

# Mary, Queen of Peace

Monday, March 5, 2017

## Mary, Queen of Peace Families and Friends:

Blessings! Today, we honored the feast day of Saint John Joseph the Cross. He was known for his gift in leadership. At a young age, John Joseph he was appointed provincial of his religious community. "As guardian he was not above working in the kitchen or carrying the wood and water needed by his fellow friars". May we mirror Saint John Joseph's example by being humble servants to all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please join the school community on Wednesday morning, at 9:15, for the celebration of the Mass. Eighth graders will serve as the ministers on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Also, under the direction of Mrs. Margaret Kelly, students will lead the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 9, at 2:30 pm, in the church.

To remind our students that sin causes us to drift away from our own goodness, we call them to spend time in prayer and reflection. We then call them to confess their sins to repair their relationship with God. On Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> the second – eighth graders will receive the sacrament of reconciliation. Remember confessions can be made on Saturdays, 3:45 -4:45 pm, and by appointment.

Please be mindful of the due date for the registration materials. To make proper staffing decisions it is preferable to have all papers turned into the

school office by Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions about the registration process, refer to Mr. Michael Nieman (x220) or Mrs. Annie Finke (x235). Your diligence and cooperation is appreciated.

With the passing of the recent tax legislation, there are provisions that expand the use of the 529 savings plans. Traditionally used to pay for college and other higher education needs, the 529 savings plan can now be applied to pay tuition at elementary or secondary school. If you need more information about the 529 savings plan please stop by the school office.

As you know, we are always seeking ways to generate monetary support for the school. 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.

Proceeds from SHOP Scrip Cards will go towards Maker Space and technology. Marker Space activities allow students to collaborate with others and use a variety of tools to design solutions. In my experience it is amazing to see learners come together and creatively use limited supplies to solve a problem. Tools can consist of household tools and to 3D printers. At this time, we are not ready for the latter, but we will work toward it. With the help of Mrs. Tina Schultz, Mrs. Karen Markowski, and Mrs. Polly Mertz, a wish list has been created and teachers are being

introduced to Maker Space activities.

In regards to technology, we need to replace the desktops used in the computer labs and laptops used by students. As we replace items, additional laptops and tablets will be purchased and made available to students.

Linc and I have seen some amazing things happening in the classrooms recently. The eighth graders were confident as they tried out for roles in the upcoming production of Wizard of Oz. The second graders were gracious as they took a break and enjoyed ice cream. The first graders were focused as they worked on graphing. The pre-fours were in tune as they played their kazoos. Mrs. Schartzler, a new parent, recently shared that she is touched by the positive camaraderie among the students and teachers.

Next year's calendar is under construction. The following is tentative and considered a working document;

- Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup> – Blessing of the Backpacks, after the 11:00 Mass, and Ice Cream Social from 12:00 – 1:30 pm
- Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup> – First Day of School (Full Day)
- Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Labor Day - No School
- Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Back to School Night for All Grades from 7:00 – 8:30
- Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> – IOWA Testing Grades 2 – 8
- Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> – Halloween Parade at 1:15 pm followed by Class Parties

- Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> – All Saint’s Day – No School
- Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> - Auction
- Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday November 23<sup>rd</sup> - Thanksgiving Break
- Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> –Wednesday January 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Break
- Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> – Martin Luther King – No School
- Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Catholic School’s Week
- Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> – Martin Luther King – No School
- Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – President’s Day – No School
- Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> – Mission Carnival
- Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday
- Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday, March 22<sup>th</sup> – Spring Break
- Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday – No School
- Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Easter Monday – No School
- Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – Spring Festival Set up – No School
- Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Graduation Ceremonies for Kindergarten (9:00 AM in the church), and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (6:00 PM in the church)
- Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of School – Half Day

Your families are in my constant prayers and thoughts. 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

“God, You inspired Saint Joseph to strive for perfect charity and so attain Your Kingdom at the end of his pilgrimage on earth. Strengthen us through his intercession that we may advance rejoicing in the way of love. Amen.”