



November 6, 2020

Dear St. Mary's Families,

I hope your family has had a good week and that you are all feeling and doing well. St. Mary's had another busy and wonderful week of learning! On Tuesday, our entire school took part in several different elections. **Pre-K students voted to end the great debate, are Skittles or M&Ms better?** After all the voting and counting of ballots it appears Skittles are the favored treat among the Pre-K constituency. You may have seen news coverage regarding our other school election, **5<sup>th</sup> Grade's Past Presidential Election**. Our fabulous 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers used the election to not only teach the election process to their students, but also teach American history and math concepts within the project. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students registered each St. Mary's student, faculty, and staff member to vote complete with a valid Voter's ID card and did quite a bit of campaigning as election day neared. Each 5<sup>th</sup> grade student drew a president from a hat, did research about the president, and prepared a Campaign poster for the school. As the election neared, 5<sup>th</sup> graders registered each St. Mary's student, faculty, and staff member to vote complete with a valid Voter's ID card and did quite a bit of campaigning. On Tuesday, each 5<sup>th</sup> grade students gave a two-minute presidential speech which was live-streamed throughout the school and Benjamin Franklin even stepped in to be a fair and impartial moderator for the event. After all the speeches were presented, ballots were cast by every registered voter. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students then turned the ballot counting and actual electoral vote counting into a math project. In the end, **St. Mary's elected America's Rough Riding Teddy Roosevelt as President**. Congratulations to all of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students on a tremendous job with this project and how much was learned in the process!

School photos were sent home this week in either Communicator Envelopes or in your child's classroom folder/packet. It is always fun to look at all of the adorable smiles on the faces of our students! If you would like your child to take a re-take school photo or if your child happened to be absent when school photos were taken, **retakes have been rescheduled for Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**. If your child is an elementary student, he or she needs to wear either a red or navy uniform shirt. Early Childhood students may wear any special outfit that they would feel extra snazzy in for picture day. Information about retakes can be found in your family's Communicator Envelope that he or she brought home today.

This month's **Charity Dress Day was rescheduled to this coming Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>** so that all St. Mary's students could participate. This month's Charity is **St. Peter's Outreach House**, which provides a free lunch Monday through Friday, and two times a month on Sundays to anyone in need of a meal in the Joplin area. We will be raising funds that will help volunteers purchase food and other supplies to help those in need have a delicious and nutritious meal. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful and generous donation to this month's charity. As a reminder, students who dress out of uniform clothing for this day should bring a monetary donation to help support the month's charity.

This coming **Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> is a noon dismissal day at St. Mary's**. Lunch will be served and students will be dismissed through the afternoon carline system starting around noon. After School Care will be provided until 5:30 p.m. Faculty members will be meeting for our monthly afternoon of professional development.

This coming week, **November 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> is St. Mary's Fall Scholastic Book Fair, Covid Style!** We are having to do a few things a little differently due to Covid precautions, but Home and School has worked hard to bring the highly anticipated and always fun Book Fair to St. Mary's. Students will be able to make a wish list and look at books like usual, but the book fair will not be "open" for normal shopping this year. Instead, students will be bringing home a book fair booklet to preview and use to pick out books they would like to purchase. Our Book Fair has a link that has an interactive flyer of books available at the book fair as well as information on how to set up a secure e-wallet so you don't have to send money to school with your child.

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/homepage.do?method=homepage&url=stmaryschool26>

If parents want to purchase any of the books their child has picked out, there are a few options for purchasing books. You may make a list of books that you would like to purchase for your child and include a form of payment (if you don't create the e-wallet option) in an envelope marked "Book Fair" labeled with your child's name and teacher. The envelope will be turned in at the office and on Wednesday and Friday Home and School volunteers will pull books to fulfill the orders and deliver them to classrooms. Another option is to shop online and have the books shipped to the school free of charge. We know this is a little different from book fairs in the past, but we felt this was the best option for our students and school community. Teachers will be creating classroom wish lists if you would like to purchase a special book or two for a classroom library. Please contact Tara Horinek (417-529-6684) with any questions you might have about the book fair or Home and School.

Home and School has also extended the ordering deadline for St. Mary's and JACS Spirit Wear to Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Our awesome t-shirts are still available in addition to a few cooler weather options such as hoodies and sweatshirts. If you are interested in looking at the spirit wear items and possibly ordering, the link to place an order is:

[https://jacsstmarys2020.itemorder.com/sale?read\\_message=true](https://jacsstmarys2020.itemorder.com/sale?read_message=true)

Items ordered by the November 9<sup>th</sup> deadline will be in by Thanksgiving. Please contact Tara Horinek at 417-529-6684 with any questions you may have about the items or ordering process. Thank you for supporting our wonderful Home and School Association!

Speaking of clothing, please take time this weekend to review the **St. Mary's winter dress code adjustments that went into effect on November 1<sup>st</sup>**. The St. Mary's Dress Code is attached to this email and can be found on pages 16-19 in your Family Handbook. There are several changes that go into effect on November 1<sup>st</sup> of each school year, most evident being that shorts may no longer be worn to school again until March 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition to the change with shorts, here are a few other changes:

- Elementary girls who wear a uniform skirt, skort, or jumper may not wear ankle socks after November 1<sup>st</sup>. Students must wear knee high socks, tights (solid

white or navy), or leggings (solid white or navy) instead to keep legs covered and warm during the chilly winter months.

- Sweaters may be crewneck with long sleeves, vest, crewneck or V-neck cardigan, or quarter zip. Solid white, red, or navy blue. No loose weaves, no patterns, no hoods.
- Only JACS (St. Mary's or JACS) hoodies are allowed to be worn during the school day. JACS hoodies must be worn over a uniform shirt except on Charity Dress Day or Casual Dress Days, and may not be worn to Mass. All other hoodies may not be worn during the school day except when worn outside as outerwear.
- Solid colored leggings in white or navy may be worn from November 1<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup> under skirts, skorts, or jumpers as an extra layer during colder weather. Leggings may not be worn as pants at any time.

In addition to these changes, please remember that **No-show socks MAY NEVER BE WORN to school, they are not part of the uniform dress code.** Socks may be solid white, khaki, red, or navy blue in color, no patterns are allowed on normal uniform dress days. Girls may wear ankle length socks with pants but need to follow winter dress code guidelines when wearing skirts, skorts, or jumpers. Boys may wear crew or mid-calf socks and must be clearly visible on the ankle above the top of the shoe. Many students are coming to school wearing no-show socks to school and your attention to following this part of the dress code would be greatly appreciated.

Make plans to attend the **McAuley Winter Sports Social and Youth Basketball Meeting on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>** starting at 5:00 p.m. There will be a great pulled pork dinner with sides served for \$5, raffles, and Warrior merchandise for sale. The McAuley boys' basketball team will scrimmage each other starting at 6:30 p.m. and basketball and cheerleaders will be introduced as well. There will be a short St. Mary's meeting following the scrimmage at 7:00 p.m. to discuss our St. Mary's youth basketball program. More details of this fun evening are attached to this email.

Catholic Schools Week is celebrated around the country each January and during this special week, Joplin Area Catholic Schools recognizes our dedicated and loving

community with two special awards, the **Distinguished Educator Award and the Distinguished Benefactor Award**. If you know an educator who goes above and beyond to educate, nurture, and inspire students, please consider nominating her or him this year. If you know of a JACS supporter who is generous in sharing their time and talents in ways that help our schools thrive, please consider nominating him or her as well. Nomination forms are attached to this newsletter and are also available on the JACS website.

Thank you for all that you do for your child and family, including the commitment you show in their academic and faith formation by sending them to St. Mary's. We are not having our **Veterans Day Drive-Thru Thank You** for area veterans due to Covid, but that does not take away the deep admiration and gratitude we should all feel and express to those who have proudly and bravely served our country. Please take a moment on November 11<sup>th</sup> to pray for our country and those who bravely defend and protect it so we may enjoy and thrive as Americans. God Bless America and those who bravely serve our great country.

God bless and take care,  
Joanne Lown  
[jlown@jacss.org](mailto:jlown@jacss.org)

### **Upcoming Dates to Remember:**

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| Monday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Moe's Monday                           |
| Wednesday, November 11 <sup>th</sup>  | Veterans Day                           |
| House   | Charity Dress Day benefitting Outreach |
| Friday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>   | Noon Dismissal – Faculty PD Day        |
| Monday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>   | Retake Interstate Photo Date           |
| Wednesday, November 25 <sup>th</sup> -<br>Sunday, November 29 <sup>th</sup> | Thanksgiving Holiday                   |