



May/June 2009
Mrs. Mary Whelan
School News

Principal

A Message from the Principal

Every year I feel like I write this May newsletter earlier and earlier! The time flies by faster and faster each year; and to me, that is a good thing! It reaffirms that I still enjoy every minute of my job and love coming to work each day! The source of my joy is in your children, so I thank you again for the opportunity!

Last weekend was beautiful! Our second grade students had perfect weather for a perfect day. I truly enjoyed attending the First Communion Masses and watching the boys and girls receive Jesus for the very first time. The many months of preparation lead into the most faith filled and loving experience for your child. I thank you for your parental guidance and our second grade teachers for the year-long instruction and the excitement they instilled in their students.

Acceptance letters were sent home in the Friday folders on the 24th. Hopefully, you received yours at that time. If you did not, please contact the school office. We are anticipating an increased enrollment for next year, and I thank you all for your continued faith and belief in the St. Mary School education. A special thank you to the families that share their experiences with others. So many of our new families for next year were referred to us by current parents. You continue to be our best marketing tool!

Don't forget that Friday, May 8 is a day off for students. Our faculty and staff will be meeting for our year-end evaluation day. This is an important and valuable day for us as we review our policies and practices to determine their effectiveness. It will also be a time for us to discuss our Accreditation plans for next school year. This process will help us focus on improvements in both student performance and our Catholicity. It is because we take time each year to review and evaluate that we continue to grow and learn.

Our school production of HONK! is this weekend. We encourage all to attend this exciting and fun-filled performance. I have watched bits and pieces of it since January and am excited to see the final production this weekend. Contact the DAO for tickets.

Our preschools will be graduating the week of May 18th! We are thrilled that so many of them will be returning next year – many as all-day Kindergarten students! How quickly they grow up! Our eighth grade graduation will take place on Tuesday, June 9th at St. Mary's Church. A reception will follow at school. All are welcome to attend.

Flyers went home about summer enrichment opportunities for your children. We will again offer some "Getting Ready for Grade ____" classes as well as Spanish, Photography,

Scrapbooking, Drama, Reading and Music classes. Please contact the office if you need registration information. Included on the flyer is a list of teachers/staff available for summer tutoring. The summer can be long and many students need year round practice in content areas.

Mrs. Barendt is coordinating a Scholastic Book Fair on May 19-21. It is a Buy-One, Get-One Free Sale. We are passing on this saving to you as a thank you for your generous support throughout the year. Plan on shopping between the hours of 9:00 and 11:00 am. It's a great way to stock up on summer reading.

You can see that May will be a busy month for all – please help us maintain the control and routines we have in place by respecting our rules and regulations, particularly in regards to homework and dress code. As a reminder, students are not permitted to dye, highlight or color hair. Please see that haircuts are appropriate as well.

On a final note, I would like to thank all of you for the time, talent and treasure that you so graciously contribute to St. Mary's School. We love having parents involved in the learning process. Your help in the classrooms, on fieldtrips, with fundraising, and most importantly, teaming with our teachers and staff to provide the best learning environment and experience for your children are what makes St. Mary's School the positive, happy healthy environment it is. Thanks for your support and I pray you and your children have a wonderful summer vacation. Until we meet again in August, God bless you all.



4th Quarter Interims and Report Cards

Our school year is quickly winding down and the students are anxiously awaiting summer fun. These last few weeks of school are very important academically and your child needs to continue learning and completing assignments on schedule. Please be aware that Interim Progress Reports will be sent home on May 1st. Your child's final report card will be sent home on their last day of school. As always, Homework Hot Line and EdLine are available to help stay on track.



SMS Spring Band Concert

The Spring Band Concert will be held in the school gym on Wednesday, May 20th, at 1:30 PM for the students and a second performance in the evening at 7:00 PM for parents, relatives and friends. SMS is proud of our talented students and their musical accomplishments.

A special HURRAY!!! for Mr. Fortini and Mrs. Lukas who have spent many hours throughout the school year nurturing your children's talent and love of music.

First Communion

Congratulations to all of our Second Grade Students who received their First Communion on Saturday, April 25th. Mrs. Formica and Mrs. Dedrick have spent much of this school year preparing the children for this Holy Sacrament. Both classes spent a day at the Fr. Garrity Center celebrating 'Jesus Day'. This full day "retreat" culminated their preparation as they made unleavened bread, created crafts, and visited the church to practice for the big day. What a special time it was for our little ones. They truly love their faith and their God.

Tuition and Fees

All tuition and fees for the current school year must be paid no later than May 22nd, unless arrangements have been made with Father Vrael. Acceptance letters have been

sent to all those families who have completed the re-registration process. The stipulation for returning next term remains "contingent upon payment of all current tuition and fees." If you have not received an Acceptance letter please contact the school office for re-registration forms or the rectory office to arrange payment of tuition and fees. Remember, if your child is not returning to SMS for the fall term you must inform the school office in writing.

A FACTS Tuition Agreement Form for the 2009-2010 School Year will be sent to all families from the rectory office. Parents must either update or complete a new form annually. Anyone with questions regarding the FACTS Program may contact Mrs. Sue Spahr at the church rectory office (440)243-3877 ext. 11.

Fr. Marty Mission

By the end of May, SMS will have collected nearly \$3,000 from this year's Fr. Marty Dress Down Days. Our donation will be sent to Fr. Marty's mission in Nairobi, Kenya. The final \$1 Dress Down Day will be held on Friday, May 22nd. Please remember to pray for the safety of Fr. Marty and his students as their country is experiencing a great deal of instability.

Happy Mother's Day

Your mother is always with you.

She is the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street.

She is the smell of certain foods you remember.

She is the flower you pick.

She is the smell of that special perfume she wore.

She is the cool hand on your brow when you're not feeling well.

She is your breath in the air on a cold winter's day.

She is the sound of the rain that lulls you to sleep.

She is the colors of a rainbow.

She is Christmas morning.

Your mother lives inside your laughter, and she is crystallized in every teardrop. A mother holds every emotion - happiness, sadness, fear, jealousy, love, hate, anger, helplessness, excitement, joy, sorrow - and all the while, hoping and praying you, her precious child, will only know the good feelings in life.

She's the place you came from, your first home.

She's the map you follow with every step you take.

She's the one you run to when you are scared.

Her arms are always open to hold you and console you.

She's your first love, your first friend, even your first enemy but,

Nothing on earth can separate you - not time, not space, not even death.

School Calendar and Family Vacations

We have enclosed an additional copy of the 2009-2010 School Calendar. Please try to arrange family vacations so your children do not miss valuable classroom instruction. When requesting your children to be excused for vacation during the school year, please be advised that it is not the responsibility of the teacher to insure that your children meet assignment deadlines for completing missed work. Often times, the student that leaves is not capable of doing advance work without teacher instruction or the exact work isn't available in advance. Your decision to take vacation when school is in session is not recommended but we do respect your request. Just remember, it is at the teacher's discretion as to what procedure should be followed to accommodate missed work for the student upon his/her return.

SMS Scholarship Fund

Our Scholarship Fund has been depleted over the past several years. This will be the last opportunity for parents, family, and friends to donate to the Scholarship Fund for this academic year. Your contributions are so very important to our children. Our goal is to award four Merit Scholarships. A list of all Patrons will be noted in the Graduation Program. Every dollar donated is used for student scholarships. We must receive your donation by May 18th to insure your name will be listed in the Graduation Program. A Donor Form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please consider sending in your donation today.



Graduation

The Class of 2009 Graduation Ceremony and Reception will be held on Tuesday, June 9th. The Graduation Ceremony will begin at 7:00 PM at St. Mary's Church and will be followed by a reception at the school. All SMS students and families are invited to attend.

Extended Care – Summer Camp

Registrations for SMS Summer Camp and Extended Care are still being accepted (see attached registration form). Please contact the Extended Care Program at (440) 234-7210 for any additional information.

Also, during the month of May, there will be an Early Release Day on Thursday, May 7th and a Free Day on Friday, May 8th. Pre-registration must be completed for your children to attend Extended Care on these days. The last day for the Preschool 3-Year-Old Program will be Tuesday May 19th. The last day for the Preschool P4 and PK Programs will be Friday, May 22nd. Kindergarten will end the school year on Friday, June 5th. Our Extended Care/Day Care will be open during the day to accommodate our Preschool and Kindergarten students after their last day of school. Please complete and return the enclosed form for your child to attend during these final weeks prior to summer break.

Remember to send your child in play clothes and appropriate shoes since we will be spending lots of time enjoying our outdoor playground in the sunshine.

End of Year Schedule

BUSY – BUSY – BUSY!!! Many field trips, activities, Early Release Days and Free Days are on our schedule during May and June. Pay careful attention to the May/June calendar and the information being sent home through your child's classroom teacher and the Friday Folder. Parents are always welcome to join us for the May Crowning, band concerts, picnics, Graduation, and all school Masses.

Summer Enrichment Programs

Summer is always jammed with pick and choose opportunities, but with that comes the need to decide whether one should continue to stimulate the brain or let it rest. There is indeed a phenomenon called 'summer slide'. Students do in fact lose ground over the summer months. Some statistics show as high as an 80% loss of knowledge from the previous year. So think seriously about your child attending one of our EXCITING Summer Enrichment Programs.

Information on our Summer Enrichment Programs was included in last week's Friday Folder. Remember, enrollment in these classes is limited and acceptance will be on a first come – first serve basis. Contact the school office for questions or additional registration forms.

2009 – 2010 Uniform Policy & Student Supply List

Uniform shirts, blouses, skirts, pants, sweatshirts and gym uniforms are available through Schoolbelles and Luna Marketing. Our colors and plaid uniform will remain the same.

Schoolbelles: 4747 W. 160th Street, Cleveland – 1.888.637.3037 –
www.schoolbelles.com

Luna Marketing & Sports Apparel: 113 Front Street, Berea – 440.239.9970

Our Uniform Policy for the 2009 – 2010 School Year is enclosed. Remember, our policy will be strictly enforced and parents should review the policy prior to purchasing school clothing.

Also, included with this Newsletter is a copy of next year's Student Supply List.

Uniform Exchange

Turn those outgrown uniforms into \$Cash! SMS will hold the annual Uniform Exchange during the last week of school, June 8, 9, and 10.

Here's how it works . . .

June 8 - Bring the uniform items you wish to sell to the school Media Center.

All you need to do to sell a uniform is place your clean uniform item on a hanger, attach a self-addressed envelope to the uniform with a safety pin, and indicate the amount you are asking on the inside flap. Those wishing to purchase your uniform item will simply enclose their payment in the self-addressed envelope you provided and mail it to you.

June 8-9-10 – Those wishing to purchase a uniform from the exchange may come to the school between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Items will be on display in the Media Center.

June 10 - If your uniform items do not sell they must be retrieved on the last day of school by the 1:30 Early Release. All unsold and unclaimed items will be placed in storage and donated to the next year's Uniform Exchange.

Principal Advisory Council

The final meeting of the PAC will be held on Thursday, May 21st. Parents should share any concerns with their classroom representatives. We all owe the PAC members our respect and gratitude for serving this past year.

The minutes from our last meeting are enclosed with this Newsletter.

From the Librarian

It's that time of year when Mrs. Barendt begins 'spring cleaning' and taking the annual inventory of our library collection. As you begin your spring-cleaning, any books that have snuck away from our library and have sought refuge in your house should be returned no later than May 15th. If you come across books during the summer, they can be returned to school during the summer camp hours, daily from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

PRIDE

Thank you to all the parents who have been involved with the PRIDE Program. The faculty, staff, and students wish to thank all the volunteers who spent countless hours organizing special activities. Each event was a huge success and enjoyed by us all. We sincerely thank you!

PRIDE volunteers are asked to contact the school office prior to the end of the school year to arrange dates on the school calendar for next year's activities. Anyone interested in becoming involved in the PRIDE Program is also encouraged to contact the school office prior to the end the year.

Keep On Collecting!

Over the summer months SMS continues to collect soup labels, box tops, old cell phones, and empty computer printer cartridges. The school building is open daily throughout the summer and you are welcome to drop off these items. Also, don't forget to recycle your newspapers and magazines using our convenient green and yellow collection containers located in the school parking lot.

A special thank you to Mrs. Duber and Mrs. Gaidos for the countless hours they have spent organizing our soup labels and box tops collection program.

Music/Drama Program

Rehearsals are in full swing for "HONK". Students have been working hard to bring you an outstanding performance. Performances will be held at St. Mary's gym on May 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Good luck to all – SMS is proud of your dedication and talent!

Happy Father's Day

Thank you, Dad

Thank you, Dad

Thanks for loving me.

Hugs and kisses

Hugs and kisses

Comes to you from me.

Thank you, Dad

Thank you, Dad

You are such a friend.

On this day I'd like to say.

On you I can depend.

Happy Father's Day to you.



Have a happy and safe summer!