



January 8, 2021

Dear St. Mary's Families,

Happy New Year! I hope the New Year finds your family happy, hopeful, and healthy, and that you have a year filled with infinite blessings. We have had a great week at St. Mary's and everyone seems to be getting back in the swing of our school routine. The nice weather earlier this week helped get out extra wiggles and giggles at recess, and the weather today reminds us that spring is several months away. I am happy to be back to school and be surrounded with delightful students, caring parents, and an incredible faculty and staff. St. Mary's welcomed 9 new or returning students to our school community this week and we are happy to have new and reunited friends to share our school days.

St. Mary's Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Chili Carry Out on Saturday, January 16th and you won't want to miss out on a cozy meal! The Knights will be serving a bowl of chili, cornbread, coleslaw, and a chocolate brownie in to-go containers for \$6.00 per serving. Meals will be distributed at the St. Mary's Parish Center from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. To ensure having enough meals made for everyone, the Knights are asking everyone to sign up for their meal in advance. Sign up sheets will be posted in the Gathering Area before Mass, in the St. Mary's School Office, or you may place your order by emailing David Drake at daviddrake59@gmail.com or Jeff Hughey at hugheyjeffo@gmail.com This is a great way to have a delicious meal while supporting the Knights' parish, school, and community commitments throughout Joplin. We hope everyone will place an order, enjoy the Knights' chili, and help them continue to do their good works!

Have you ordered one of St. Mary's amazing yearbooks for your child yet? Orders are being taken for the 2020-2021 edition of St. Mary's yearbook, but the Early Bird price of \$25 per yearbook will only last another week. Starting on January 15th the cost of yearbooks goes up to \$20 each. St. Mary's talented Miss Amy does a phenomenal job each year putting together a full-color yearbook filled with pages of smiling kiddos, special Class pages filled with special events, and several themed pages. As a special treat, the 5th grade class chooses the design of the yearbook each year, so you don't want to miss out on all of the fun! Order forms were sent home in Communicator Envelopes several weeks ago, and you can also place an order online at inter-state.com/flyerentry/53980N.

St. Mary's annual 4th and 5th Grade Spelling Bee is right around the corner! All 4th and 5th graders received the complete 2021 list of the official Joplin Globe Spelling Bee words to take home with them before Christmas Break, with the additional 6th grade list provided on Tuesday of this week. Classroom spelling bees will begin this coming Tuesday, January 12th and will continue on Tuesdays until January 26th. Winners from the three Classroom bees will compete in the St. Mary's Spelling Bee on Friday, January 29th starting at 10:00 a.m. The winner of the St. Mary's Spelling Bee will represent our school on Monday, March 15th at the Joplin Globe Spelling Bee. The three Classroom spelling bees will be conducted separately, and the format will follow the same guidelines as the final spelling bee.

Tuesday, January 12 th	4 th and 5 th grade lists
Tuesday, January 19 th	6 th grade and "Hard" lists
Tuesday, January 26 th	"Harder" and "Hardest" lists
Friday, January 29 th	Final Spelling Bee

Parents will not attend the Classroom spelling bees, but parents of the spelling bee finalists will be invited to attend the [final spelling bee on January 29th](#). If you would like an additional list of the 2021 Joplin Globe Spelling Bee words, the following link will provide you with each of the lists used in the spelling bee:

<https://www.joplinglobenie.com/contests>

Catholic Schools Week is quickly approaching and will be held nationally from January 31st – February 6th, 2021. This is a meaningful and fun week for our school as we highlight and celebrate special aspects of our school community each day. More information will be provided in next week's Communicator Newsletter including dress themes for each day, special activities, and fun events. Catholic Schools Week is a fun and inspiring week which celebrates the mission and beauty of Catholic education.

I hope your family has a safe, warm, and cozy weekend together. The first week of school after Christmas Break is always an exciting one! It was so good to see classrooms buzzing with learning and activities and our hallways filled with smiling and happy students. Congratulations to Mrs. Staton's 4th grade class for winning the Charity Dress Day class competition! 4th graders will do research and choose the charity to receive over \$550 that our school community donated on Wednesday. Thank you for your thoughtful and generous help, and for sending your child to St. Mary's.

God bless and take care,
Joanne Lown
jlown@jacss.org

Important Dates to Remember:

Monday, January 10 th	Moe's Monday
Tuesdays January 12 th , 19 th , 26 th	4 th and 5 th Grade Classroom Spelling Bees
Friday, January 15 th	Noon Dismissal – Teacher PD Meetings After School Care and Afternoon Bus
Available	
Monday, January 18 th Day	NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King, Jr.
Thursday, January 21 st	Free Dress Day
Friday, January 26 th	St. Mary's Final Spelling Bee, 10:00 a.m.
January 31 st – February 6 th	Catholic Schools Week

