zuschlag (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher), Mr. Ben Beil (School Custodian), and Mrs. Sue Stanfa (PreK Aide).

We would also like to offer a big welcome the following new families joining our SMS Family: the Archambeau Family, the Blume Family, the Brickwood Family, the Crispin Family, the Eaves Family, the Forcier Family, the Gahring Family, the Heverly Family, the Howard Family, the Kulka Family, the Malnar-Curtin Family, the Pikoulas Family, the Roberts Family, the Santilli Family, the Seckinger Family, and the Wilson Family.

## Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

### Casual for a Cause

Thursday, September 15, will be our first Casual for a Cause! Please see our Handbook (pages 20-21) for a list of what is and is not permitted. All proceeds will benefit the Pink Angels. To participate in Casual for a Cause on Thursday, students and staff must pay at least \$1.00 to donate toward the Pink Angels. Donations above and beyond are greatly appreciated as well!

### Chick-fil-A/Krispy Kreme Deadline

The Chick-fil-A/Krispy Kreme fundraiser closes on Friday, September 16. Please adhere to the deadline, as we will not be able to accept orders after that date! The fundraiser benefits the PTO, which benefits our school community! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

### Sacramental Forms Deadline

Forms were sent to all families with children in Grades 1, 2, and 3, asking if their child will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. All forms are due back to the school office no later than Friday, September 16. Please return it, even if your child will not be receiving those Sacraments.

### Shamrock Golf Scramble

Saturday, September 17 will be our Shamrock Golf Scramble to benefit our school! Gather your teams! Registration papers can be found on our website! If you can help the day of please contact Trichelle Eddy 724-456-7555 or send your form back to the office. We can use hands to setup Friday from 6:30-8:00pm at Pine Hill Golf Course, as well as volunteers on Saturday, the day of the event from 8:00am until 3:00pm-ish? Any time that can be volunteered will be helpful (all day or just a few hours)! This is a big fundraiser for our school! Thank you in advance for your support!

### NWEA Map Assessments

Next week, all students in Grades K and up will be taking the NWEA Map assessments. Reports of your child's results will be coming home later in the week or the week of September 26.

### Open PTO Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, at 6:00pm in Lateran Hall is our first Open PTO Meeting. All parents and teachers are automatically part of the PTO. Please come and help us plan activities and events for our school! All attendees are eligible to enter to win a gift basket valued at \$25. Pizza and drinks are provided! And NEW to this year: CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

### Lunch Forms for October Deadline

Lunch forms for the month of October were sent out this week and are due back to the school office with payment by Wednesday, September 21.

### Math Fluency Open House

Tuesday, September 27, at 6:00pm in Lateran Hall will be our Math Fluency Open House. This event is open to all school families AND friends, and the greater community. Please spread the word!

### Chick-fil-A/Krispy Kreme Pick-Up

Chick-fil-A/Krispy Kreme orders will be available for pick-up on Wednesday, September 28, after school. More information will be forthcoming regarding time and procedure for pick-up.

### Feastday of St. Michael

The feastday of our school's patron Saint, St. Michael, is on Thursday, September 29! Please join us at the 9:00am Mass that day to celebrate him and ask for his intercession! The Jeans Day for that week will be postponed to Friday, September 30.

### Seton Cross Country Invitational

On Friday, September 30, Seton Catholic School in Meadville is hosting a Seton Cross Country Invitational. The event is open to ALL CHILDREN in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Flyers went home in backpacks this week!

### No School for Students

Wednesday, October 5, is a day off from school for students. It is a professional development day planned by the diocese for teachers. It is not a mistake on the calendar!

### All Saints Day Costumes

I know students are already planning (may have already planned!) their Halloween costumes! Don't forget to also start thinking about and planning for which Saint they will dress as on All Saints Day, November 1. Pinterest, Instagram, and even just googling give great, FREE ideas for Saints costumes. Please encourage your child to pick and start researching a Saint that they have never dressed up as before!

### A Few Reminders:

- The drinking fountains at school are turned off, but we do have water bottle filling stations with filtered water. Please double-check each day to make sure your child has a refillable water bottle.
- When packing lunches for your child, please be sure to pack appropriate utensils. We are going through our backup store of plastic spoons like water!
- As per our dress code, all students in Grades K-8 need to have their shirts tucked in. Belts are required for students in Grades 4-8 when wearing pants or shorts with belt loops.
- Toys should not be sent/brought into school. The exception will be by special permission/request from the teacher (i.e. a show-n-tell project).
- You are an awesome, amazing person and your child is too! We are so blessed to have you at our school this year!

**Thank you for partnering with us to make our students' year a great one!**

St. Michael, pray for us!

Grace and Peace,

*Emily Zgone* ☺

Principal

"Open wide the doors of your heart to Christ! Do not be afraid!" - St. John Paul II