

**"DEAR YOUNG PEOPLE,
LET YOURSELVES
BE TAKEN OVER BY
THE LIGHT OF CHRIST,
AND SPREAD THAT
LIGHT WHEREVER
YOU ARE."**

St. John Paul II



March 5, 2021

Dear St. Mary's Families,

I hope your family has had a good week and has been able to enjoy this week's beautiful weather together! St. Mary's has enjoyed a **Suess-tastic week** of fun themed days and lots of reading activities during our Read Across America Week. In addition, we completed our **Self-Study process** with a team of administrators and teachers visiting our campus earlier this week. During the three days the team visited St. Mary's, members from our school community were interviewed (students, parents, faculty and staff, support staff, administrators, and pastor) and all faculty members were observed while they were teaching. Several documents were provided to the team including St. Mary's Curriculum Guide, an 81-page Self-Study Document, Family and Faculty Handbooks, etc. It was a busy three days and the visiting team was incredibly impressed with our entire school community. In her final report to Superintendent Rob Huff the Self-Study Lead, Mrs. Jenny Pendleton, from Immaculate Conception School in Springfield wrote, "**St. Mary's is an amazing school. Joanne is a top-notch principal and the faculty and staff at St. Mary's is passionate and dedicated to the students and the Catholic faith. I pray this strong Catholic school continues to grow and flourish in the years to come**". The Self-Study process is a prerequisite of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau for accreditation by the Missouri Nonpublic Accrediting Association and self-study visits occur in a five-year cycle throughout the diocese. I am thankful to everyone who took part in and/or helped with our self-study visit, thank you!



Our students are having so much fun with this year's **Kids Heart Challenge!** We are extremely proud of our families for supporting this amazing service-learning initiative. Thank you all for helping your student take the online heart healthy pledge, raise donations or both. If you have not had a chance to help, there is still time to register online and donations are extended to **Friday, March 12th**. <http://www2.heart.org/goto/stmaryselementaryjoplin>

So far, these 41 students are registered online, and have raised \$2,376.26! Can we count on your help to hit our goal of 100 students registered by March 12th?

JACS is hosting a raffle coinciding with the [Tailgate 2021 Auction](#), with several exciting prizes. First prize will be \$1,885 (the year Catholic education was established in Joplin), second prize will be \$135 (the number of years since the founding), and third prize will be a \$50 restaurant gift certificate. 10 raffle tickets were included in your family's Communicator Envelope and each raffle ticket is \$5.00. We are asking for your help in selling the raffle tickets, which is always a great fundraiser for our school system. To make things even more fun, students will receive incentives when raffle tickets are sold. If you have any questions, please contact Tami Veer 417-540-0161.

As mentioned above, save the date for Saturday, April 24th for a great JACS event, the Annual Auction! It's time to a tailgate at St. Mary's! Here is a brief summary of the event if you would like to volunteer to help, please let us know!

[2021 Joplin Area Catholic School Tailgate Annual Auction](#)

When: April 24, 2021

Where: Join Virtually or Tailgate in the St. Mary's Parking Lot

Raffle Tickets available: Raffle Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for 5 tickets-Prizes are **\$1885**(the year Catholic education started in Joplin), **\$135** (how many years since the school was founded) and a **\$50 dinner gift certificate.**

The Auction committee is currently looking for donations:

Would you be able to donate or know someone who has?

- Timeshare or Vacation Homes
- Hunting or Fishing Excursion/Trip
 - Airline Miles
 - Gift Certificates
 - Coolers
- Lawn Care Services/Landscaping services

Have a business that would be willing to donate to the Auction?

Contact Stephanie Bradshaw, Auction Chair (316) 259-6593

Lindsey Bourne-Green Auction Co-Chair (417) 483-9155

More details on <https://www.jacss.org/development/auction/>

St. Mary's parent Jennifer Williams is sponsoring a special fundraiser for the 5th grade class. She has designed and is selling two special Freshies with a JACS theme. **Freshies are air fresheners made with premium fragrance oils and aroma beads.** There are 2 sizes and 5 amazing scents available to order. 50% of the proceeds will be donated to 5th Grade's fundraising efforts for their annual Spring Trip. An order form with a photo of the fresheners and more information is attached to this newsletter, and a sample is in the office if you would like to see (and smell) the wonderful items.

St. Mary's parents, faculty, and staff are invited to attend an **informational meeting with Father J on the evening of Wednesday, March 10th.** The meeting will take place in St. Mary's Parish Hall and will begin at 5:00 p.m. During this meeting, Father J will explain his recent leave of absence from St. Peter the Apostle Church and answer any questions you may have. Father J will be hosting a second meeting for St. Peter's Middle School and McAuley High School parents the same evening beginning at 7:00 p.m. at McAuley.

Thank you for all that you do for your child, including sending him or her to St. Mary's. The Self-Study process confirms what our school community knows— St. Mary's is an

incredible school that educates and nurtures the whole child...heart, mind, body, and soul. Thank you for the trust and confidence you put in our school, this is a responsibility and privilege that I take to heart each and every day and one that our faculty and staff does as well.

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

Important Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, March 10 th	Charity Dress Day benefitting the Ronald McDonald House Reconciliation for 3 rd – 5 th Grade starting at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, March 14 th Forward” clocks	Daylight Saving Time Begins- “Spring
Wednesday, March 17 th to school!	St. Patrick’s Day! Wear your green clothes
Thursday, March 18 th	Noon Dismissal Parent-Teacher Conferences, 12:30 – 6:00 p.m.
March 19 th – March 28 th	Spring Break!
Sunday, March 28 th	Palm Sunday
Monday, March 29 th	Classes Resume
Thursday, April 1 st	Noon Dismissal- Holy Thursday
Friday, April 2 nd	No School- Good Friday
Sunday, April 4 th	Easter

Monday, April 5th

No School- Easter Monday

Tuesday, April 6th

Classes Resume