

# St. Mary Catholic School

*"Where Christ's Light Shines"*

## Message From The Principal

Dear Members of the St. Mary Family:

I would like to thank you for your faith, trust, and commitment to the Mission of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School. It has been special to work with your child(ren) this year. As parents you should be extremely proud of the accomplishments and spiritual, academic and social growth they have made.

I want to thank you for your support to me in this transitional year. I am blessed to be the Principal of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School. It is a special place with amazing children, supportive parents and a staff that puts the needs of students first.

This summer, please be sure to take time as a family to talk, play, and pray together. Encourage your children to continue reading, learning and questioning. Providing a little educational time will help ensure a smooth transition in the fall.

### IN GRATITUDE

As we look ahead for summer and to a new school year, I wanted to share with you some of our personnel updates for 2017-2018. Yet, with every new addition also comes a goodbye. On behalf of the St. Mary School community I want to wish farewell to a few of our beloved staff.

We toast to **Mrs. Eichers** who is retiring this year. We are grateful for her 16 years of service to St. Mary School and wish her joy and happiness. Students shared: *Mrs. Eichers could always put a smile on our face. She was so easy to talk to and always encouraged us to do our best. Mrs. Eichers inspired us to persevere through difficult assignments or take time and pride to complete our work. We are so grateful for her commitment and dedication to St. Mary School. Congratulations Mrs. Eichers!*

After 15 years we say goodbye to **Mrs. Bonney**. Mrs. Bonney would like to share: *Over my nearly 15 years at St. Mary School, I have been able to massage my creative soul in ways I would not have otherwise been able to do. I was able to combine my love of history with art and present young minds with opportunities in which to consider the world in perhaps ways that they would not have otherwise been able. And for that, I am eternally grateful. As my time at St. Mary's comes to an end, the words gratitude and blessing keep popping up in my thoughts and vocabulary. I am so very blessed to have been given the opportunity to teach thousands of students over the years, a subject which I am passionate about. I have been privileged to be welcomed into the lives of the students and their families. I will be forever grateful for the hilarious stories and memories that the students have generated these many years. My students have taught me so much... patience, wonder, humility...*

*My program could not have been possible without the myriad of volunteers that have helped with organization, communication and in the classroom. Those parents who gave of themselves so that their children could benefit from the program are true angels in my heart. And I thank you all.*

We want to say farewell to **Ms. Levesque** and thank her for passion for math with

our students. Ms. Levesque writes:

*It is with a grateful heart that I tell you I will not be returning to St. Mary School next year. I started here five years ago, working at Kids' Club and teaching half of the 8th grade math class, and from the moment I stepped on campus you made me feel welcomed and valued. Since then the feeling of appreciation has not dwindled. The St. Mary community--students, faculty, staff, parents and friends--is incredibly special and I am beyond grateful to have been a part of it for as long as I have. Thank you for your constant support. Thank you for trusting me with your children's math education. And mostly, thank you for making me a part of this amazing family. I will miss you!*

**Mrs. Barker** recently informed me that she will not be returning next year. We thank Mrs. Barker for all the love, compassion, and support that she has given to our students.

Mrs. Barker writes: *It is with a heavy heart that I let you know I have accepted a full-time counseling position at a local High School. It seems like just a week ago I started at St. Mary when I was 6 months pregnant with my youngest who is now five! I can't believe how quickly the time has gone! I have loved every minute of my time at St. Mary and being part of this amazing community. Thank you for all of the love and support you have offered me. I have truly felt like part of a family!*

### **EXCITING PLANS FOR 2017 - 2018**

The hiring committee has been working hard the past few months interviewing to find the best educators to join our family. So, as we look forward to the 2017-2018 school year, I am excited to share staff placements that we believe will continue to enhance and build upon the excellence our educators provide every day. As you will see, the Mission continues to shine:

#### **1st Grade**

We welcome Mrs. Catia Saroni. Mrs. Saroni comes to us from another Diocesan school and has 20 years of experience in Catholic elementary education.

#### **Junior High Science and Technology**

Mr. Chin will be relocating to the MUR Room and continue to teach 6th - 8th grade science and be part of the STEAM team. Additionally, Mr. Chin will manage and implement 6th - 8th grade devices and technology curriculum.

#### **7th Grade Homeroom and Middle School Math**

We welcome Mr. Travis Pacos as the 7th grade homeroom and math teacher. He holds a MBA and comes to us from the corporate world.

#### **Spanish Program**

Señora Hernandez will expand her current role as K-4 Spanish teacher to include grades

5-8. She has been working hard the past few months to build a fluid continuum in the program to ensure students are prepared for high school courses.

#### **Student Support**

In addition to teaching PK - 8 physical education, Mr. Mortensen will have a larger role with student support. Part of his role will focus on building community amongst students, nurturing their health, wellness, and fostering leadership. This role has an emphasis on school safety, supervision, student mentorship, decorum and student activities.

#### **4-8 English Language Arts (ELA)**

We want to continue to grow and develop our writing program to increase the one-to-one and small group student/teacher conferencing. One strategy we will employ next year to accomplish this goal is to split writing classes in grades 4-8 in half, a few days a week.

This model will enable teachers to conference more frequently with students on their writing pieces.

Mrs. Paula Bryant and Mrs. Alyson Messier will partner together next year to teach junior high ELA and split the writing classes in grades 6-8 a few times a week.

Mrs. Bellows will partner with Ms. Lorenzana and Mrs. Trombadore to split 4th and 5th writing classes a few times a week.

### **Art**

We welcome Mrs. JoAnne Bennett, a certified art teacher, who has taught art classes from elementary through high-school. She has instructed art for over 16 years.

### **Summer Facilities Work**

Tomorrow the work will begin to complete four more innovative classroom boards and projection equipment.

Additional classroom space is needed to support our split classes, so with limited space on campus, we had to get creative. We will be installing a temporary wall upstairs to create a collaboration space for classes and small groups.

We will be updating the small PE/Spanish Office to provide more desk space for "floating" teachers and a quiet space for grading papers, planning or communicating with parents.

Lastly, we will be painting a few spaces in the school that are in need of some love and attention.

I hope you all have a fun and restful summer with your families. We look forward to seeing you next year!

God Bless,  
Mrs. Tracey Schmidt

Mary Our Mother...Pray for Us!

## **THANK YOU ST. MARY COMMUNITY**

We are truly grateful for your support and partnership. We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all of our faculty, staff, parents, grandparents, family members, alumni, corporations, and community for their gifts of time, talent, and treasure to help us advance our Mission. You are making a significant impact on our school today and in the years to come.

Your gifts allowed us to enhance programs that make a difference in the educational experience of each and every student. Our combined fundraising efforts (Auction, Fund-a-Need, Fun Run, and other gifts) brings our total philanthropic gifts to \$182,123. In 2016 - 2017 your support helped to:

- Complete 7 Innovative Classrooms (boards, interactive technology, and sound)
- Broaden the reach and impact of our professional development
- Support enhancements to the STEAM and science curriculum
- Cover operational expenses

Thank you again for making a difference in the lives of our students and the future of our school.

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## 2017-18 CLASSROOM SUPPLY NEWS



St. Mary uses a FACTS service call [Classbundl](#) to help with the purchase of classroom supplies online. With a few clicks, you will be able to purchase all your supplies for the year. Even better, the school gets 5% cash back on all purchases.

[Supply lists](#) are now available on the school [website](#).

### Order with a few clicks and get back to summer!

1. Go to [classbundl.com](#) and search for St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Walnut Creek
2. Order your classroom-specific bundles. You may adjust your bundles as needed.
3. Supplies are shipped free to your door.
4. Class Bundle is MANDATORY for kindergarten.
5. Class Bundle is not available for PK.

**\*Please Note: ALL SUPPLIES NEED TO BE AT SCHOOL WITH YOUR STUDENT ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, AUGUST 17, 2017**

Click [HERE](#) for 2017-18 Student Supply Lists

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## IMPORTANT SUMMER DATES AND HOURS

**\*June 9th: Office Closed**

**\*Summer Office Hours:** 9am-2pm (Monday-Thursday)  
9am-12pm (Friday)

**\*Office Closed July**

**\*July 20:** Bancroft Uniform Sales 10am-12pm

**\*August 10:** Bancroft Uniform Sales 10am-12pm

**\*August 17:** First Day of School

**\*August 17-18:** Minimum Days

**\*August 24:** Back To School Night

**\*August 27:** Back to School BBQ



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## MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Please come by the school office before the end of school to pick up any medication, cough drops etc. If you are unable to pick it up before the end of school, the school office hours during the month of June will be 9am-2pm. Any medication not picked up by June 30th will be disposed of. Thank you.



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## DRAMA PERFORMANCE

Don't forget to catch one of the last two performances of *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.*, presented by the drama club at Village Theater and Art Gallery in Danville. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.villagetheatreshows.com/children>.



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## SCRIP NOTICE - PLEASE BE ADVISED

Target discontinued contributing to schools via the Target Red Card in May 2016.

**Target purchases via their Red Card can no longer be used to satisfy your scrip commitment.** Physical Target gift cards can be purchased in \$25 or \$100 denominations through the school.

For earning over the summer, set up an account at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) or [www.myscripwallet.com](http://www.myscripwallet.com) for mobile options.

Questions? Contact Lisa Kavanagh at [lisakavanagh@comcast.net](mailto:lisakavanagh@comcast.net). Thank you for your

support!

## 2017-18 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Parents Club is looking for a **Treasurer** and a **Teacher Appreciation Coordinator** for the **2017-18 school year**. This is a great way to get your volunteer hours. If you are interested, please contact one of our Parents Club presidents, Michelle Quiambao at [michean@mac.com](mailto:michean@mac.com), Andrea Queen at [acalbayer@yahoo.com](mailto:acalbayer@yahoo.com), or Christine Hanson at [chris.a.hanson@gmail.com](mailto:chris.a.hanson@gmail.com).



## AUCTION NEWS

Don't forget....auction donations can be submitted to the school office during the months of June and August.

Your family auction donation is a click away at the **Anchors Away online donation registry - it doesn't get any easier than this!**

<https://www.myregistry.com/public/stmaryschoolanchorsaway>

**Auction T-Shirts** still for sale at <https://smschool.itemorder.com/sale>

## 2017-18 SPIRIT WEAR SCHOOL APPAREL!

You've seen, you want it and NOW you can purchase it! Available for parents only is the "Family" apparel you've seen on faculty and staff this year. With other Spirit Wear, samples will be displayed in the office through the end of the school year. And don't forget to order your new uniform approved sweatshirts and 2017 Auction t-shirts (PK-8), as well as PE uniforms (5-8) for the 2017-2018 school year.



**Sale is open NOW and closes July 10th** - ALL ordered apparel will be available for pick-up at our annual Back to School Picnic or on campus the first day of school. Click this link <https://smschool.itemorder.com/sale> to order today! Please direct any questions to Jaime Stewart at [jastewart@cndo.org](mailto:jastewart@cndo.org).



## ST. MARY CHURCH SUMMER BIBLE CAMP

Registration for St. Mary Church's annual summer Vacation Bible School, *Passport To Peru*, is now open! Click [HERE](#) for details and registration.

Don't miss out!

### DOWNLOADS

[May LIGHT Awards](#)

[2017-18 School Calendar of Events](#)

[Bancroft Uniform June SALE](#)

[Partners in Faith June](#)

[Magnificat Prayer Breakfast](#)

[SCRIP Order Form](#)

### IMPORTANT DATES

June is **LIFELONG LEARNER** Month

**June 8th**  
**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!**  
**NO KIDS' CLUB**  
8:30 Prayer Service  
10:00 Early Dismissal

**June 9th**  
**Office Closed**  
**HAPPY SUMMER VACATION!**

## Thank You To...

ALL our wonderful students and families for another AMAZING and SUCCESSFUL school year!!

## Volunteer Links

[Parent Club](#)

[Volunteer Sign Ups](#)

[Motor Development](#)

[Library](#)

[Art](#)

## Quick Links

[School Website](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[Escrip Online Mall](#)

[Bancroft Uniforms](#)

[ChoiceLunch](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

## IMPORTANT DATES AND HOURS

**Summer Hours:** 9am-2pm (M-Th)

9am-12pm (F)

**Office CLOSED July**

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**Saint Mary Elementary School**

[stmarynewsletter@st-mary.net](mailto:stmarynewsletter@st-mary.net) | <http://st-mary.net/>

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