

St. Mary's School

Things to Know

The HSA has compiled a list of events and special days that might need further explaining. This list is by no means complete, so feel free to let us know what we have left out.

All Saints Day (K) – Held during school mass on the Friday closest to All Saints Day. The students are assigned a saint to study and then dress up as the saint for Mass.

American Heart Assn. Jump Rope for Heart (K thru 5th) – Students raise money for the American Heart Association and participate in a Jump Rope contest during PE.

Blessing of the Animals (M thru 5th) – Occurs on or near the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. Students may bring smaller pets in cages to school or parents may bring larger pets to the Blessing in the afternoon. Msgr. Waldow presides over the Blessing while all classes participate with songs or other special animal 'sounds'.

Book Fair (M thru 5th) – Students can purchase books during school or with their parents after school. Books and other fun items are available for all ages. The school receives a portion of the proceeds from sales. Teachers provide 'Wish Lists' for those interested in purchasing books for their child's classroom.

Carnival (M thru 5th) – Occurs the second weekend of October. Carnival is the largest fundraiser for St. Mary's School. Every family is required to volunteer during Carnival. Carnival consists of games, a Mexican Café, rides, a Fun Run, silent auction and the Raffle. There are numerous ways to volunteer and committees to join.

Carnival Raffle (M thru 5th) – Occurs at the end of Carnival. Families are responsible for selling ten \$25 raffle tickets. Forty Visa gift cards are given with a top prize worth up to \$25,000.

Catholic Schools Week (M thru 5th) – Generally occurs the last week of January. All Amarillo Diocese Catholic Schools participate in a mass held at St. Mary's Church. The Book Fair is held during this time.

Class Projects (M thru 5th) – Each year, parents decide on a Class Project. Every student contributes to the project. Class Projects are on display during Catholic Schools Week and then auctioned off during Mardi Gras (*see Mardi Gras info*). HSA has pictures of past projects.

Easter Egg Hunt (Montessori) – Montessori students are bussed to Park Central Retirement Community to enjoy an Easter Egg hunt with the residents.

Eucharistic Adoration (K thru 5th) – Once a month, each grade spends 20 minutes in Eucharistic Adoration.

Extended Day (Montessori thru 5th) – Extended Day is available for all students who need to stay later than 3:15pm. Extended Day is open until 6pm. Registration is required.

Field Day (M thru 5th) – Features a picnic, inflatables, games, prizes, food. Field Day occurs on a Friday during school hours and is free for all students. Parents volunteer to work in booths.

Friday Mass (M thru 5th) - St. Mary's School Mass is every Friday at 9 am, unless there is no school on Friday.

Harrington Library Consortium (K thru 5th) – St. Mary's is the first Catholic School to be a member of the HLC. Each student receives a library card for use in all the public libraries. Students do not need to bring their library cards to school.

Home School Association HSA (Adults) – All parents are invited to be a part of HSA. HSA raises money through after-school snack sales and uses the money to provide Christmas bags for the students and a Teacher Appreciation luncheon at the end of the school year. HSA has meetings once a month.

Holiday Fair (M thru 5th) – Generally held the first week of December. Students are allowed to bring money to purchase special 'secret' gifts for their families. Items range from \$0.25 - \$20.00 with 75% of the items under \$5. This is an excellent way for the students to learn budgeting while shopping in a safe environment. The school receives a portion of all sales.

ITBS Testing (1st thru 5th) – Students take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills in early spring. Results are mailed to parents in early summer.

Light up for Christ (M thru 5th) – Held on a weeknight in early December, Light up for Christ begins with the lighting of the Cross on the school as well as the trees in the school yard. The school Christmas program is held on this night, with all grades participating.

Lunches (M thru 5th) – Hot, healthy homemade lunches are provided daily at St. Mary's School. They are **not** brought in from the hospital. Lunch is \$2 per day and includes white or chocolate milk. Additional milk is available for \$0.25. Parents may eat with their child/ren but may **not** bring in fast food from restaurants or carbonated drinks. Parent meals are \$3.50. Parents must notify the school by 9:00 a.m. if you plan to eat lunch with your child. The lunch menu is available on the school website and is sent home once a month.

Mardi Gras (Parents) – A teacher-sponsored fundraiser for the school. Tickets to Mardi Gras are \$25 per person. This covers food and \$20 in chips. A donation bar is available. Participants can earn chips by playing games such as Plinko, Rock, Paper, Scissors; Craps; or Blackjack. Chips are turned in for Raffle Tickets. Raffle items are donated by local businesses. Class Projects are auctioned off at Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras takes place on a Saturday before Lent.

Mass Dress (K thru 5th) – Mass Dress consists of khaki pants and light blue button down oxford shirts for boys and a pale blue Peter Pan blouse and pleated skirt, plaid skirt or jumper for girls.

Meals on Wheels (4th & 5th) – One parent volunteer and 2 students deliver Meals on Wheels one day a week. Parent volunteers are needed. Check with the office for insurance requirements and other specifics.

Mileage Club (K thru 5th) – Students can participate in Mileage Club beginning at 7:30 am in the church parking lot or in the gym during inclement weather. Students receive t-shirts after reaching the marathon mark (26.2 miles).

Organized Sports (K thru 5th) – Throughout the year, several sports are played through Kids Inc. and YMCA. Check with the office for sports and registration dates.

Pennies for Playground (K thru 5th) – Students and parents are encouraged to bring loose change for the Student Council Playground Fund. In 3 years, the school has saved over \$16,000 for new playground equipment. In the spring of 2010, Student Council purchased several new items for the playground.

Polar Express Day (K thru 1st) – Teachers read the book early in the week and students are allowed to come to school in their PJ's and bring pillows and blankets to watch the movie one afternoon. Check with teacher for exact day.

Renweb (Parents) – St. Mary's School uses Renweb software system so parents can track student grades in addition to viewing and paying their tuition statements. You may use a credit card, debit card or a checking account to pay your statement. There is no service fee for using this service.

Room Parents (M thru 5th) – Each class has 2 room parents. Room parents work with the teacher to provide parties and coordinate volunteers for school projects. Room parents are responsible for the class project for Mardi Gras.

Safe Environment Training (Adults) – All school volunteers are required to attend Safe Environment Training before volunteering. Please check with the office for dates and times. Safe Environment Training must be repeated every 5 years.

School Awards Day (K thru 5th) – Held on the second to last day of school. Students receive awards/recognition for achievements gained throughout the school year.

School Contact Information (Parents) – www.stmarysamarello.org and 376-9112. School hours are 7:55am – 3:15pm Monday through Friday. Students may be dropped off no earlier than 7:30 am.

Second Grade Sacraments (2nd) – All second grade students participate in First Reconciliation and First Communion. If the child is not Catholic, he/she still participates in the classes, listens to the teachings and participates in the activities. Parents are required to study/work with their child at home and participate in 2-3 evening classes for each sacrament. Each student will be interviewed by a priest or lay person on his/her understanding of the Sacraments.

Spirit Day (K thru 5th) – Occurs every Thursday. Students may wear clean denim shorts or jeans with any St. Mary's t-shirt.

Squirrel Camp (M thru 5th) – St. Mary's School offers Squirrel Camp for students during the summer months. Squirrel Camp offers many activities for the kids and presenters come into the school for demonstrations and projects. Please see the Extended Day coordinator for rates and more information.

St. Jude Math-A-Thon (K thru 5th) – Students raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and complete math problems at home and return the booklets to the school.

St. Jude Trike-A-Thon (Montessori) – Montessori students raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital by riding their tricycles/bicycles in the west parking lot.

Swim Classes (K thru 5th) – Each grade visits a local YMCA pool for weekly swim classes. Parent volunteers are needed to ride the bus, help monitor the kids, and assist in the locker rooms. Students need to bring towels, suits and goggles to each class. It is a good idea to label these items and bring them in plastic bags. Check with teachers for day and time.

Teacher Appreciation Week (M thru 5th) – Parents and students have the opportunity to show how much they appreciate the teachers. Many teachers will supply wish lists of items for their classrooms. Teacher Appreciation Week occurs the first weekend in May.

Visa Raffle (Parents) – A church-sponsored fundraiser for the school that occurs in April. Tickets are \$100 for 2 people and includes steak dinner and dancing. This is a reverse raffle where the last ticket drawn is the winner of a \$10,000 visa card.

Volunteering (Parents) – Volunteers are vital to the success of St. Mary's School. All volunteers must attend Safe Environment Training before working with the students. This is a Diocesan requirement. Volunteers must sign in/out at the office and wear a volunteer badge while on school grounds. Grandparents may volunteer as long as they have attended the Safe Environment Training. Training is offered at various times throughout the year and may be taken at other parishes. Every family is required to have 40 volunteer hours.

Wednesday Notes (M thru 5th) – Mrs. Lewis publishes a newsletter every Wednesday. The Wednesday Note contains information on upcoming events and school happenings. It is very important to read the Wednesday Note. This is also put on the school website, usually by late Tuesday.

Wonderland Park Night (M thru 5th) – Wonderland Park opens its gates for private and parochial schools. Tickets are purchased through the school and the school receives a portion of the proceeds.