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May/June 2018
School News

Mr. Andrew Carner
Principal

A Message from the Principal

It has been a GREAT year at SMS! Our students are growing, learning, and achieving great things in the classroom and out in the community as well. The Stewardship Program continues to help the students be socially aware, responsible and actively participating in a number of worthy causes – we should all be very proud of them. I would like to thank, you the parents, for contributing your time and energy to help make this a memorable and happy year.

May the retired life bring the following wonderful friends all the relaxation and joy they can handle! I sincerely thank you for all your dedication, determination, strength and the love you showed and gave your students all those years. I know I can speak from the staff, the parents and the children you touched; we thank you, congratulate you, appreciate you, and wish you all the best in your retirement! You will be missed!!

Mrs. Sue Dedrick began her career here at St. Mary School as the DRE (Director of Religious Education) for 3 years. She then came on board as one of our primary teachers and has enjoyed every minute. Mrs. Dedrick plans to spend her retirement floating around on the waters of Chippewa Lake and reading books. She said after 29 years of working here, it will be sad to leave as she will miss everyone dearly.

Mrs. Cathy Jokilehto has been a dedicated teacher for 31 years, and the last 19 have been enjoyed at St. Mary School. She is looking forward to filling the new white space on her calendar with peaceful walks through nature, day trips and nights out with her husband and children, and adventures with her grandson. She is excited about how the next chapter of her life will unfold; who knows what door God may open.

Mrs. Barbara Henninger has been at St. Mary School for 32 years and before that she taught first grade at Berea City Schools fresh out of college. She is looking forward to traveling more with her husband and visiting family and friends in Oregon, Florida, Colorado, Texas and Michigan. Mrs. Henninger hopes she will be able to escape Ohio winters for a couple months. She will also spend more time with her grandchildren and attend their activities, while making time to do some gardening as well!

We would also like to say a heartfelt goodbye to **Mrs. Rhonda Johnson**. Mrs. Johnson is moving with her family to Florida. Mrs. Johnson said she will miss all the children, parents, and staff, but most of all, she will miss the family oriented feeling she gets from her St. Mary Family. We will certainly miss her smile, warm personality and friendly face here at St. Mary School. We wish her all the best on her new adventure!

Replacement for these fantastic staff members is currently under review and being determined. We will announce the Faculty & Staff for the 2018-2019 school year once it's confirmed.

As we look ahead to the next school year, we are counting on everyone's participation in our fundraisers. As you know, the PTO has decided to focus their energy on one big fundraiser, and that

will be the Dinner Dance held each fall. SMS will also continue with the Yankee Candle Sale for Christmas, and the PTO will hold a Malley's candy sale in the spring.

NEW POLICY

I also have an important "electronic" policy in effect that is not currently listed in the Parent/Student Handbook. I have observed students wearing wrist bands that allow them to read & send text messages while in school. These are considered a means of texting and communicating and they are **prohibited**. Going forward, beginning on May 1, 2018, students who are seen with these high tech wrist bands/Apple watches will receive an automatic detention and the wrist bands will be confiscated and a parent will be called. Activity tracker Fit Bits that keep track of steps/heart rate will continue to be permitted. As always, if there is a reason to communicate with your child, the front office is available to send a message to him/her.

The entire staff is busy wrapping up the school year. When you look at the May/June calendar, you will see that there are many field trips and special activities planned for the students. As we enjoy these final weeks of the year, I want to ask parents to continue to encourage your child to stay on-task with their studies. Progress Book remains a great resource for parents to monitor assignments and grades.

The following is important information regarding the uniforms for the 2018-2019 school year. Remember, all of the old style gym uniforms and white polo shirts are no longer permitted. Both boys and girls need to wear a gray knit polo-style shirt that will include the SMS logo. (These shirts can ONLY be purchased at Luna Marketing or Schoolbelles). Girls still have the option to wear the navy blue polo shirt if they wish. The gym uniform consists of a gray t-shirt with the SMS logo and navy blue nylon shorts that also include the SMS logo. The old gym uniform is no longer permitted! The sweatpants and sweatshirts will stay the same.

Once again I would like to ask parents to SLOW DOWN in the school parking lot. Arrival and dismissal times are very busy and congested. For safety's sake, please enter the parking lot slowly, use the designated drop off lane, or use a marked parking space. The safety of your children is our first concern.

We are currently making decisions for class sizes, teachers and rooms for next year. If you have not returned your registration forms yet, please make it a priority to do so. The decisions we make will be based on registrations received. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Summer is a great time to relax and have fun. Some of our teachers do offer tutoring for students wanting a little extra help in not forgetting important lessons learned this school year. Mr. Brian Jones (bjones@smsbera.org) and Ms. Sandy Aversano (saversano@smsbera.org) are offering services this summer. Please contact them directly if you are interested. It is the perfect way to keep skills sharp and have fun in the classroom. You may also want to check on-line with the local Catholic high schools that are also offering summer enrichment courses.

The August/September Newsletter and classroom assignments for 2018-2019 will be posted on-line in August. Our enrollment is holding but it is important that we increase our numbers, so please continue to spread the good word about our terrific school in your neighborhood and community. The school office is open on a limited basis over the summer months - simply leave a message on voicemail, and we will return your call.

School 440-243-4555 Mr. Carner ext. 19 Mrs. Ziegler ext. 12 **Coming Soon ☺ ext. 10** Mrs. Hennessy ext. 11

Our Extended Care/Day Care will continue through the summer in conjunction with our Summer Camp Program. Childcare is available daily from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Summer Camp provides daily activities for the children that include swimming, weekly field trips, special lunches, and arts and crafts. Please check on our website for more detailed information and registration information.

I wish all of you a summer filled with fun and family. Stay safe and enjoy time with your families and friends!

~ Mr. Andrew Carner

End of Year~ Important Dates

- There will be a Free Day for all students on Monday, May 28th, for Memorial Day.
- The last day for the 3-year-old Preschool students will be Tuesday, May 22nd.
- The last day for the Preschool P4 and PK students will be Friday, May 25th.
- Kindergarten students will end the school year on Friday, June 1st.
- The last day for Grade 8 students will be Monday, June 4th.
- The last day for Grades 1-7 students will be Wednesday, June 6th.

Our Extended Care/Day Care will be open to accommodate Preschool and Kindergarten students after their last day of school, as well as, grades 1 through 8. Registration for 2018-2019 school year must be completed and returned to the school for your child to be eligible to attend Summer Extended Care, Day Care, or Summer Camp.

4th Quarter Interims and Report Cards

These last few weeks of school are very important academically, and your child must continue learning and completing assignments on schedule. Please be aware that Interim Progress Reports will be sent home on May 11th, and final report cards on your child's last day of school.

First Communion

Congratulations to all of our Second Grade students, who will receive their First Communion on Sunday, May 6th at St. Mary Church from 11:30am-12:30pm. Mrs. Giblin has spent much of this school year preparing the children for this Holy Sacrament. The Second Grade students will spend May 4th, on a First Communion Retreat at the Fr. Garrity Center. This full day retreat concluded their preparation for the Sacrament as they made unleavened bread, created crafts, and visited the church. This is a special time 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 15th, unless arrangements have been made with Father Singler. **All families, new and returning, MUST REGISTER ON LINE WITH FACTS MANAGEMENT BY MAY 15th FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR.**

Acceptance letters have been sent to those families who have completed the registration process **and** are current with fees and tuition payments. The stipulation for returning next term remains, "contingent upon payment of all current tuition and fees"; this includes Extended Care and Preschool Day Care fees. If you have not received an acceptance letter, please contact the school office. Remember, if your child is not returning to SMS for the fall term you **must** inform the school office in writing.

If you have any questions regarding tuition payments or the FACTS Program, please contact Mrs. Mary Beth Hennessy at the school office (440) 243-4555 ext. 11.

Fr. Marty Mission

SMS will have collected approximately \$2,000 from this year's Fr. Marty Dress Down Days by the end of May. Our donations will be sent to support the mission school Fr. Marty founded in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. The final \$1 Dress Down Days will be held on Friday, May 25th & Friday, June 1st. Please remember to pray for the safety of the mission students and their families as their country continues to experience a great deal of instability.

Graduation

The Class of 2018 Graduation Ceremony and Reception will be held on Monday, June 4th. The Graduation Ceremony will begin at 7:00 PM in St. Mary Church and will be followed by a reception in the Fr. Garrity Center. All SMS students and families are invited to attend.

SMS Spring Band Concert

The Spring Band Concert will be held in the school gym on Wednesday, May 2nd, at 2:00p.m. for the students and an additional performance in the evening at 7:00 p.m. for parents, relatives, and friends. SMS is proud of our talented students and their musical accomplishments.

A special HURRAY!!! for Mr. Hickey and Ms. Kovacs who have spent many hours throughout the school year nurturing your children's talent and love of music. They have done a fantastic job preparing the students, and we can't wait to hear the beautiful music!

School Calendar and Family Vacations

The 2018-2019 School Calendar is available on-line. Please arrange family vacations so your children do not miss valuable classroom instruction. When requesting your children to be excused during the school year, please be advised that it is **not** the responsibility of the teacher to insure that your children meet assignment deadlines or complete 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**. 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

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 students. 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 15th** to insure your name will be listed in the Graduation Program. A Donor Form has been sent home in the Friday Folders and can be found on-line or at the school office. Please consider sending in your donation today.

End of Year Classroom Schedules

BUSY – BUSY – BUSY!!! Many field trips and special activities are scheduled for May and June. Pay careful attention to the May/June Calendar, the information being sent home by your child's classroom teacher, and the Friday Family Email to stay up-to-date. Parents are always welcome to join us for the May Crowning, evening band concert, class picnics, Graduation, and all the school Masses.

2018 – 2019 Uniform Policy & Student Supply List

Our Uniform Policy for the 2018–2019 school year will be posted on-line by June 1st. Please refer to the “Message from the Principal” on the first page this newsletter for complete details and dress code. Remember, our dress code is strictly enforced, and parents should review the Uniform Policy prior, before purchasing any school clothing, shoes, or accessories. SMS uniforms and Physical Education uniforms are available through Schoolbelles. Physical Education uniforms and Spirit wear items are also available through Luna Marketing.

Schoolbelles: 4747 W. 160th Street, Cleveland – 1.888.637.3037 – www.schoolbelles.com
Luna Marketing & Sports Apparel: 113 Front Street, Berea – 440.239.9970

The Student Supply List for each grade has been posted on-line.

Your child's classroom assignment for the fall term will be posted in August on the SMS website, in the August/September Newsletter, and at the school office.

Keep On Collecting!

Over the summer months, SMS continues to collect box tops, old cell phones, pop tabs and empty computer printer cartridges. The school building is open most mornings throughout the summer, and you are welcome to drop these items off in the bins located next to the office door. You may also drop off these items in the collection boxes located in the side vestibule of the church. Please continue to recycle your newspapers and magazines during the summer using our convenient green and yellow collection containers located in the school parking lot.

We extend a HUGE thank you to Mrs. Stafford for organizing our box top collections. We have been able to purchase classroom supplies, equipment for the Physical Education program, and accessories for the technology program.

We are always in need of parent volunteers to help organize these items. If you can spare a few hours a month, in the comfort of your home, please call 440-243-4555 ext. 11.

Extended Care – Summer Camp

Registrations for SMS Summer Camp and Day Care are still being accepted. Please contact the Day Care office at (440) 234-7210 for additional information. Registration forms can be found on-line, at the Day Care desk, or in the school office. Students must be registered for the fall term at SMS to enroll in these programs.

CYO Camp Christopher

Camp Christopher is an environmental education camp located in Bath, Ohio. Our Sixth Grade class, along with students from surrounding communities, shared a camp experience on April 26th-27th. Our students participated in hands-on ecological activities with plenty of problem solving and teamwork opportunities. They applied their classroom knowledge to another level with real life experiences in science, math, language arts, social studies, physical education, and self-awareness. Camp Christopher is always a favorite activity filled with lots of memory making for the students.

Happy Mother's & Father's Day

Enjoy and celebrate your special days. Please know how thankful we are to you for choosing SMS for your children. We pray that your faith in the God of love gives you strength and peace.

SMS Drama Club

The Drama Club students have been rehearsing for the past several months to bring you "Sleeping Beauty." Performances will be held on Friday, May 18th, Saturday, May 19th, and Sunday, May 20th. Ticket information has been sent home in the Friday Family e-mail. Don't miss this wonderful production starring our very own multi-talented students!

SMS Instrumental Music Program

SMS continues the instrumental music program during summer months. If your child is interested in beginning or continuing the study of music, summer is an ideal time to take advantage of the relaxed schedule and keep your child's mind, body, and talent active. Contact Mr. Hickey ([phickey@smsber ea.org](mailto:p hickey@smsber ea.org)) and Ms. Kovacs (akovacs@smsber ea.org) for more information on lessons.

PTO – Parent Teacher Organization

The faculty, staff, and students wish to thank all the PTO board members and parent volunteers who spent countless hours organizing special activities during the school year. Each event was so much fun and enjoyed by all of us. We sincerely thank you!!!

This month we would like to extend an additional thank you to our PTO for organizing the annual Father/Daughter Dance that was held on April 28th. It is always a special night for all thanks to their hard work and dedication.

The PTO events calendar for 2018-2019 is already being planned. Parents interested in becoming an active member of the PTO are encouraged to contact a Board member prior to the end of the year: **Stephanie Patton**- stephaniepttn028@gmail.com Mandy Smith- amfsrdh@sbcglobal.net

Book Fair

Our last Scholastic Book Fair sale for this school year was held on Monday, April 23 through Thursday, April 26. This fantastic sale was “**Buy One, Get One**” and very popular with the students and parents alike. A great big thank you to Mrs. Stafford for coordinating the book fair. We appreciate all your help! As always, she did a great job!!

Parish Picnic

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Parish Picnic! It will be held on Sunday, August 12th on the Church grounds. Father John and his staff are busy organizing a fun-filled day for all St. Mary parishioners! Please join the fun!

Back to School Ice Cream Social

Mark your calendar for the St. Mary School Back to School Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 26, 2018, from 12:30pm-2:00pm. This is a perfect opportunity to meet the teachers, bring in all your school supplies, and enjoy some delicious ice cream with all your classmates! Hope to see you there!