

Mary, Queen of Peace

Friday, February 23, 2018

Mary, Queen of Peace Families and Friends:

Blessings! This past Wednesday, we honored the feast day of Saint Peter Damian. “He was one of the most glorious lights of the Church in the 11th century”. His God-given intellect allowed him to fight for the teachings of the Church. May we find the courage to use our God-given talents for the betterment of all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please join the school community on Wednesday morning, at 9:15, for the celebration of the Eucharist. Mrs. Tina Schultz’s 3rd graders will serve as the ministers on February 28th. Also, under the direction of Mrs. Margaret Kelly her students we will lead the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 2, at 2:30 pm, in the church.

It was encouraging and nice to see a good number of parents at the First Communion Parent meeting and Registration Night. Your willingness to rearrange family time and tolerate Wednesday’s weather affirms your devotion to Catholic education. On both evenings, it was especially touching to see well-behaved children tag along with one parent to wait for their other parent to take them home.

I appreciate Mr. Eric Scott and Home and School’s support in organizing the Registration Night. Mr. Eric Scott and Mrs. Katie Wedding both made informative presentations. Mr. Scott highlighted how Mary, Queen of Peace effectively uses your tuition dollars to the fullest benefit of each

student. The numerous ways in which a parent can volunteer to support our fine parish school were emphasized in Mrs. Wedding's presentation.

Purchasing SHOP Scrip Cards is one of those many opportunities in which parents and friends can contribute to the betterment of Mary, Queen of Peace School. Annie Finke and Jo Wingbermuehle are always happy to assist those who purchase SHOP Scrip cards. They are delighted to see our regular costumers and are eager to welcome new ones. Please consider purchasing SHOP Scrip Cards to address your everyday needs and as you prepare for upcoming spring happenings.

It is always good to be in the company of Father John Vien and Mrs. Caroline McCabe, but I did miss seeing our devoted teachers and staff at our Frist Communion Parent meeting and Registration Night. They were spending time with their families and recharging to take on a new day. Currently, each faculty member is reflecting upon their potential growth in faith, responsibilities, and communication. A typical growth plan takes two years and requires each teacher to work closely with the administration. Overall, I am very pleased by the growth each teacher has made. It is an honor to work with such devoted individuals. They are doing a remarkable job in carrying out the mission of Mary, Queen of Peace. During my recent classroom observations, I have witnessed their passion for Catholic education and devotion to your children. I will continue to strive to bring the very best out of each of them.

To stimulate growth and recognize the importance of grades, I am proposing that next year we return to the era of printed progress reports and report cards. Grades and comments will still be available through FastDirect. Printed copies will serve as another form of communication

and symbolize the importance of academic achievement. To enhance the experience, a member from the administration team will personally hand each student his or her report card at the end of each quarter. Even though information will still be available electronically, parents will be encouraged to review, sign, and return the printed reports.

Thanks to Mrs. Tina Schultz, Mrs. Karen Markowski, and Mrs. Polly Mertz, a Maker Space wish list has been created. The list will be reviewed and presented to Home and School. The mentioned instructors have spent time researching and observing other schools to best identify materials that will work best for Mary, Queen of Peace. At the most recent faculty meeting, they led a Maker Space presentation. Their colleagues were able to actually participate in a related activity.

Next year's calendar is being formed. In between our first day of school Thursday, August 16 and the last day Friday, May 24, we need at least 174 days with every student in the building. Also, we need to meet the state guideline on at least 1044 instructional hours. The following are tentative non-instructional days:

- Monday, September 3rd – Labor Day
- Thursday, November 1st – All Saint's Day
- Friday, November 2nd – Professional Development
- Wednesday, November 21st – Friday November 23rd - Thanksgiving Break
- Monday, December 24th –Wednesday January 2rd Christmas Break
- Monday, January 21st – Martin Luther King
- Monday, February 18th – President's Day

- Monday, March 18th – Friday, March 22th – Spring Break
- Friday, March 30 – Good Friday – No School
- Monday, April 22nd – Easter Monday – No School
- Friday, April 26th – Spring Festival Set up – No School
- Friday, May 24th – Last Day of School – Half Day

As always, your families are in my constant prayers and thoughts. Please remember Brigid McAtee in your daily intentions. She is recovering from outpatient surgery. Remember you are always welcome to join Mrs. Caroline McCabe or 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

“Almighty God, help us to follow the teaching and example of Saint Peter. Placing Christ above all things, may we be ever active in the service of Your Church and attain the joys of eternal light. Amen.”