

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS.**

- JAN 21  
Teacher In Service  
No School
- JAN 23  
Mass 1:45 PM
- JAN 25  
Report Cards
- JAN 27-FEB 1  
Catholic Schools  
Week
- JAN 28  
Spirit Day
- JAN 29  
KDG Open House  
5:30 P.M.
- JAN 30  
Mass @ River Falls  
10:00 AM
- FEB 1  
Friends of St.  
Mary Tea  
10:00AM
- FEB 6  
Mass 1:45 P.M.
- FEB 13  
Mass 1:45 P.M.
- FEB 14  
Early Dismissal  
P/T Conf 1:15-8



Dear Parents & Students,

It sure seems like the time is flying by since we returned from Christmas break. There have been some exciting things going on in the building this month. The Kindergarten and First graders are enjoying their new iPads and Osmos. Osmos are a device that expands our math and literacy curriculums. We are so thankful to First National Community Bank and the Ann Marie Foundation for supporting us with grants to fund the purchase of these incredible technology tools.

I have been very lucky to be a guest reader in the Kindergarten, First, and Third grade classrooms. We have been learning about how to treat others and be kind to our friends through stories. It is a wonderful time that I get to spend with the classes and is always a highlight of my week.

**Coming up:**

Tuesday, January 29th @ 5:30 P.M. is Kindergarten Open House

Saturday, February 2nd 9:00-Noon is 4K & Preschool Open House

If you have family, friends, or neighbors that have children 3-5 years of age please pass on the dates and times of the Open House. If they are unable to attend on the date of the Open House please have them contact me, and I can give them a tour at another time.

**January Food Drive:** The students have been filling my office with donations for Five Loaves Food Shelf. I have challenged the students to donate 750 pounds of donations. If they reach the goal they will receive a non-uniform day, and I will have to wear the school uniform....yes, I have the plaid skirt and everything! If they raise 1,000 pounds they will get a second non-uniform day, and Mr. Measner will wear the school uniform. YIKES! The last day of the food drive will be Friday, February 1st.

**Did you know?** There are 10 easy ways to raise a more confident reader. PBS kids suggest these ten easy steps to help your child be a more confident reader:

1. **Read aloud to your children**—lays the foundation to helping literacy skills.
2. **Have kids read to you**—this will build confidence and self-esteem for when they need to read in front of the class.
3. **Have books around the house**—"practice makes perfect" plus according to a 2010 study, having as few as 20 books in the home had a significant impact on whether or not children sought a higher education.
4. **Let you kids catch you reading**—seeing you read can impact how your child views reading.
5. **Give kids control**—let them pick the stories.
6. **Make it part of a daily routine**—pick a time each day so that the kids look forward to reading.

Continued from page 1

7. **Don't be afraid to challenge them**—occasionally choose a book that is above your child's level and help them to read it.

8. **Bond over books**—share your favorite stories from when you were a kid. Read one of your child's favorites and discuss it. Get lost in the story, root for the hero, and boo the villain.

9. **Avoid making reading time quiz time**—reinforce that reading at home is for pleasure.

10. **Avoid Screen time**—encourage them to use their imagination while playing.

Catholic Schools Week : Please see the schedule of events and dress up days in the newsletter. I hope to see many St. Mary Families at the Catholic Schools Week kick-off Mass on the 27th, 9:00 A.M. at Immaculate Conception and 11:00 A.M. at St. Patrick's in Erin. Watch the school's Facebook page and Instagram account for pictures of the fun-filled week.

Blessings,

Mrs. J.

## CANNED FOOD DRIVE FOR 5 LOAVES

Starting Monday, Jan. 7th through Friday, Feb. 1st, students can bring in canned goods to donate to the 5 Loaves Food Shelf. If the students collect 750 lbs, they will earn a non-uniform day AND Mrs. Jarchow will wear the school uniform on that day. If 1,000 lbs. is collected, the students will earn 2 non-uniform days and Mrs. Jarchow AND Mr. Measner will both wear school uniforms. Collections can be brought in by students and put in their classroom.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

We will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week the week of January 27th-February 1st. We have lots of exciting events planned!

Monday: PJ and crazy hair day, All School Assembly 8:00 A.M.

Tuesday: Sports Day, Grades 4-8 Bowling, Relays 9:00 A.M.

Wednesday: Uniforms with crazy socks and hat day, St. Croix County Mass at 10:00 A.M., Talent Show 12:45 P.M.

Thursday: Halloween in January, Snake Discovery Presentation, K-3 Gem Theater

Friday: Color Day, Upstairs Saints Presentations 8:30-10:30 A.M.  
Friends of St. Mary Tea 10:30-11:15 A.M.

Class Colors: K—Red 1—Orange 2—Yellow 3—Green 4—Blue 5—Purple 6—Pink  
7—White 8—Plaid Preschool —Black

## MARDI GRAS CLASSROOM BASKETS

Mardi Gras preparations are well under way and we need your help. Every class donates a basket to be auctioned off during the silent auction. Listed below are the themes for each classroom. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. We hope to see you at this adult-only event on Saturday, Feb. 23rd at 5:00 P.M. Invitations will be sent home in the family folder. Every contribution helps to create a beautiful basket.

Thank you -  
Kate Harrold  
Mardi Gras Co-Chair  
651-210-0713

1. Requesting a \$5-\$15 themed item
2. Items can be dropped off in your child's classroom
3. A cash donation (with child/family's name on outside of envelope) can be given instead and then MG members will purchase an item to add to the basket.
4. Basket items due by Friday, Jan. 26th
5. Any new holiday re-gifting items or new products can be donated in addition to themed items and the MG members will create additional themed baskets
6. Items containing alcohol or knives (even plastic knives) must be turned into Mrs. Moore in the front office.

The class themes are listed below:

**K-3: Wisconsin Badger, Packers, Minnesota Wild, Vikings items**

**4: Chocolate, Coffee Basket**

**5: Family Movie Night**

**6-8: Bottles of wine for the wine grab**

**These cost you nothing extra and St. Mary School funding is supported by your participation:**

**\*Shop on AmazonSmile, *smile.amazon.com* choose *Immaculate Conception Parish***

**\*Recycle aluminum cans** at our center near Snap Fitness on N. Knowles Ave.

**\*Collect Box Tops** for Education labels. Drop off at school.

**\*Recycle printer cartridges.** Drop off at school.

**\*Collect Kwik Trip Milk Moola** labels. Drop off at school.

**\*Save Family Fresh receipts.** Drop off at school.