



### Weekly Newsletter

**October 11, 2019**

### Catholic Identity Program Effectiveness Survey

Every three years, the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Washington conduct the Catholic Identity Program Effectiveness Survey. This survey, a requirement for retaining our accreditation with Cognia, seeks to measure satisfaction with criteria aligned to strong Catholic identity and program effectiveness. The results of this survey will help identify school and archdiocesan-wide program strengths and challenges and will also help inform our priorities for school and archdiocesan strategic planning.

It is important we receive feedback from all members of the school community- parents, students, faculty and staff- regarding our programs and how we can continue to grow and improve in the coming year. Please click the following survey link to provide your valuable parent feedback. Your responses will remain anonymous. Friday, October 11 is the last day to take the survey.

[Click Here to Take the Survey!](#)

### National Junior Society Induction Ceremony - October 17



Please join us on Thursday, October 17th at 2:00 pm to congratulate the National Junior Honor Society inductees from 7th and 8th Grades. The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) elevates a school's commitment to the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. These five pillars have been associated with membership in the organization since its inception in 1929.

Today, it is estimated that more than one million students participate in NJHS activities. NJHS chapters are found in all 50 states, US Territories, and around the world. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service.

Five main purposes have guided chapters of NJHS from the beginning: to create enthusiasm for scholarship; to stimulate a desire to render service; to promote leadership; to encourage responsible citizenship; and to develop character in the students of secondary schools. These purposes also translate into the criteria used for membership selection in each local chapter.

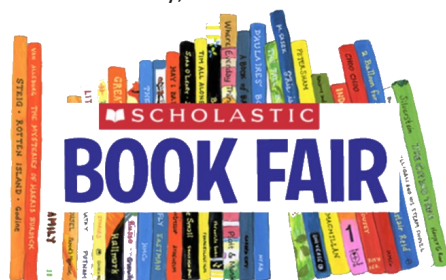
### Scholastic Book Fair October 21-25

Please mark your calendars for the Fall Book Fair October 17-25. The schedule is as follows:

**Thursday October 17— Friday October 18 students will make wish lists.**

**Monday October 21— Friday October 25 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Book Fair**

If you have any questions or are looking for something specific please feel free to contact the librarian, Angela Ingelido at [librarian@smsp.school](mailto:librarian@smsp.school). Look for your students wish list to come home Thursday, October 17 or Friday, October 18.



### Looking Ahead

- † **Monday, October 14**  
Federal Holiday  
No School
- † **Thursday-Friday, October 17-18**  
Students make book fair wish lists
- † **Thursday, October 17**  
National Junior Honor Society  
Induction Ceremony 2:00  
4th Grade Field trip to  
Historic St. Mary's City
- † **Friday, October 18**  
HSA Fall Family Festival 6:00-8:00
- † **Sunday-Saturday, October 20-26**  
National Friends of Libraries Week
- † **Monday October 21**  
Enrollment Opens for 2020-21 SY  
Enroll before January 26 and lock in  
your 2019-20 tuition rate! Tuition  
goes up by 2% on January 27
- † **Monday-Friday, October 21-25**  
Scholastic Book Fair
- † **Thursday, October 24**  
Bring \$1 and Wear **PINK**  
To raise money for 8th Grade!
- † **Friday, October 25**  
End of the 1st Quarter  
[Deadline for 8th grade students  
to register for the HSPT](#)
- † **Monday, October 28**  
All School Mass
- † **Tuesday, October 29**  
**Livescan Fingerprinting 4:30-6:30**  
**Virtus Training in Parish Hall**  
**Protecting God's Children for  
Adults 6:30-9:30**
- † **Wednesday, October 30**  
Silver Diner Family Fun Night!  
(wear your Halloween costume)  
*Please note that the date of this event  
changed from 10/29 to 10/30*
- † **Thursday, October 31**  
Bring \$1 & wear **BLACK & ORANGE**  
to raise money for 8th Grade!  
Early Dismissal 12:00  
Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Report Cards E-Mailed Home
- † **Friday, November 1**  
All Saints Day  
Conference Day  
School Closed
- † **Sunday, November 3**  
Daylight Savings Time  
Fall Back



### Wear **PINK** on October 24

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Many of us have been affected by this terrible disease. You may have suffered from breast cancer or have a loved one that has fought this type of cancer. St. Mary's wants to show our support! On Thursday, October 24, students are encouraged to bring in at least \$1 to donate to breast cancer research (larger donations are welcome). In exchange, students are allowed to be out of uniform to wear **PINK**. Please turn in your donations in an envelope with your child's name on it and write "PINK" on the front. All monies collected will be donated to the Breast Cancer Research Fund. This charity gets an A+ rating by The American Institute of Philanthropy's Charity Watch.



### Oops! Forgot Lunch?

It happens. Sometimes students forget to pack a lunch or forgot to order hot lunch. No worries! If your student forgets their lunch, we will provide and Oops lunch that consists of a cheese stick, fruit cup, granola bar, and a water. A \$4 charge will be added to your OrgsOnline.com account. Please let your child know that if they forget their lunch to let the lunch attendant or teacher know. Often times the child will not speak up and tell someone they're hungry. If you have questions, please call the school office.

### Tuition Assistance Applications

The window for families to apply for tuition assistance for the 2020-21 school year began on October 1 and ends on December 6. The process requires that you submit tax documents and other forms. We **strongly encourage** every single St. Mary's family apply for tuition assistance. There are two tuition assistance funds, one from the Archdiocese of Washington and one from St. Mary's Parish. The amount of money that is distributed by the Archdiocese of Washington is partially determined by the number of tuition assistance applications they receive from our families. The more applications the Archdiocese of Washington receives, the more assistance we will be able to provide to all of our students. Even if you



**CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE LITTLE FLOWER GIRLS CLUB**

This new club is for girls in 3rd-5th grades and teaches virtues through scripture, crafts, activities and service projects. The club will meet once a month on Wednesdays from 3:15-4:00 and will be overseen by Mrs. True. Log into your OrgsOnline.com account and click on "Enrichment" to register your daughter today!

**TAKE 3 ACTIONS TO FIGHT FLU**  
Influenza (flu) is a contagious disease that can be serious. Every year, millions of people get sick, hundreds of thousands are hospitalized, and thousands to tens of thousands of people die from flu. CDC urges you to take the following actions to protect yourself and others from flu.

**GET YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY VACCINATED!**  
A yearly flu vaccine is the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.  
Everyone 6 months or older should get an annual flu vaccine. Protect Yourself. Protect Your Family. Get Vaccinated. #FightFlu

**STOP THE SPREAD**  
Take everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of flu viruses!  
Avoid close contact with sick people, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, cover your coughs and sneezes, wash your hands often (with soap and water).

**ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT FLU ANTIVIRALS**  
Take antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them!  
Antiviral drugs can be used to treat flu illness and can make illness milder and shorten the time you are sick.

[WWW.CDC.GOV/FLU](http://WWW.CDC.GOV/FLU)

#FIGHT FLU





do not think your family qualifies for assistance, please apply anyway.

We encourage all 8th grade students to apply, even if you decide not to attend to an ADW high school. If you have children in elementary and high school, you only have to apply once for all of your children.

In addition to the money from the Archdiocese, we also have assistance available from St. Mary's Parish. **YOU MUST APPLY FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE** in order to be awarded assistance from St. Mary's Parish. The admissions team will be very strict about this policy for the 2020-21 school year. You will receive several notices between now and December 6th. Thank you in advance for your attention to this.



### Virtus Volunteer Training Class and Fingerprinting Here at St. Mary's on October 29!



We were able to secure a Virtus Training session, *Protecting God's Children for Adults*, on Tuesday, October 29 from 6:30-9:30 pm here at St. Mary's Parish Hall. If you or one of your family members would like to volunteer at our school or chaperone on field trips, please be sure to have them attend this class. You must register in advance! Log in to your Virtus account (or create a new account) at [www.VirtusOnline.org](http://www.VirtusOnline.org).

In addition to the class, we also booked the company *Prevent First* to come out and do Livescan fingerprinting from 4:00-6:30 ahead of the class. The cost for fingerprinting is \$59 (\$61 if paying with a credit card). Click [HERE](#) to register for fingerprinting only. We will send out an e-mail reminder a few days before the fingerprinting session.

We do not often have Virtus classes at our school, so this is a great opportunity to get both steps accomplished in one day. Remember, each family is required to complete at least 20 hours of volunteer service at the school each year and you must be Virtus cleared to participate. If you are unsure about your Virtus clearance status, please contact the school office.

### Wear **ORANGE** and **BLACK** on October 31

Help the 8th Grade class raise money for their graduation field trip and other graduation related activities! On Thursday, October 31, students are encouraged to bring in at least \$1 to donate to the 8th grade class (larger donations are welcome). In exchange, students are allowed to be out of uniform to wear **ORANGE** and **BLACK**. Please turn in your donations in an envelope with your child's name on it and write "8th grade fundraiser" on the front. All monies collected will be donated to the 8th grade graduation activities fund.





# St. Mary's School of Piscataway

13407 Piscataway Road  
Clinton, Maryland 20735  
Office (301)-292-2522  
Fax (301)-292-2534  
[www.stmaryspiscataway.org](http://www.stmaryspiscataway.org)

October 4, 2019  
St. Francis of Assisi

My Dear Parishioners and School Parents,

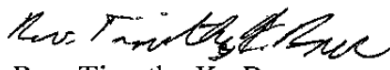
Praised Be Jesus Christ. Now and forever. It is hard to believe that we are but two years away from our Parish School's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There is no better way to "make history" presently than to prepare for that future celebration. We began preparing this week by adding to our history and walking confidently into our future with the appointment of Miss Lysie Reavis as our School Principal. My 23 years of priesthood—all of them associated with Catholic education—have taught me that plans are plans and you have to have plans, but it's ultimately about *who* you have, no matter what your plan is. I love and trust *who* we have at this exciting time in our School's life. Our Principal and our faculty are deeply committed to Catholic education. Our children are growing in their eagerness to learn. There is such a sense in our community that everyone wants to be a part of this great endeavor. Yet, we have to have plans. To that end, Miss Reavis and I want your support as we plan to address challenges that we'd love to overcome right now, but certainly by the time of our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021.

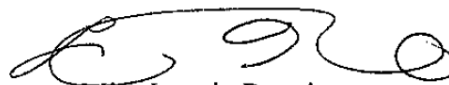
**I am inviting you to come to our "State of the School" meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.**

Our two biggest challenges are finances and enrollment. We are working to address these issues with our Home and School Association, our Parish Finance Council, and our Parish Council for the New Evangelization (PCNE). I am grateful for their support of the school and for the initiatives they have taken to address these challenges, such as decreased enrollment, budget shortfall and fundraising participation and outcome. It is important that we meet as a parish and school community to talk about finances and enrollment and to discuss how we might best address these issues, which are so important for the future of our school.

*Please note that this meeting is for parents and parishioners only. Children should not be brought to this meeting.* It is our sincere hope that you will be able to attend. We thank you for your support of our parish and school and we I look forward to working together with **you**.

In Jesus the Lord,

  
Rev. Timothy K. Baer  
Pastor

  
Miss Lysie Reavis  
Principal

***St. Mary's School, rooted in Christ, supports the development of students, their families, and the community. Building on our tradition of excellence, we continue to grow in faith, knowledge, and love by recognizing the worth and dignity of each individual as a child of God.***

COME ONE COME ALL!  
LET'S CELEBRATE FALL AT

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL OF PISCATAWAY

# FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 18, 2019 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
13407 PISCATAWAY DRIVE  
CLINTON, MD 20735

GAMES, PRIZES, AND FUN!





# SILVER DINER FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

20% of sales is donated to  
St. Mary's School of Piscataway  
Enjoy delicious food in a fun atmosphere along  
with your family and friends while earning funds in  
support of our school!

**Wear a  
Halloween  
costume!**



Silver Diner Waldorf ~ 3081 Festival Way, Waldorf, MD 20601