



ST. MARY SCHOOL

**Week of 10-6-2011**

**Weekly Envelope content will appear in the following order:**

**Principal's Letter**

**Continuous Improvement Committee**

**Chess Club**

**Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos from an orphanage in Mexico**

**The Halloween Fun Fair**

**Annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Carmel Apple Sale**

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October 6, 2011

Hello St. Mary Families:

This has been a very good week so far ... Monday was picture day, I'll be sure to post the date for retakes for anyone who was not here. The classrooms are buzzing with activities, I listened to students identify parts of speech, others figure out math problems on the board, and still others using computers to create a web! How amazing our teachers are and how lucky our students as they grow and learn!

The October calendar went out last week, and we realized there was an error in the World's Finest Chocolate pick-up date, so please be sure to look at the correct copy that was sent home with your children last week, so you have the correct day!

Lunch Volunteers needed!!! We are in need of recess volunteers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (Oct. 31 – Jan. 13), we broke it down by quarter so it would be less of a time commitment, so if you have some free time, from 11:15 – 12:30, and would like to work with our children at the very best time of day, please contact Mrs. Bridget Watson at [roadrunnerb2@aol.com](mailto:roadrunnerb2@aol.com) or 708-473-4307.

Information:

- There is a half day of school this Friday, October 7, 2011 so don't forget to pick up your children at noon ... it is important that you come on time, as we have a faculty meeting that starts at 12:30 and the teachers need to have time to eat lunch.
- This Friday we also have an all school mass in the Parish Center, come join us as we celebrate in prayer and song. The sixth graders are doing the readings and sharing with us about the rosary, so please come by and celebrate mass with your children.
- Also on Friday, directly after the mass, we will be having our Homecoming Pep-Rally! So please stay and help us cheer our football players on for the big game and our soccer players as they continue their season!! Rah Rah!!!
- No School on Monday, October 10, 2011 – we will be observing Columbus Day!
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders are doing their annual trip to Springfield on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, so let's all pray for nice weather as they visit our State Capitol!
- The Magazine Drive Jean Day will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2011. Only those children who sold magazines will be allowed to wear jeans, we have the list of students here in the office, those students who do not have permission, will be calling home for a change of clothes, so please be sure you are on the list before coming to school in jeans!

- Halloween is just around the corner and as we all know, it's time to dress up to trick-or-treat and have holiday parties. Please let's remember when dressing up for school parties, the costumes must be appropriate, and by appropriate I mean: no weapons; no masks, we want children to be able to see clearly; skirts must be long enough that there is something for the ladies to sit on and pants aren't so tight that they cannot sit; and it is in fact a costume and not just a pair of jeans and a sweatshirt. We will share more as the time nears about parties here at school.
- The Continuous Improvement Committee has been brought back so parents can voice their ideas and brainstorm together. They meet the second Wednesday of the month. For more information, see the letter on the web site.
- We encourage people to use our facility during the evenings, and hope it meets your needs; however, when you are leaving, we do ask that you please be sure to clean up after yourselves, and that includes taking the garbage out, putting the tables back, sweeping the floor if necessary .... We can give you a checklist if you are unsure of the guidelines, as we hope the facility can be returned to its original state when you leave.

Reminders: (there are a lot of them this week ....)

- Don't forget to sign up for chess club; it really is a great opportunity to get involved in a school activity that challenges the mind.
- Ladies Night Out is on Friday, October 14 at the Riverside Golf Club ... it's a great time for you mothers to get out and take care of you! If we don't get more participants, we'll have to cancel the whole thing, so order a pizza, rent a movie, and come on out and enjoy some girl talk! Be sure to fill out the reservation form on the web site.
- An altar server flyer can be found on the web site, so please check out our web page under "Activities" and then "Altar Servers" and you will find dates and times for the training. The first session is only 2 days away (Oct. 8th) and we've received hardly any RSVP's yet. The first training is on Oct. 8th and the second on Oct. 15th, parents let Dan Jones know ASAP by RSVPing and signing the permission slip! That way we can be adequately prepared for those who choose to attend

(and have enough snacks, too!) Dan Jones, Altar Server Director  
708.214.5470.

- Target credit cards! When you use your Target Credit Card and tell them you belong to St. Mary School in Riverside, we get money! We were just awarded a check from them for a substantial amount of money ... so the more we buy there the more we make! So go ahead and shop at Target all you want, just be sure charge it and let us get the rewards. I'll let you know what we spend that money on, so many things to choose from!

Thank you to the Men's Club, they donated all the High School Test Prep books to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This was very generous and will help our students have a 'leg up' on the test prep skills needed to get into the high school of their choice. Mrs. Cronin has been working hard to ensure the students not only have the workbooks, but also has been putting together test prep classes right here at St. Mary School in November, December, and even January. Please keep an eye out for this information, as it will be coming to you soon. Thank you Men's Club for your generosity!

As I sit here typing this letter to you, I do think of the many blessings we have here at St. Mary School, and I want you to know, I count each and every one of you and your children as blessings. With so much going on in the world, it is amazing that when I walk the halls of our school I see so much joy and happiness and for that I am extremely happy! So remember to take time to enjoy each other with kind words and smiles ... trust me, both of those go a long way in bringing joy!

Peace,

Ms. Diane M. Simonaitis

Principal

St. Mary School

October 4, 2011

Dear St. Mary Families,

The principal wants to hear what you have to say, so the St. Mary School Board is resurrecting the Continuous Improvement Committee for this purpose. The committee would like some new faces to join us, whether as a committee member or active participant. We want everyone to feel welcome, so mark your calendars now and come join us either as a member or parent contributor.

The purpose of the committee is to brainstorm new ideas to help across the board, from enrollment strategies to enhancing the students' educational experience, so we can encourage growth in the school and teachers overall. These ideas, along with strategies for implementation will be compiled and presented to the principal for consideration.

Please consider joining this committee as it is important for new faces and new voices to be heard. Everyone, please mark your calendars, our meetings will be:

The second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M.  
In the faculty lounge, just outside the Oak Room.

Our first meeting is Wednesday, October 11, 2011

If you are interested in joining this committee, please fill out the bottom portion of this letter and return to the school office, or email Mike Mulvihill at [mdmulvihill@gmail.com](mailto:mdmulvihill@gmail.com).

Thank you for your consideration,

Mike Mulvihill

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Continuous Improvement Committee

\_\_\_\_ I am interested in being part of this committee

\_\_\_\_ I am interested in being a parent contributor and would like to attend meetings when I can

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Please print your name

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Sign here

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Email address

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Phone Number



**P.I.E.  
ST. MARY GOLDEN BISHOPS  
CHESS CLUB**

*Research has shown that chess enhances scholastic ability, including test scores!*

All levels welcome, especially beginners

**Thursdays after school, November 3 through March 30**

Grades 3-8

**Starts Thursday, November 3**

**2:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**School Library**

(band participants welcome to attend after 3:30 p.m.)

Limit of 40 students—first come, first served

**COST: \$10**

(one-time fee to cover costs of drinks/snacks/handouts)

*Coaches:*

*Colette Fairchild Saganich and Dianna LaMantia*

Optional area-wide tournament hosted by St. Mary's in March

Questions: Colette Fairchild Saganich  
(708) 853-9375; colettefairchild@aol.com



**ST. MARY GOLDEN BISHOPS  
CHESS CLUB**

**SIGN UP FORM**

Thursdays after school, November 3 through March 30  
(2:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.; band members welcome at 3:30 p.m.)  
\$10 per student\*

*Sessions will feature an instructional period followed by match play*

*\* One-time fee for all sessions for drinks/snacks/handouts; all students welcome regardless of ability to pay. Contact Coach Colette at (708) 853-9375 or Coach LaMantia at 442-2535 with any questions.*

- Group 1: Limited or no playing experience
- Group 2: Some playing experience/intermediate

***Coaches reserve the right to place players in appropriate group based on ability.***

Student name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Group (see above) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Room Number \_\_\_\_\_

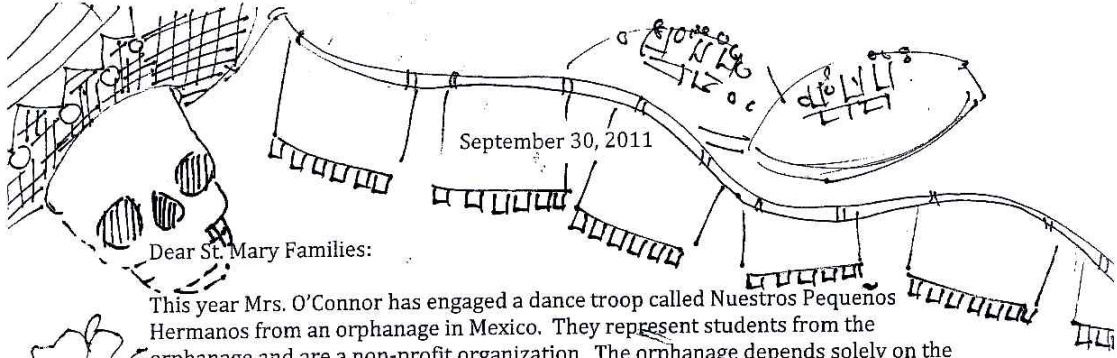
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature authorizing participation \_\_\_\_\_

**Return form via school envelope as soon as possible or bring form to first session on Thursday, November 3.** Students accepted on a first come, first served basis (maximum 40 due to space limitations).

*Optional area-wide tournament will be hosted by St. Mary's sometime in March at an approximate cost of \$50 (fee collected at tournament).*



Dear St. Mary Families:

This year Mrs. O'Connor has engaged a dance troop called Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos from an orphanage in Mexico. They represent students from the orphanage and are a non-profit organization. The orphanage depends solely on the generosity of the people the students perform for. As an added way to help raise funds for this worthy organization, the student council is sponsoring a Fiesta Bake Sale. We do need volunteers to bake or donate goodies. To avoid any allergic reactions among students, please avoid nuts or mark the bags clearly with the ingredients. Please wrap the portions individually if possible. The bake sale will take place on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at the lunch times. Each treat will cost between 50 cents and 75 cents. It would be apropos to have either a Day of the Dead theme or Halloween theme, in keeping with Mexican heritage.

Thank you as always for all you do and your very generous support for this project. Please return the bottom portion of this form by Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> to Mrs. Johnson.

Very Sincerely,

Mrs. Johnson and the Student Council

I can donate or bake 2 doz. Treats for the Fiesta Bake Sale \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Rm \_\_\_\_\_

*please bring treats to the Oak Room from 7:45am to 8:05am that morning... thank you*

It's Time for  
**The Halloween Fun Fair!!!**  
\*\*\*\***Friday, October 28th**\*\*\*\*

5:30p.m-8:30p.m.

Join us for games, food and fun!

Costume Contest @7:00p.m.

The Cake Walk and Junk Food walk are the most popular games;  
please plan on sending small packages of baked goods or junk food.

**\$10 for unlimited fun & games per child**

Wrist Bands 1 for \$10 # \_\_\_\_\_ x\$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Wrist Band is needed to play games for ages 5 and up)

Hot Dog Meals \$2 # \_\_\_\_\_ x\$2 = \_\_\_\_\_

(hot dog/chip/drink)

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Total = \_\_\_\_\_

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**We need 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to work the  
games from 5:15-7:15 for service hours.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**Parents we need your help for games & food.**

I can work 5:15-6:15(food only) \_\_\_\_\_

I can work 6:15-7:15(food only) \_\_\_\_\_

I can work 7:15-8:00 \_\_\_\_\_

I can work 8:00-8:45 \_\_\_\_\_

I can work clean up \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer to work at \_\_\_\_\_

I have a great idea \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to St. Mary PIE

If you have any questions or comments please call/email

Rita Domeier 442-5171 or markdomeier@ameritech.net



## ANNUAL 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CARAMEL APPLE SALE

It's Affy Tapple time! Enjoy a crisp, delicious Affy Tapple. Buy a case and save! Send your order back to school with your payment by Wed. Oct. 19 to my attention, Beckylee Ortiz. Please make checks payable to St. Mary School or cash can be accepted. If you have any questions, please email me at [blcso@yahoo.com](mailto:blcso@yahoo.com) or call me at 708-443-5174. Small orders (under 10 apples) will be sent to homerooms for students to take home. Larger orders (over 10 apples) should be picked up after school in the Parish Center Lobby or at the St. Mary Fun Fair on Friday Oct. 28. (Not responsible for orders not picked up.)

TYPE OF APPLE	# OF APPLES	# OF CASES	\$AMOUNT
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Caramel Apple Plain  
\$1.25 each or \$22 case of 24

Caramel Apple Nut  
\$1.25 each or \$22 case of 24

Triple Chocolate Chips  
\$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00

TOTAL\$\$\$\$

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ROOM # \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents thank you for your support. This fund raiser will help defray the expenses incurred throughout this year.