



ST. MARY SCHOOL

Week of 10-13-2011

Weekly Envelope content will appear in the following order:

Principal's Letter

Box Tops are back!

Batty for Box Tops

Annual 8th Grade Caramel Apple Sale

St. Mary High School Admissions Support Services

Friends of The Orphans

Chess Club

Fenwick Volleyball

October 13, 2011

Hello St. Mary Families!

Christians are supposed not merely to endure change, nor even to profit by it, but to cause it.

Harry Emerson Fosdick

Somehow the weeks are flying by and I cannot believe we are already 8 weeks in, and still the children are excited and eager to learn! The pep rally was fantastic last week! As I said to the students, I watch daily how they

are challenged academically, and I have witnessed their devotion to the church and prayer, but watching them at the pep rally was awesome for different reasons! The idea that these students from Kindergarten to 8th grade can cheer for and support one another is fantastic ... it really is one great big family here, and I am so happy to be part of this. It's true what they say, that we learn so much from our peers and seek their approval, and as the children were recognized either in cheerleading, football, or soccer, everyone was excited to be part of this. I don't know that I've been part of such an excited group of children in a long time, and it truly moved me!

We have the capabilities to email blast everyone now!!! How exciting! We will use the 'blast' sparingly though, so you are not overwhelmed with emails from us. Please, don't send us information that you want 'blasted' unless it is urgent school information! A test email blast will be coming your way this week, so if you do not get one, let us know via email (vrablikj@stmaryschool.net), so we can then have a 'good' email address from you. Every Thursday, you will be getting an email from us with my weekly letter attached and a link to the website so you can see the entire 'Thursday envelope' content. Thank you for your assistance with this, as we really do want to be sure everyone is getting the email blasts we send out.

Classroom News:

One of our fundraisers this year was the Magazine Drive and boy did our students take this seriously!!! We sold 871 magazine subscriptions!! What impressed me most was that our 6th grade classrooms really stepped up to the

plate and sold, sold, sold ... our first place class was Mrs. Keehn's room with a total of 106 sold and second place was Mrs. Lachowicz at a whopping 99 sold!! Between the two 6th grade classrooms, they sold 24% of our total magazine subscriptions ... awesome!!! Mrs. Keehn's room will be having a pizza party to celebrate their hard work ... yummy. Good work everyone, and especially to Mrs. Keehn's room and Mrs. Lachowicz's room ... good job!

Information:

- I've noticed a few dogs on campus at the end of the day and in the morning. Please do not bring your pet to school when picking up your children, in order to ensure everyone's safety it is best if all pets are left at home. The school is chaotic at the end of the day, and even the friendliest pet can get agitated and nervous around so many children and people. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.
- Flyers have come out regarding the St. Mary Test Prep class for 8th graders We have extended this offer to our counterparts in the Religious Education Program in hopes that every child here at St. Mary Parish has the same opportunities to excel in whatever high school they choose. This is a great opportunity for our students to get some test prep time in before they test for high school. Our classes here at St. Mary afford our children a fully rounded, very challenging experience, so our students have what it takes to do well in high school with or without this class. This test prep

class is just that, a refresher course to help give the students a little extra confidence. It is certainly not mandatory or even required; we are just offering it to those students who would like a refresher on some basic skills.

- It has come to my attention that not all our children like to 'dress up' for Halloween I can completely understand this, as I respect each child's right to be an individual and to do what makes them most comfortable. That being said, I would like to retract part of my Halloween message from last week when I said, "*.....it is in fact a costume and not just a pair of jeans and a sweatshirt.*" If your child does not want to put on a costume for Halloween, then I shall respect that and if jeans and a sweatshirt are what they feel comfortable wearing, then it shall be so. I hope lots of children and teachers are moved to 'dress up' though, as I love to see the creativity and ingenuity some people use when deciding what to be for Halloween. More to come on the parties and parade.
- Please be sure to check your child's homework depot, there is so much you can learn about what is going on in class. You just have to go thru the St. Mary Website and click on 'Homework Depot', and in some cases the teacher has put the 'exciting' things on their webpage under 'Classroom News', so be sure to check that out too! The teachers try very hard to keep those up to date, so be patient with them, as they have lots to do!

- Dismissal is changing ... many people have expressed concern about the number of children that leave out the 'link' doors, so we have decided to go back to the old way we used to do it, to see how this works. We will be dismissing the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades out the E doors, next to the Parish Center attached to the 'old' building, right next to the door they come in every morning, and the rest of the students will still come out the 'link' doors, the doors everyone has been coming out so far this year. We will be starting this Monday, October 17, 2011. We will see how it works, and if we have to 'tweak' it we will. Thanks to all the parents for your input, it is appreciated.
- We have a Box Top program here at St. Mary, and everyone can participate! Last year we had a very successful year raising a total of \$1571! There are so many things we can do with that kind of money; I'd love to see us raise even more this year if we can! The money goes towards school programs, activities and supplies for St. Mary School ... and since we are doing so very much this year in raising the bar, there are many things we can purchase. Please read the flyer on our website and print the page for the Box Top Collection sheet which will make it so much easier to collect them and bring them in to school! Let's see if we can't beat last year's total!!!! I say we can! :)
- Fenwick is having a grade school night on October 14th in the Field House. Everyone is invited to watch some amazing Volleyball!! The Friars will

play their rivals from Marist! It will be a double celebration, as they will be celebrating senior night as well as grade school night! So help them celebrate their sensational seniors, some of whom are alumni from here, as well as get a feel for the spirit of the school! Check out the flyer on our website.

Reminders:

- The Mexican Dancers, who dance to raise money for an orphanage in Mexico, are coming on Wednesday, October 19th in the Parish Center! I hope you can come join us in this celebration of dance. We do have to change the time, originally we thought it would start at 1:45, but instead it will begin at 1:30. We hope to see you here!
- If you are interested in a School Directory, contact Christine O'Connor at (708) 443.5588. If you would like one, you can make a check out for \$20.00 to P.I.E. It's a great way to stay connected to many of the families here at St. Mary School.
- Next week our 6th graders will be going to the Field Museum, and our Kindergartners to the Palos Children's Farm! I hope both groups have beautifully sunny days.
- Monday our 8th graders will be having the high school recruiters here to talk to them in the morning about the different schools. This year we

will also be having an evening recruitment for students and parents on Wednesday, October 26th. Please come hear what each of the high schools is offering! The students from our Religious Education Program, will also be invited as we want to be sure every 8th grader and his/her parents in the Parish are offered the same opportunities! Hard to believe it is just October and we are already thinking about high school! They sure do grow up fast!

- Wednesday, October 19th is Pizza Day!

A great big thank you to a one of our own, Mrs. Veverka, she is tireless in her commitment to not only our students, but to the teachers and of course to our website. Mrs. Veverka has so kindly added the information for the Cultural Arts Program at St. Mary School to the webpage. The Cultural Arts Program nurtures the artist in every child from Kindergarten thru sixth grade and the curriculum is now on the St. Mary Website under 'Activities'. See all that is taught separated by grade and artist! Thank you Mrs. Veverka, and thank you to Mrs. Layng for making this program such a great success and offering our students an opportunity to fully appreciate fine art!

Life offers us many opportunities to make a difference, so let's take every chance we have to open ourselves up to God and hear what it is He is saying to us. It is in the silence that He speaks to us the loudest. I know there are a lot of things that are happening here that not everyone

understands or likes, but know that being open to change and allowing for differences to occur, good things can happen and then 'change' becomes the new norm.

Peace,

Ms. Diane M. Simonaitis
Principal
St. Mary School

Box Tops are Back!!

A new year has begun and a whole new competition is underway!

Our goal : \$1500

Rules:

1. Collect as many Box Tops as you can
(ask friends, neighbors and family members to help!)
2. Send them with your child to school
(use collection sheet or bag with your child's name)
3. We'll announce the winning classroom
in May and celebrate with a party!!!

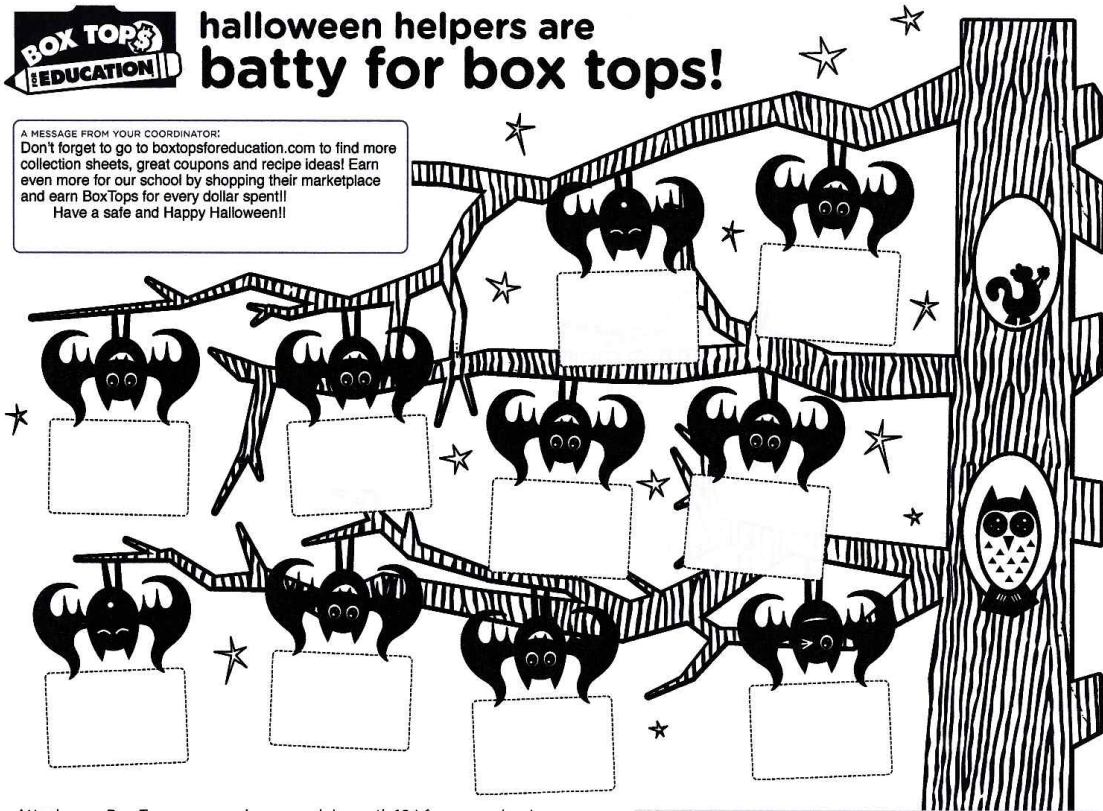
Don't forget to log onto
boxtopsforeducation.com for more ways to
earn Box Tops, recipe ideas and coupons!!

Let's have a great year!!!



halloween helpers are batty for box tops!

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COORDINATOR:
Don't forget to go to boxtopsforeducation.com to find more collection sheets, great coupons and recipe ideas! Earn even more for our school by shopping their marketplace and earn BoxTops for every dollar spent!!
Have a safe and Happy Halloween!!



Attach your Box Tops coupons here – each is worth 10¢ for your school.
To see more ways to earn cash for your school, go to btfе.com.

FOR COORDINATORS ONLY Total # of Box Tops on this sheet:



ANNUAL 8TH 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 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
---------------	-------------	------------	----------

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



ST. MARY SCHOOL

St. Mary High School Admissions Support Services

Which high school is best for your child?

- *test preparation resources
- *help in clarifying expectations
- *exploring alternative options
- *one-on-one conferences available

Every 8th grade student will receive a copy of ***Kaplan's Catholic High School Entrance Exams: COOP, HSPT and TACHS*** in the near future.

Test preparation classes will be available at St. Mary School to all students.

*My name is Michelle Cronin and I have had 3 children graduate from St. Mary School and go on to attend a Catholic high school. The high school decision making and application process can be complex. If you have questions or need help please contact me at mcronin@ameritech.net.



Who We Are

Mission

Friends of the Orphans is dedicated to improving the lives of orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children through our support of the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters") network of orphanages in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Who We Support

Friends of the Orphans has been supporting NPH homes for over 40 years. NPH currently cares for more than 3,700 children in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. In 2010, NPH outreach programs assisted over one million people in Haiti alone.

NPH is more than just an orphanage – it is a home, a loving community and an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. Children at NPH are not available for adoption. Instead they are welcomed with their brothers and sisters into the larger NPH family, where they are accepted unconditionally. They are taught the values of work, sharing and responsibility. Each has the opportunity to finish a technical course or seek a university degree. When children leave NPH they are prepared to be productive, self-sufficient and caring members of their own communities.



How to Help

- **Sponsor a child.** Make a direct and lasting impact on a child's life for as little as \$1 a day. Help provide for his/her physical and emotional needs, restore his/her hope, dignity and desire to succeed, and establish a bond by corresponding with the child.
- **Donate to the General Fund.** These gifts provide the most basic needs – food, clothing, shelter, health care and education for all of the children.
- **Give to the Fr. Wasson Legacy Endowment** and help provide for the future care of the children.
- **Name Friends of the Orphans as a beneficiary in your will, trust or life insurance policy.** Thoughtful planning today sustains our programs in the future.
- **Ask your employer to provide a Matching Gift** for your donations. This is an excellent way to double, or even triple, your gift.



Friends of the Orphans, Federal Tax ID# 65-1229309, is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation that meets all 20 BBB Charity Standards. Contributions are tax deductible as provided by law. An audited financial statement is available upon request.

Friends of the Orphans Midwest Region
Phone 312.386.7499 | friendsoftheorphans.org

Yes! I want to be a Friend of the Orphans!

I want to sponsor: Any child in need Boy Girl

Age range: _____

Country: Bolivia Dominican Republic El Salvador Guatemala
 Haiti Honduras Mexico Nicaragua Peru

I will pay: \$30/mo. \$50/mo. (suggested) \$125/mo.
 \$200/mo. \$250/mo. \$500/mo.
 Other amount: \$ _____ (\$30/mo. minimum)
 Monthly Quarterly Semi-annually Annually

I intend to pay by: Visa Master Card Discover American Exp.
 Check Automatic Acct. Withdrawals (please attach voided check)

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____ Security Code _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

() ()

Phone (home) _____ Phone (work) _____

E-mail _____

Instead of sponsoring a child, enclosed is my donation in support of all the children: \$ _____.

Friends of the Orphans Midwest Region
134 North LaSalle Street, Suite 500 | Chicago, IL 60602-1036
Phone 312.386.7499 | Fax 312.658.0040



**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).

Give me an F-E-N-W-I-C-K!
What does that spell?



Fenwick!



Be here October 14th in the Field House for some amazing Volleyball!! The Friars will play our rivals from Marist! It will be a double celebration. It's that time of year again to celebrate **Senior Night**, but it is also **Grade School Night!** So come on down and see what your missing. Help us celebrate our sensational seniors, your terrific schools, and the passion of the game. Be here and **FRIAR UP !!**

When: October 14

Time: 6pm

Where: 505 Washington Blvd. Oak Park 60302

Don't Forget!

There is a meet and greet with the whole team afterwards with refreshments.

