

*St. Mary's School*  
*"Excellence in Education"*  
716 Market Street ~ PO Box 102  
Marathon WI 54448

*"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."*

February 19, 2018

In this newsletter:

- School Safety
- Sick Kids
- Mid-term grades sent home today
- Making a Difference Award
- Legislative Action

CHECK THIS OUT!



Dear Parents,

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives in the school shooting last week in Florida. We had a school lockdown drill last month and are conducting another version of one this week. Our monthly fire alarms in the spring will incorporate school safety drills as well. Our staff, via meetings has been instructed and we have consulted with the police and public school on best practices. The camera and locked front door installed this summer also augments security. Unfortunately, there are many possible scenarios in regards to school safety. The punch that knocks you out isn't the hardest rather it's the one that you are not expecting, so we are preparing for as many scenarios as possible. The goal is not to traumatize the students rather it is to prepare them. The way you can help is by reinforcing with the children the importance of these drills and staying close to a staff member. Also, if you come into the school please don't leave propped open doors unattended.

Another form of school safety; we have had a lot of sick kids lately. We have installed another hand sanitizer in the cafeteria and are emphasizing cleanliness, but if your child is sick, please have them stay home. They will get a three day weekend this week with no school on Friday due to Marathon In-Service.

Mid-term grades are being sent home today with students in grades 6 - 8.

Congratulations, Miss Globensky who won the "Making a Difference" Award last night.

We are a member of the Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools. They inform us on certain issues and lobby for bills that are helpful for private schools. One change is part of the federal tax law that was passed a couple months ago. 529 plans were previously used for college tuition only but it is now extended to pay tuition for K - 12 private schools, however, it is a bit confusing at this time. A note from WCRIS, "Yes, the law is in effect in the U.S. Many

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states have education savings plans. In Wisconsin, ours is EdVest. The rules of EdVest don't include K-12 expenses. Rep. Kooyenga's proposed law will expand it to include K-12. However, parents can use plans sponsored by other states that allow for K-12 expenses. Parents should talk to their tax advisor to find out which states that may include. The legislative session ends in March so we'll know by then if his proposal is law. Plenty of time for parents to use their 529s to pay tuition for this year.” A second issue related to our school is passage of a law that allows for lifelong teacher licensure. However, there are a couple extra barriers in that law for private school teachers, described here: <https://www.wcris.org/public-policy/urge-fix-teacher-life-licenses/>.

**Please make note of upcoming dates and activities:**

- Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>: **Mid – Terms**, Grades 6 - 8
- Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>: Grades 6 - 8 Mass
- Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>: 4K swimming
- Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>: **No School Marathon in-service**
- Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>: Grades 3 - 5 Mass
- Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>: Grades 5K - 2 Mass
- Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Liturgy
- Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>: All School Mass
- Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>: 6 – 8 Mass

Thank you,

Joseph Koch, Principal

Questions To Ask Your Kids After School Instead Of Asking “How Was Your Day”

- Did you learn something you didn't understand?
- Who inspired you today?

