

School Connections From the Principal's Desk December 2020



Dates to Remember...

December

- 6 – Second week of Advent
Monetary collection for The Cheer Fund
- 13 – Third week of Advent can goods and food collection for St. Mary Hot Meals program.
- 18 – End of 1st Semester. Christmas vacation begins at the end of the school day.

January

- 5 – School Resumes



Free Lunches

Earlier in the year we let you know about a program that we applied for that allowed free lunches for all students until December.

This program has been extended, and we have now been approved to continue this program until the end of the school year or until the funds are exhausted.

Please remember that only the cost of the reimbursable meal is free. The grant does not cover extra charges that may occur such as an extra juice/milk, or juice along with a fruit.

Charges that occurred before the original waiver was in effect are still required to be paid. We know that many students have money in their accounts, and if the grant is exhausted, these can be used again. They can also be carried over for the next school year.

Please call the school if you have any questions or concerns about this program.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Please continue to monitor your child's health and keep us informed of student absences by contacting the school office. If you want to contact your child's teacher, that is fine, but a call must also be made to the office so we can keep our files up to date. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Team Competitions

Our middle school boys' basketball team has officially started their season. They did get a late start, and the fan attendance does have to be reduced, but the boys are competing well, and enjoy as many games as they are able to play. They will have a home game on Monday December 7th.

During the volleyball season home games were able to live stream and we are hoping to do the same with the basketball games.

A link will be posted on our Facebook page and given to team parents so they will be able to share.

Good luck to our boys for a successful season.

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*Enter your name and email

Merry Christmas from St. Mary Parish!



Snow Days

Greensburg schools has allotted some extra days in December as make-up days if we are closed due to snow. However, St. Mary School has decided to opt for an E-learning day if the schools happen to close in December.

If a snow day is called, teachers will have work posted by 9:00 am for the students in their classes. By using this option, we will be able to stay with our current calendar and we will begin our Christmas break on December 18th.

Even though we may not have to rely on this plan of action, we wanted you to be aware of what we had in mind should a snow day be needed.

STEWARDSHIP

**As Christian Stewards,
we receive God's gifts
gratefully, cultivate them
responsibly, share them
lovingly in justice with
others, and return them
with increase to the
Lord.**

ADVENT SHARING

Advent at St. Mary's is a time for students to think about those around us. Together with the family, we can offer opportunities to share with those less fortunate – spreading the spirit of Christmas and teaching our children some valuable lessons. We are working on the following ideas for the weeks preceding Christmas.



CARDS FOR OTHERS to spread cheer during the pandemic

- *Will be done in art class
- *K-3 will be making cards for homebound patients
- *4-8 will be making cards for neighbors or distant friends/relatives



PAJAMA DAY CHEER FUND collection

- *Friday December 11
- *This year the Cheer Fund is supplying families in need with gift cards.
- *We are collecting cash donations to help with the purchase of the gift cards.
- *Students can wear pajamas to school if they bring a donation to the Cheer fund
- *Pajamas must be school-appropriate
- *Out of uniform is also acceptable if a donation is made.



ST. MARY'S HOT MEALS PROGRAM food collection

- *December 14-18
- *Canned fruits and vegetables
- *Dry pasta and sauce (spaghetti, etc.)
- *Cake mixes



VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

- *Friday, December 18
- *All grades K-5 will be performing virtually via a recorded performance from music class.
- *Parents and guests are welcome to view the virtual concert with a link that will be provided.

We realize that this is an expensive time of year for everyone. With this in mind, we are trying to keep our charity within the budget of a school child. We suggest that you let your child "earn" the money they need to purchase the items or the cash for the Cheer Fund. We want to offer your child a chance to think of others and realize just how blessed we are. May the spirit of love and sharing be with us all during Advent and always.