



"We, the family of St. Mary's School, are committed to promoting Catholic values to God's children through faith, Christ-centered worship, service and academic excellence."

St. Mary's Parishioners,

We had prepared for a busy Catholic Schools Week, but the weather forced us to cancel or reschedule some events, while others remained. The Brains and Brawn tournament in La Crosse kicked off the week and was a historic trip for our Brains team, winning the tournament for the first time in school history. Congratulations to the team coached by Mrs. Conley and thank you to our Activities Committee for purchasing new polo shirts for the team. Also the Brawn teams got in plenty of playing time with four games each. We generally are competing against schools much bigger than us, so being competitive against these schools is quite an accomplishment. Another event that remained was Grandparents' Day. It was great to see so many grandparents at Mass and the social. We had our grandparents matching game, where people sent in pictures of our students' grandparents when they were in school and current students' pictures and people matched the two. The display will remain up in our gym through the end of this month. Before the Mass on Grandparents' Day, our 4K – 1st grade students went to the Children's Museum in Stevens Point.

Some scheduled events were delayed or cancelled. We eventually were able to have one dress up day, Minion Monday. There were a lot of Minions running around and we thank David and Cassandra Stevens for lending us their blow up Minions. Roller skating was rescheduled twice, but we did get a chance to go. Our Home and School Committee paid for our busing on the field trips we went to and put together trivia events for Catholic Schools Week. We also thank Fischer Transportation for the donation of one of our buses to Melody Gardens. Unfortunately, the Mass at Newman was canceled due to weather and the remaining events were convoluted, but we did get to celebrate most of what had been scheduled. Another event that survived the weather was our mission carnival. We were able to raise \$1653.45 that we can donate to our Diocesan Mission Office for our sister parish in Bolivia and Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II orphanage. Thank you for all that donated, volunteered and bought tickets. This is over \$100 more than last year, which is really amazing considering it was tough to get the word out with all the bad weather days we had. We had several great events for the students and several volunteers. The bean bag clown toss was led by Beth Altenhofen and Jill Lawrence, fish pond by Julie Hillman, John and Lynn Lensmire, Ron and Mary Wilichowski and Pam Schulz, football throw, shooting baskets and dice game by our 7th and 8th graders, Plinko by Natalie Altenhofen, Kim Hoenisch and Traci Schumacher, cookie/cake walk by Amanda Hale and Pam Schulz, raffle Miss Globensky, ring toss Mrs. Jacobson, face painting by Ellen Buchberger, Jamie Kolka and Anne Paul, spin the wheel by Lisa Burger and Julie Hillman, dart ball by Heather Murkowski and the ticket sales were done by Beth Altenhofen, Sandi Eckardt, Julie Hillman, Katie Mechelke and Bob Schumacher. Angie Schroder helped out anywhere there was a need. Several people donated items, with Marvin and Mary Jane Pilgrim donating many items to the carnival. An extension of the carnival is the Missionary Childhood Association

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(MCA) Mite Box collection during the upcoming Lenten season with donations being given to the National Missionary Childhood Association office. During the Lenten season we will also be collecting donations and items for the Hope Life Center off their wish list, such as diapers. If you would like to donate, please drop items off at the main office at school.

We begin to look forward to the 2019 – 2020 school year in a variety of ways. One way is the open house we had during our mission carnival where prospective students took a short tour of our Adoration Chapel, Mrs. Wilichowski, our librarian, read our newly created school's storybook, "Taking Flight", and they viewed our Diocesan video before going to the mission carnival. Child Development Days in Marathon, which screens the four-year old kindergarten students as they prepare to enter our school next year, were conducted by Mrs. Drexler and Mrs. Hahn along with teachers from Marathon Area Elementary School.

This month we moved into the third quarter, and with that transition we had a change in our 5K classroom. Mrs. Buchberger had stepped in for the first two quarters for us and now Ms. Blume will be teaching the remainder of the year. We thank Mrs. Buchberger for working with our 5K students and assisting Ms. Blume, who is off to a good start. Our in-service day was very productive. In the morning, the Marathon Police Department trained us on phase 2 of ALICE training, which is our school safety training. It was a combination of lecture, various scenarios and role play and they did an excellent job in presenting the information. The afternoon was additional religious training and training from Renaissance in regards to our new STAR testing.

The DPI did their periodic review of our kitchen and lunch procedures. The DPI inspector noted that St. Mary's was the first school that she gave an outstanding review. She said that the school did over and above what was asked and was really impressed by St. Mary's. Congratulations to Mrs. Fischer and the kitchen crew as they put a lot of work into this, as well as our staff for enforcing the rules, and students for following these cafeteria rules.

Charlotte Gruetzmacher, Ava Buchberger and Cayden Sapinski advanced to the Region 4 CESA Spelling Bee that was hosted by Marathon High School. Charlotte won the region spelling bee and will now be advancing to the state competition in March in Madison.

Our 7th and 8th grade girls' basketball team is heading to the end of their season. The team is coached by Craig Prihoda and LeAnn Lang and includes 8th graders Maddie Martin, Korin Mroczenski, Elizabeth Paul and Kali Prihoda as well as 7th graders Ella Altfillisch, Katie Annis, Lauren Karlen, Madisyn Lang and Lena Putnam. In physical education class, we are having a gymnastics section with help of new mats donated by our Activities Committee.

The Magic Paper Box has returned to St. Mary's and we received the first check from them, so thank you for all of you that have been using it. It is located on the east side of the school by the gym and the existing dumpster. Generally what is accepted is recyclable paper material but no plastic, cardboard, metal, glass, or paper contaminated with food. We had our biggest AmazonSmile donation in the fourth quarter of 2018 and our highest Souper Bowl Sunday sales, so thank you for buying all those items from Amazon as well as the chili, soups and cinnamon rolls and thank you to those that volunteered. We have a couple other upcoming fundraisers this spring, one being our annual meat sale. St. Mary's Day will be held on May 4th with bowling, games and music by Jerry Schmitt.

Please continue to support us and keep St. Mary's School in your prayers.

Thank you,

Joseph Koch, Principal



**Visit our website to see all the wonderful
events happening at St. Mary's School.
www.stmarysmarathon.org**