

Upcoming Events

- October 7 – Marathon
- October 19 – Grandparents Celebration
- October 20 & 21 – NO SCHOOL – MN Education Conference
- October 25 – School Board Meeting
- October 27 – Picture Retakes

Marathon for Nonpublic Education Friday, October 7 9:30 AM

The St. Mary's Marathon will be held on Friday, October 7th. This year's marathon will include a 5k run for students in 6-8th grade. We will start the day in the Jerry Kent gymnasium with prayer and a pep-fest at 9:30 A. M. The runners will lead us down to the Fairgrounds. The non-runners will be walking around the Fairground ball diamonds. Once again this year, due to generous donations from some families, each child and staff member will receive a new marathon t-shirt. A free lunch will be provided to all students. Last year we raised over \$27,000 for St. Mary's School. All are welcome to join us in our walk/run. Thank you for your support and generosity.

After 5 turn in days

\$18,295.17 has been brought in!

From the Principal's Office

We have been blessed with beautiful weather this fall and everyone seems to be enjoying the new outdoor space at St. Mary's. The new playground has become a favorite gathering place for students and families at SMS.

The new sign on Oak Street represents the final touch to our project. You will soon see an electronic message board added to the sign which will allow us to better communicate with our community.

We welcome families to use the playground after school. Please remember it is not supervised by school staff and parents are asked to remain with their children to provide the necessary supervision to keep all students safe. The improvements to the parking lot on Oak St. have also improved our student safety. It would be helpful if more families would use the Oak street entrance before school and avoid Cedar St. which is our bus drop off area. If you are using Marion Dr., please enter on the west and drive east. Students should always exit vehicles on the curb side of the car. Thanks for partnering with us to keep all students safe!

Students in grades 3 through 8 are currently taking the NWEA test for reading and math. This test allows us an opportunity to compare our students with students throughout the country. It also provides a goal for each student and a tool for monitoring growth throughout the year. Last year's scores were very impressive. St. Mary's students performed significantly above grade level peers in both reading and math at all grade levels. I will have a more detailed report later this fall.

We invite you to join us whenever you can. We welcome visitors daily and for our special events. Join us this month for the Marathon, Grandparents/Special Friends Day, and weekly Wednesday mass.

Enjoy God's Beauty,

Mary Hawkins, Principal

Grandparents/Special Friends

The format for Grandparent's/Special Friends Day is the same as last year. Our celebration will begin with an afternoon concert in the school gym on Wednesday, October 19, 2011.

The schedule is as follows:

- Concert in the St. Mary's Gym – 12:15-12:45 PM
- Mass at Sacred Heart Church – Approximately 1:00-2:00 PM
- Open House at St. Mary's School – 2:00-2:40 PM

Just a reminder that there will not be a lunch.

Night of Knights Auction

Mark your calendars! This year's auction will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2011. Doors open at 4:00 pm.

Get to know your auction committee: Kelli & Craig Larson, Amy & Adam Martinez, Shannon & Steve Prostrollo, Elaine & Tim Truelson, Annie & Matt Jessop, Melanie & Brian Burmeister, Stacey & Matt Ginskey, Stacy & Jeff Hanson, Sara & Jon Medo, Jennifer & Tim O'Connor, and Beth & Chris Wall.

Please send suggestions, ideas or comments to any of the members.

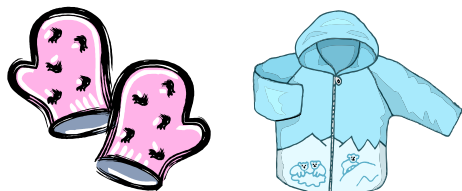
We are planning many new and exciting raffles this year. Look for more information - coming soon! Congratulations again to Sharleen Berg, last year's winner of the Car & Cash Raffle.



Check out the Night of Knights Auction page on Facebook for updates and opportunities to help!
<http://www.facebook.com/koy.t.b#!/nightofknights>

Winter Clothing Drive

SMS will be an official winter clothing drop site to benefit Steele County Clothesline. From October 1 thru October 29 you can leave clean child and adult sized **winter** coats, jackets, scarves, hats, mittens, and gloves that are in good condition in the boxes by the Trophy cases in the Junior High.



FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

.....by Mary Herzog, RN

Hearing and vision screening has been done on our students. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this go so smoothly. Referral letters are being sent out. If you do not receive a letter you can assume that there is no problem with your child. If you have any questions about your child's hearing or vision during the year, I will do extra screening at any time.

The flu season will be upon us shortly. Flu shots are recommended for all students, especially those with respiratory problems such as asthma or any other chronic health problems.

SMS Magazine Drive On-line

Friends of St. Mary's School can continue to support the school by purchasing magazine subscriptions on-line. If you want to renew or buy new subscriptions – visit our school website at www.stmarys-owatonna.org. We will have a link to www.gsp.com and our school code is **425006429**. There will be a two week period at the beginning of November when students may participate in a magazine drive, but magazines purchased at any time gives SMS 40% of the subscription price.

Moms In Touch

St. Mary's Moms in Touch is a group of moms that pray over St. Mary's students, teachers, and other school concerns. We meet every Thursday at 8 a.m. in the Sacred Heart Nursery for about 45 minutes. If you would like to join us or if you have any questions please call Kris Tucker 455-0601, Becky Berkley 451-0345 or Heather Lenz at 451-9187.

SMS Garden

The Garden Committee would like to take this time to heartily thank all the wonderful volunteers who have helped with the SMS School Garden this past growing season! We had 28 families volunteer to do plowing, planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting along with numerous Junior High youth and their families to haul compost and do start up! The results have been tasty! The kids have been enjoying fresh produce in the lunch line and we are looking forward to finishing the harvest and starting plans for next year. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to see the garden, it is located between the Sacred Heart Rectory and Sr. Sarah's house. Just look for the beautiful signs and take a peek while we still have some produce there! Watch for more plans and volunteer opportunities to get your family gardening in the spring! Thanks again! If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact heatherlenz@charter.net, dmtbetti@yahoo.com, or kchatelaine@stmarys-owatonna.org.

New Family Mentoring

Did you know we have 41 new families at St. Mary's School this year? We are looking for veteran families to help support these new families as they go through their initial year at SMS. Please contact April Strand of Heather Lenz if you are interested in being a part of our "New Family Mentoring Team".

Heather Lenz – heatherlenz@charter.net

April Strand – taestrand@gmail.com

Pro-Life Presentation

Mary Ann Kuharski, a founding member and president of PROLIFE Across AMERICA, will present a talk on Thursday, October 13 at 7 p.m. at Divine Mercy Catholic Church in Faribault. She will share the store of her pro-life work and inspire others to take action. The presentation is sponsored by the Respect Life Groups of South Central Minnesota.

VOTE Meeting

On Tuesday, November 8, our community will be going to the polls to make a very important decision for the future of our schools. You may have gone to a presentation given by the school district or read information about it in the paper. But you may feel like a lot of people that you don't really understand the big picture of the proposal and the benefits of it.

A community group has been formed to help the community understand the benefits of voting 'yes' on November 8. We are holding an information meeting this **Thursday, Oct. 6 at 7:00 at the Associated Church**. The purpose of the this meeting is twofold. For those that are already in favor of the proposal, the meeting is to help give you more information and tools so you can continue to educate others in the community. For those on the fence or leaning more against the proposal, hopefully the meeting will give you a clearer picture of what this proposal will do for our community in the long run. It is easy to let emotions get in the way and be frustrated with some of the specific details of the proposal, or frustrated with the process that was used to determine the final proposal, or frustrated with the people that were involved in the process. But we hope that if you are able to put those things aside you will be able to see that this proposal has a lot of merit for the future of our schools.

Please join us this **Thursday, Oct. 6 at 7:00 at the Associated Church** (800 Havana Road). The meeting should last less than an hour and will allow you a chance to ask questions to a panel of community members. Please pass this along to others that you feel might be interested in attending.

School Picture Retakes

Lifetouch will return on **Thursday, October 27**. Photographs will be taken of those who were absent on picture day in September or need retakes. Picture envelopes are available in the office. If you would like student pictures retaken, please follow the instructions in your picture packet.



"St. Mary's students learn about composting"