



January 24, 2020

Dear St. Mary's Families,

I hope your family has had a good week and that you have stayed warm and cozy during this week of wintery weather. St. Mary's students have been able to go outside for recess when weather permits this week, and have also enjoyed fun and games during indoor recess as well. It's January in Missouri and just about anything is possible with the weather!

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. As the Principal of St. Mary's and as the winner of the 2016 Golden Apple Award, I can assure you that the compassionate, talented, and dedicated teachers we have at St. Mary's rival **ANY** school in the area. [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.](#) I ask you to consider nominating one of our amazing teachers this year. Nominations can be for any of our teachers in grades Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> 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. As past winners of the Golden Apple Award, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Lone cannot be nominated again. 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 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.](#) If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie McGrew at the Joplin Chamber, 624-4150.

**Catholic Schools Week** begins this Sunday and is a week-long celebration which recognizes the importance, the value, and the contributions of Catholic education to the Church and the world. Here is the St. Mary's CSW schedule of themes, events, and activities for the week:

#### Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>: Celebrating our Parishes

- Parents, students, and alumni speak at Masses at all parishes.
- St. Mary's School choir will be singing at 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday.
- St. Mary's Youth Group will be serving breakfast from 8:30-10:15 a.m. to help kick off Catholic Schools Week.
- **Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Championship** for students 9-14 years old. The fun starts at 1:00 p.m. in the McAuley High School Gym. Call Scott Lone (417-768-1173) or Greg Emory (417-437-2413) for more information.

#### Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>: Celebrating our Students

- **Dress Theme: Comfy Clothing Day** (pjs, sweats, etc.)
- Students asked to **donate a new set of pajamas** or monetary donation to support **Operation Jammies**, Easton Murdock's charity to help hospitalized children receive cozy clothing during their stay.
- Afternoon movies in each classroom with snacks.

#### Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>: Celebrating Vocations

- **Dress Theme: Uniform Dress**
- **All Schools Mass** at St. Mary's with Bishop Rice, 1:00 p.m. **Early dismissal** following Mass from classrooms, probably around 2:30 p.m. After school care will be available starting at 2:30 p.m. and the afternoon bus route to St. Peter's will run as usual.
- Students will write thank you notes to clergy with their classroom teachers

#### Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>: Celebrating our Faculty and Staff

- **Dress theme: Wacky Wednesday!** Crazy socks, mismatched or backwards clothing, etc.
- **Home and School Faculty/Staff Appreciation Lunch** with one-hour lunchtime so teachers may all eat together (parent volunteers will kindly cover lunch, recess, or class time).

Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>: Celebrating our Nation and Volunteers

- **Dress theme:** Patriotic dress in red, white and blue
- Volunteer luncheon in the faculty lounge- faculty will host a Chili bar with ass't sides and desserts
- Students will make valentines with Mrs. Turk and in their classrooms to send to veterans in the VA Hospital and to the Joplin-area VA Center
- End the day with **All-School and Parent Prayers and Songs at the Flagpole** starting at 2:50 p.m. (to be held in the Commons if weather requires).

Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>: Celebrating our Community

- **Dress Theme:** Homecoming and Spirit Day! Students may wear St. Mary's, JACS, or **Kansas City Chiefs** clothing to cheer on our favorite teams!
- **Pastries with Parents** in the Cafeteria from 7:30-8:00 a.m. Home and School organizes, but faculty will serve so H/S members may spend time with their children.
- St. Mary's Final Spelling Bee begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Commons

3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to McAuley for Homecoming Pep Assembly, permission slips sent home in folders on