



Weekly Newsletter September 27, 2019

Tuition Assistance Applications **VERY IMPORTANT!!!**

The window for families to apply for tuition assistance for the 2020-21 school year begins 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 do not think your family qualifies for assistance, please apply anyway.

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.

Progress Reports Available Today

An academic progress report will be available for you to review in PlusPortals today, 9/27 at 4:00 pm for students in grades 4-8. Progress reports are only provided for core subject areas (not for special classes like Spanish and Art). Follow these steps to view your child's report.

1. Go to www.PlusPortals.com/StMarysPiscataway.
2. Enter your email address and password to log in.
3. Click on "More..." next to your student's name
4. Click on the "Classroom" tab.
5. Click on "Progress Report."
6. Click on the dropdown list to see progress reports for each class.

If you have not logged into PlusPortals yet and need your login info, or if you forgot it, please contact the office at school@smsp.school and we will try to assist as soon as possible.

Blessing of the Animals - October 4

Next Friday, October 4th, is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. To honor and celebrate St. Francis, Father Baer will bless our pets and animal friends at 10:00 am. Parents (not students) may bring pets of all kinds (not into the building please) to the blessing that will take place outside between the main church and the school building. Please make sure that all animals are properly and securely leashed or caged.

If you do not have pets, or are not able to attend the blessing, students from Pre-K to 3rd grade may bring a stuffed animal to bless.



Looking Ahead

- † **Monday, September 30**
All School Mass
- † **Tuesday, October 1**
Tuition Assistance Application Period Opens!
Deadline is December 6, 2019
- † **Wednesday, October 2**
National Custodial Worker's Recognition Day
- † **Friday, October 4**
Feast of St. Francis of Assisi - Blessing of the Animals
Early Dismissal 12:00
- † **Monday, October 14**
Federal Holiday
No School
- † **Friday, October 18**
HSA Fall Family Festival
- † **Sunday-Saturday, October 20-26**
National Friends of Libraries Week
- Monday, October 21-25**
Scholastic Book Fair
- † **Friday, October 25**
End of the 1st Quarter
- † **Monday, October 28**
All School Mass
- † **Tuesday, October 29**
Silver Diner Family Fun Night!
(wear your Halloween costume)
- † **Thursday, October 31**
Early Dismissal 12:00
Parent/Teacher Conferences
Report Cards Sent Home
Halloween
- † **Thursday, November 7**
Appelley Publishing Student Poetry Contest Deadline for Grades 3-8
- † **Monday, November 11**
Veterans Day
- † **Wednesday, November 13**
World Kindness Day
- † **Wednesday, November 20**
High School Placement Test for 8th Grade
2nd & 3rd Grade Field Trip to The Children's Science Center
- † **Monday, November 25**
All School Mass



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.

Fall Family Festival - October 18

Our Fall Family Festival is coming up soon! Stephanie Edmundson (8th grade mom) has graciously offered to chair the planning committee for this event. If you signed up to volunteer for that event, you should be hearing from her very soon. We will have lots of fun activities for the children to enjoy. Please plan to attend!

Parents that are volunteering to work at this event have to be Virtus cleared. If you are not Virtus cleared yet, but would still like to contribute, you can provide items that the planning committee needs or help with the pre-planning process (making phone calls to vendors, arranging schedules, etc.). If you are interested in helping out, please contact the main office at (301) 292-2522 or school@smsp.school.



SchoolStore.net Fundraiser

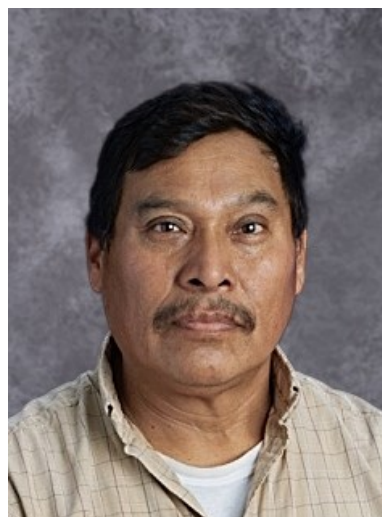
Your child was given a packet today from SchoolStore.net. This is a simple and easy fundraising effort for St. Mary's. Please review the packet. There is detailed information in there about how to participate. If you participate, please provide the student prize code provided on the website and return it to your teacher so that your child can earn a prize! Thank you for your continued support of St. Mary's!

National Custodial Worker's Recognition Day - October 2

We are so blessed to have wonderful team members, Mr. Anthony and Mr. Santiago, helping us every day to maintain our building and grounds. Please join us in thanking them for their hard work and dedication!



Mr. Anthony



Mr. Santiago