



The Weekly Word

www.saintmarystarofthesea.com

January 12, 2016

Mr. Williams Introduces Flipped Format in Geometry



Mr. Ken Williams has introduced the *flipped classroom* format to teach Geometry at Saint Mary's. In the *flipped classroom* format, instead of lecturing in class and assigning homework, Mr. Williams assigns videos on a specific content for students to watch at home and also gives them a worksheet to take notes. When students come to class the following day, they discuss with Mr. Williams what they heard in the videos and he answers any questions they may have. The rest of the class time is spent practicing the concepts from the video by working on actual Geometry problems and doing activities to ensure the concepts introduced in the video are fully understood. A major advantage of this format is that it allows more time for teachers to interact with students and to provide individual help. For parents, it is also a great relief to know they don't need to help students solve Geometry problems at home, as Mr. Williams will assist them the following day!

Congratulations to Virtue of the Month Winners



Congratulations to Saint Mary's students who received the Virtue of the Month awards for their *Generosity*: **Back row:** Nicole Halenkamp (8th), Haven Green (7th), Julia Campbell (6th), Linnea Davis (5th), and Emery D'Urso (4th). **Front Row:** Oliver Ballard-Spitzer (PreK-4), Desiree Lewis (K), Alexandra MIngee (1st), Cesar Navarro (PreK-3), Sophie Goewert (2nd), and Leila Ricks. (3rd).

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Parents, of Saint Mary Star of the Sea School,

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us! The virtue we are studying this month is gratitude. As we begin this Ordinary Time in the Church calendar, we can focus on being grateful for the little and big blessings in our life. We can be grateful for the time given to us each day to work and to fulfill our daily tasks, for the school we are able to provide for our students, for the family God has given us to live out our vocations, and for the Church God has given us to live out our Christian calling. Each day we can write on a calendar the blessings for which we are grateful. Sometimes it may be difficulties or sufferings, for these bring us closer to God and to one another as we need God and one another to get through the tough times. Let us pray for one another as we continue on this journey of faith in Jesus Christ and support one another in our Baptismal calling of Christian discipleship.

Please see below for the opportunity to help spread the word about Saint Mary Star of the Sea School and our upcoming Open House events. The local parishes are giving us a chance to promote our school. Please join us at one or more of these times for Mass and promote our great school!

Also, today, your are receiving a volunteer form to help with our Annual School Auction which will take place on Saturday, March 19. Your help with this event is key to its success. I encourage each of our parents to support this major fundraiser for our school. Proceeds will help us continue to enhance our educational program and also provide financial assistance to families in need.

God bless you and your family.
In Our Lady, Star of the Sea,
Sr. Mary John, O.P., Principal

Fostering a Love of Learning and Service since 1923...
Pre-K (3 yr.) - 8th Grade



Visit us at
OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 31: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 11: 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, February 25: 12 - 2:30 p.m.

Taking Student Applications for 2016-17
Fully Accredited - Daily Tours
Financial Assistance Available!

- Beautiful Campus with Waterfront Classroom & Living Shoreline
- Catholic Identity: All Faiths Welcomed
- Computer-Adaptive Testing throughout the year to Assess Student Academic Progress
- Smartboards in all Classrooms, Chromebooks for Students
- High School Credit Courses: Algebra, Geometry, World History, Earth Science & Spanish
- Innovative Hands-on Science Program including Marine Science
- Enrichment: Art, Spanish, Technology, P.E., & Drama/Music
- Sports: Basketball, Softball, Baseball, Cross Country, Soccer, Volleyball
- Small Class Sizes with Dedicated & Certified Teachers
- Before & After School Care



Upcoming!

January 18: School Closed, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 21: Pizza by the Slice - Athletic Fundraiser

The Athletic Department is selling pizza by the slice during lunch to students in 3rd - 8th grade only. Each slice of pizza costs \$2. Bring the money during lunch period to purchase pizza!



January 19: Basketball : AWAY Game vs. Suffolk Christian Academy. Girls tip off at 4 p.m. and Boys at 5:15 p.m.

January 20: Registration Opens for Current Families

January 26: 8th Grade Donut Day

Saint Mary's 8th grade students will be selling donuts to raise funds for special 8th grade activities. Please plan to stop by early in the morning on Jan. 26 to purchase a box of donuts. Donuts will also be sold individually during lunch for \$1 each.



January 29: Deadline to Complete Surveys for Saint Mary's Re-accreditation:

For Parents:

1. Catholic Identity Defining Characteristics Parent & Community Survey
<http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/4269068>
2. Catholic Identity Program Effectiveness Parent & Community Survey
<http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/6967208>

For Students in Grades 5-8:

1. Catholic Identity Defining Characteristics Student Survey
<http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/2026175>
2. Catholic Identity Program Effectiveness Student Survey
<http://www.advanc-ed.org/survey/public/1807967>

Responses to these surveys will be anonymous. Your honest opinion is appreciated!

NEWS & INFORMATION!

2016- 17 Registration for Current Families Opens January 20

Registration for next school year begins on January 20. Forms will be sent home in Wednesday folders. Open Houses for prospective families will be held on Sunday, January 31 from 2 to 4 p.m. and on Thursday, February 11 and February 25 during the school day. Please note that current families will have priority for registration. Saint Mary's will begin accepting applications from new families for the 2016-17 academic year after the Open House on January 31. Please help us spread the word! If you can help distribute flyers, please contact Maritza Davila at m.davila.smss@gmail.com.

Flyers to promote our Admissions Open House are going home today. Please share with friends and family. If you can help us distribute at businesses you patronize, restaurants, doctors' offices, banks, etc, please let us know and we will send additional flyers home.

Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart News!

We have kicked off our event and working our way towards our school wide goal of raising \$6,100. So far, we have reached 5% of our goal. Keep up the fundraising for this wonderful cause!



Why is partnering with the American Heart Association so important?

- Heart disease is the nation's No. 1 killer
- Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in the United States
- Our children are developing significant health issues that can shorten their life expectancy: – Almost a third of U.S. children and adolescents between ages 2 and 19 are overweight or obese. – Children who are obese are more than twice as likely to die before age 55. – Sixty-one percent of children ages 9-13 aren't physically active outside of school. – On average, American children and adolescents spend nearly four hours watching television every day.
- You can do something... get involved!! Join the Saint Mary's team online today!

FACT of the Week:

Eating too much sodium can cause your body to hold onto too much extra fluid. It can lead to high blood pressure, which makes the heart work harder. Don't forget to share the message and raise money for Jump Rope For Heart when you can.

Order your Yearbook Through Jan. 15 and Save!

Yearbooks are pre-ordered. Please go to the website to print the yearbook order form. Place your order before January 15 to get the discounted price of \$32. After Jan. 15, yearbooks will cost \$40.

Mark your Calendar: Spotlight On Saint Mary's at Local Parishes!

Various local parishes have given us permission to plan special activities in January to spotlight Saint Mary Star of the Sea School and promote our Open Houses. Our families will serve as gift bearers, give their testimonials, distribute flyers, represent Saint Mary's at a table in the Commons area, and invite parishioners to our Open Houses in January and February.

Please, mark your calendars and plan to attend one or more of the Masses listed below. Students who attend Mass that weekend wearing their uniform may come to school out of uniform on Monday, January 25.

Saint Joseph: Saturday, Jan. 23@ 7 p.m. (Spanish), Sunday, January 24 @ 10 a.m. and Noon.

Saint Mary's: Saturday, Jan. 23@5 p.m. & Sunday, Jan. 24@9:30 a.m.

Immaculate Conception: Saturday, Jan. 23@5 :30 p.m., Sunday, January 24 @ 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Saint Rose of Lima : Sunday, January 16 at 8:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Saint Vincent de Paul: Saturday, January 23@ 5 p.m. and Sunday, January 24@ 10 a.m.

Our parish liaisons are now contacting families to find out who can help represent Saint Mary's during the weekends mentioned above.

BINGO NEWS!



Please make sure you mark your calendar on the days you are scheduled to work BINGO next semester! If unable to work on an assigned date, please contact another family to switch dates. Remember that it is very important to have enough workers on the assigned dates. The Knights count on us for support! When there are not enough helpers, Saint Mary's loses financial support from the night's proceeds and the evening can turn in to a difficult one for other volunteers.

The BINGO schedule for the second part of the year was sent home before Christmas. Please be sure to mark your calendar with your dates. The schedule is also posted online. For questions, please e-mail Mrs. Mahn at bingosaintmarys@gmail.com.

Thank you to the following families who worked Bingo last Sunday,

January 10: Jackson, Roberts, Treacy, Auerbach (Aiden), Mahn, and Shea.

The following families are scheduled to work this Sunday, January 17: Goudie, Buessing, Amos, Yusuf, Taylor, Benedicto, Pease, Grant-Davis, Green (Bryant)

Coming home today: February Calendar, 2015 Childcare tax statements, Spaghetti Dinner Flyer, Admissions Open House Flyers to Share, Auction Volunteer Form, Pizza by the Slice information sheet.