



# ST. MARY SCHOOL FAMILY NOTES

September 21, 2009

## Congratulations 3rd Graders!

They raised \$199.41 for the American Lung Association's Change Makes a Difference. The 3rd Graders will be treated to a pizza party in the near future! In all, St. Mary's raised \$702.64 to help send children with asthma to a special summer camp! Thanks for your generous support.

## Children's Mass

Thurs., Sept. 24,  
9:00 a.m.

Students in Grade 3 will assist with the ministries. Please join us!

## Protecting God's Children

All adults over the age of 18 who volunteer to work with our school or athletic programs must attend a training session for Protecting God's Children and proceed with a background check before they can interact with our students. If you have never attended this 2-hour workshop and wish to volunteer at this or any Catholic school in the diocese, please attend the session being offered here on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 7:00 in the All Purpose Room. Call the school to register. For other dates of sessions in our area, check [www.dio.org](http://www.dio.org).

## Board of Education

The board will meet on Thursday, **October 8 (date change)**, at 6:00 p.m. in the All Purpose Room. Barb Burris, Director of Development with the Springfield Diocese, will speak on updating our school's long range plan. All who are interested are welcome.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers for Primary Library on Thursday afternoon and a volunteer to supervise the lunchroom Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

**Remember:** There will be **no p.m. bus service** on Wed., Sept. 23. The Taylorville public schools will dismiss at 11:45, but we are in session all day. The buses will run in the morning as usual.



**Children's Choir Practice**  
Thurs., 3:00—3:45 in church

**Midterm reports** for Grades 3-6 will be sent home this Friday, Sept. 25. Please contact your child's classroom teacher with any concerns.

## Mass at Meadow Manor

The students in Grade 5 will join Father and the residents of Meadow Manor in celebrating the Eucharist on Thursday, Sept. 24, at 10:30. You are welcome to attend.

## Jeans Day

On Fri., Sept. 25, for a \$1 donation, students may wear jeans with either a uniform shirt or a St. Mary's School t-shirt. Even though we are a Catholic school, jeans cannot be holey! Athletic shoes are also required. Last year's t-shirt and the new 100th anniversary t-shirt are both acceptable.

We still have new t-shirts for sale in kids' and adults' sizes. They are \$10 each. Outgrown St. Mary's t-shirts in good condition can be resold in the Uniform Room.

Jeans Day is optional; students not participating must come to school in uniform. Participating students should bring \$1 to school in a marked envelope prior to Friday.

## Picture Day Monday, October 5



### SCHOOL FORMS

Thanks to all who have turned in their school forms. If you have not returned your school forms, please do so as soon as possible. These forms consist of...

1. Proof of insurance
2. Transportation
3. Signed last page of handbook.
4. Parental Contract

If you need another copy, please call the office.

### Avon Fundraiser

Materials for the first annual Avon Fundraiser for St. Mary's School will be sent home today. Participation is optional, but we think these great products will sell themselves. Our Avon representatives have arranged for several wonderful prizes for individual students as well as classes that sell the most. They've even included a great prize for the teacher of the top-selling class! I hope you will be able to participate.

### MARKET DAY PICK UP

Thursday, September 24, from 4:00 to 5:00 in the cafeteria.

The **Booster Club Food Committee** needs your help for Family Fun Night in November and for the Fish Fries during Lent in the spring. Please contact Beth Brotherton if you are able to help this committee. We will be glad to forward messages to Beth through the school office.

### RECYCLING EFFORTS

Please bring your newspaper (tied in bundles or in a paper bag) and aluminum cans each Thursday morning. Place them by the large storage shed on the field.

### SCHOOL DIRECTORY

The school directory is just about ready. Any address changes need to be given to the office as soon as possible. If you do not want your phone number in the directory, please call the office.

### Protecting God's Children

Protecting God's Children is a program that helps adults identify signs of physical or sexual abuse in children. It is a required training for anyone—employee or volunteer—who has regular contact with our school children. Therefore, coaches, lunchroom helpers, playground supervisors, librarians, substitutes, religious education instructors, and all our full- and part-time paid staff must meet this mandate.

The training session last about 2 hours. At the conclusion of the session, participants will fill out a permission form that allows the diocese to order a background check. Without the training and the background check, you are not allowed to work with the children.

Many of you have previously completed Protecting God's Children. If so, you have satisfied the requirement. You do not need to repeat the training. If you are currently volunteering or plan to volunteer at the school, for PSR, or in an athletic program, but you have not been through the training, you must attend a session.

Mr. Larry Daly will conduct a session here on **Wed., Sept. 23, at 7:00** in the All Purpose Room. Please contact the school office if you wish to attend this training. If you are unavailable at this time, but need to attend a session, visit [www.dio.org](http://www.dio.org). Click on Safe Environment in the bar near the top of the page. Then choose Scheduled Training. This will give you a listing of times and places throughout the diocese where upcoming sessions of Protecting God's Children will be held.

It is with the best interest of our children at heart that we ask you to take the time to complete this training. Your involvement is key to our school's success.

Sincerely, Cathy Robertson

## Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

My sincere thanks to all of you who helped in any way over the weekend! School families helped at the Fiesta, the chicken dinner, the 100th Anniversary Open House, the Alumni Mass, and with the children's performances on Sunday. An event this large could never fly without the support of many generous people.

I especially want to thank the staff of our school for their assistance. Nearly 200 people came through the buildings during Saturday's open house. All had stories to share, and many stayed for most of the afternoon. I was reunited with Sr. Benedict. She was the principal here when I was in first and second grade. She remembered my class and shared the story of how our teacher was hired with me and four of my classmates who were also at the open house. It was a great experience.

Gratitude also goes to Mrs. Harrison and Father Hunter for the wonderful Alumni Mass Saturday evening. It couldn't have been more perfect. Alums Tony Durbin and Micky Newlin served as lectors, and Deacon John O'Brien (Class of 1959) celebrated the Mass with Father Alan. I'd also like to thank that elderly altar boy! Bob Yard was the self-proclaimed Head of the Altar Boys at St. Mary's in the 1960's. He consented to coming out of retirement to serve at the Alumni Mass with his grandson Tyler Crowe, currently a sixth grader here. The multi-generational servers were a big hit!

Members of the 100th Anniversary Committee began planning for this weekend last spring. I am most grateful to Kathy (Nolan) Drea (Class of 1972) and Lori Younker (who didn't even go to school here!) for the hours and hours of time they gave to prepare for the open house; Susan (McKinney) Nelson (Class of 1976) who got the ball rolling; Cathy Schaeffer (current 6th grade teacher) and her son Jeff (Class of 2003) who created the video presentations; Kris Daugherty (former preschool teacher) who helped advertise the event; Linda (Herkert) Stone (Class of 1974 and current 2nd grade teacher) who helped decorate the school; school board member Stephanie Czajkowski who, along with her son Sean, a current first grader, staffed the welcome table; and Chris and Karen Kuntzman (former teacher) who helped with printing and on-line information.

Sincerely,  
Cathy