



February 1, 2020

Dear St. Mary's Families,

The **Golden Apple Award** was established by the Joplin Chamber of Commerce to recognize excellence in teaching and the positive influences a teacher has in a child's life. It is an honor to work alongside teachers who use their gifts and talents to educate the whole child in each of our students...heart, mind, body, and soul...and instill not only the joy of learning in each of them, but the love of Christ as well. Nominations can be made for any of our teachers in grades Kindergarten – 5th grade, homeroom teachers and specials teachers alike. A nomination letter does not have to be long or overly detailed, they act as the qualifier for nomination and can be of any length. Golden Apple nominations may be made on paper or submitted digitally, whichever you prefer. More information about the Golden Apple and the Nomination Form can be found at <http://www.joplincc.com> and the **deadline to nominate a teacher is by 5:00 p.m. this coming Monday, February 3rd**. As past winners of the Golden Apple Award, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Lone cannot be nominated again. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie McGrew at the Joplin Chamber, 624-4150.

Thank you to those families who donated pajamas and/or monetary donations to **Operation Jammies** during Catholic Schools Week. St. Mary's collected 82 pairs of new pajamas and over \$140 dollars to purchase additional pajamas for Easton Murdock's Joplin-based charity. These donations allow Easton to visit local and other Missouri children's hospitals and provide young patients something cozy to wear during their hospital stay. In addition to this act of charity, students in Kindergarten-5th grade created valentine cards with Mrs. Turk to send to the **VA Medical Center** in Fayetteville and to Joplin's VA Outpatient Clinic. The loving

thoughts in these beautiful cards will brighten the day for those who so bravely and honorably served our country, and to those who are sometimes lonely and forgotten. **The Valentines for Veterans project is another beautiful example of the love of God, Country, and others that our students learn and practice at St. Mary's.** A story featuring this project is featured in today's edition of the Joplin Globe. The link to the Joplin Globe online article is https://www.joplinglobe.com/news/local_news/students-celebrate-catholic-lutheran-education/article_b18119f2-ec5d-5817-b33b-bf0f8700b534.html.

Congratulations to **Christina Saad, St. Mary's Spelling Bee Champion!** The final spelling bee was held Friday morning, and all of the 6 finalists did a great job spelling some tricky words. Christina will be St. Mary's representative in the Joplin Globe Spelling Bee on Monday, March 16th. Congratulations to all of the 4th and 5th graders who participated in the classroom spelling bees, and to those finalists who participated yesterday.

The "**Kids Paint the Darndest Things**" art exhibit is still on display on the famous brick wall at **Club 609**. St. Mary's student artists from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades are displaying their artwork, and proceeds will go towards building a St. Mary's marquee in front of our school. The digital marquee will help to keep students, parents, parish members, and the general public updated on all the amazing activities and events that take place at St. Mary's. Opportunities to purchase bricks for the marquee are still available and information sheets are available in the school office.

As a reminder, if your child is not feeling well, they need to be **illness and fever free for 24 hours BEFORE returning to school**. The flu and other illnesses are making their rounds in the area, and we want to keep our school community safe and healthy. Several students have been in the office not feeling well and have commented that they got sick the night before or that morning, but came to school that day anyway. If your child has been sick, he or she should not return to school until he or she is symptom free for 24 hours as explained in St. Mary's Family Handbook. Not only does keeping your child at home allow him or her to recover and feel better, but it keeps all of our students and faculty and staff healthier, too.

If you have change laying around your house, start saving it now for the **St. Mary's Penny War** the week of February 24th – 28th. A penny war is a fun Class Competition to see

which Class can raise the most money with pocket change, and the winning Class will get a special treat from Mrs. Lown. Pennies are positive points and silver coins (nickels, dimes, quarters, etc.) can be placed in other classroom change bins to cancel out pennies. More information will be included as the date approaches, but start saving your coins now to support the Annual Appeal that benefits our school system. Thank you for your support!

Don't forget that **yearbook orders** are being taken this month! Yearbooks are \$15 and additional yearbook order forms are available in the office. Miss Amy would love to include photos that you might have of class parties, activities, field trips, and fun school events in the yearbook. Please email any photos you would like to share to Miss Amy at stmaryschool@jacss.org. Thank you!

After this week's weather, it's good to know that spring is getting closer each day, and that means that the **Spring Fling** is getting closer, too! Please mark this year's date, **Saturday, April 25th** on your calendars now, and make plans to attend! Formal invitations will be sent out in March, but planning has been going on for months for this fun and important evening benefitting JACS. If you or your company has an item or service to donate to the auction, you may start to bring these in, and donation and sponsorship forms will be available in the office soon.

Thank you for all that you do for your child! We had a wonderful week celebrating Catholic Schools Week and all benefits and gifts of a Catholic education. Thank you to Home and School members, faculty and staff, St. Mary's families, and students who lent a giving heart and helping hand to make this week a special one for our entire school. Each day's theme provided fun, excitement, and an opportunity to "do good" in our school and community, and our All-School Mass with Bishop Rice on Tuesday and special visit from Sister Cecilia Ann on Friday made the week even more special.

God bless and take care,

Joanne Lown

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Important Upcoming Events:

Monday, February 3 rd	Golden Apple Nomination Deadline, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 4 th	First Tuesday at Club 609
Wednesday, February 5 th	Charity Dress Day
Wednesday, January 5 th – Friday, February 7 th	Early Childhood Parent-Teacher Conferences
	Wednesday, February 12 th Jump Rope for the Heart, benefitting the American Heart Association, Kickoff
Friday, February 14 th	Valentine's Day
Monday, February 17 th	Presidents Day, NO SCHOOL
Wednesday, February 20 th	St. Mary's hosts the Diocesan Principal's Meeting Free Dress Day
Tuesday, February 25 th	Mardi Gras Celebration and King Cake
Wednesday, February 26 th	Ash Wednesday, School Mass at 8:30 a.m.