

Mary, Queen of Peace

Friday, January 19th, 2018

Mary, Queen of Peace Families and Friends:

Blessings! Tomorrow, we will honor the feast day of Saint Sebastian. By being the patron saint of athletes he is one of our more popular saints. His great strength and endurance in overcoming physical attacks for his faith earned him his patronage. When Saint Sebastian fell, from being shot with arrows, he gave it all for his faith. We can follow his example by giving our all for our love of Jesus Christ.

Please join the school community on Wednesday morning, at 9:15, for the celebration of the Eucharist. The sixth graders will serve as the ministers on January 24th the feast day of Saint Francis de Sales.

We are grateful for the guest speakers, parents, teachers and Mrs. Caroline McCabe for making our most recent stewardship day a success. It was great to witness all the positive energy within the building. One highlight of the day is seeing Cade Williamson hug an Army veteran for his service and courage.

We are excited about this year's Catholic School's Week. As stated in a previous letter, the week will be filled with new and old traditions. The week will begin with the celebration of the liturgy on Sunday, January 8th and basically come to a close with Friday's family luncheon. Our eighth graders seem to be excited about taking over the school on Wednesday, January 31st. You will receive a separate document, which will provide more details including dates and times.

Please remember that the Spring Conferences, originally schedule on Thursday, February 8th and Friday, February 9th have been changed to "schedule as needed". A parent or teacher may request a conference at any time. Friday, February 9th will remain a half-day so the faculty can participate in intruder training. As stated in a recent email, I have followed Mr. Mike Bigg's (former Mary, Queen of Peace principal) lead by reaching out to the Webster Groves police department. My primary objective is to simply build a relationship with our first responders.

By networking with the police department, Archdiocese Education office, and parents, the neighboring principals have been alerted of a seventeen year old who goes by the alias of Black Frat. He portrays himself as a party planner as he targets middle school students. Black Frat will meet them at mixers, sporting events or anywhere they want. He is suspected of selling drugs, alcoholic, and vaping paraphernalia to our youth. Black Frat communicates with his costumers through social media. In exchange for inappropriate pictures and

cash, he promises to deliver anything they desire. The faculty will take measures to talk to the students about the temptations they face. Parents please continue to work with us by communicating with your children and watching out for warning signs. Monitor their spending habits and use of phones. Do not allow them to keep their phones or other devices in their room, especially at night. Clean out your child's backpacks and other storage bags often. Spend time reading over the school handbook, especially page 96. Most importantly, remember to turn to our Heavenly Father for guidance and strength. Proverbs 22:6 offers encouragement. The biblical passage reads "Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray." You are a wonderful group of parents who want the absolute best for their children. In the end, well-trained children become principled adults. So, continue to strive to be the best parents that you are.

The other day our wonderful eighth graders selected this year's school play. Stages, Mrs. Caroline McCabe, Mrs. Angie Boger, and Mrs. Erin Ream will work with our young actors as they prepare to take us down the yellow brick road in their performance of The Wizard of Oz.

Under the direction of their parents and Mrs. Carrie Hauck our sixth graders participated in a Martin Luther King essay contest. All the compositions were exceptional, but we are most proud of Paige Dolrenry and Margo Schoen. The girls were invited to an awards ceremony last Sunday evening at Webster Rock Hill Ministries. They were two of eight recipients from the area.

The Middle School Open House is on Tuesday, January 30th between 6:45 – 8:00. Prospective and current parents will have an opportunity to learn about the hidden gems of Mary, Queen of Peace and components of our outstanding curriculum. Parents, teacher, and students will share why they are passionate about our community. Please encourage your friends and family to join us.

Please remember that students who are running a fever or experiencing vomiting need to stay home for twenty-four hours after being fever free. Being fever free means without the administration of Tylenol or Ibuprofen. Also, remember to call the school to report any absence. We appreciate your cooperation and diligence.

Now to my plug about SHOP Scrip Cards, we are grateful to our regular costumers and encourage everyone to stop by the school office to purchase SHOP Scrip cards. By using them to address your everyday needs, the school benefits. Annie Finke and Jo Wingbermuehle will be happy to assist you if you need SHOP Scrip cards.

Your families are in my constant prayers and thoughts. Join the faculty and me as we embrace Greg and Karen Ward. Karen is currently in Ethiopia to adopt their son, Sam. We offer our prayers for their safe return home. Remember you are always welcome to join me on Wednesday mornings at 7:50 for a decade of the Rosary.

The faculty and I truly appreciate your support and trust.

Prayerful,

Michael Nieman
Mary, Queen of Peace – Principal

“Lord, grant us a spirit of strength. Taught by glorious example of Your Martyr Saint Sebastian, may we learn how to obey Your rather than men. Amen.”