

St. Mary's School

Bits and Pieces!

The HSA has compiled a list of events and special days that take place during the school year. The list is by no means complete.

All Saints Day (grade 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.

Blessing of the Animals (M thru 5th) – Occurs on or near the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi (October). Students may bring smaller pets in cages to school or parents may bring larger pets to the Blessing in the afternoon. The pastor presides over the Blessing while all classes participate by singing various songs.

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 a VISA card 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 \$20,000.

Catholic Schools Week (M thru 5th) – Generally occurs the last week of January. Various activities are held during the week, mainly involving just the students during the school day.

Class Projects (M thru 5th) – Each year, parents decide on a Class Project. Every student contributes to the project. Projects are auctioned during a spring fund raiser. HSA has pictures of past projects.

Eucharistic Adoration (K thru 5th) – Once a month, grades K-5 spend 20 minutes in Eucharistic Adoration, held in the chapel at the church.

Extended Day (Montessori thru 5th) – Extended Day is available for all students who need to stay later than 3:30 p.m. Extended Day is open until 6pm. Registration is required.

Field Day (M thru 5th) – Features a picnic and various activities. Field Day occurs on a Thursday in late May, during school hours, and is free for all students. Montessori students participate in the morning and elementary students participate in the afternoon. Parents volunteer to work in various activity 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 popcorn sales and Spirit t-shirts uses the money to provide Christmas bags for the students and various other projects or classroom needs. HSA also sponsors the Back to School Swim Party, Spirit Nights at community restaurants, St. Nicholas Day, Teacher Appreciation week, Field Day and Wonderland Night. HSA has meetings once each month.

Christmas Holiday Fair (M thru 5th) – Generally held the first or second 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 in grades 1-5 take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Results are shared with parents. The superintendent determines if the test will be a fall or spring administration.

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. The school Christmas program is held on this night, with all grades K-5 participating. Montessori occasionally hosts a separate Christmas program.

Lunches (M thru 5th) – Hot, healthy homemade lunches are provided. Elementary lunch: \$2.25 Montessori lunch: \$2.00 Milk: \$.30. Parents may eat with their child/ren but may **not** bring in fast food from restaurants or carbonated drinks. Parent meals are \$3.75. 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 each month.

Mileage Club (K thru 5th) – Students can participate in Mileage Club beginning at 7:30a.m., in the gym. Occasionally students run outside in the church parking lot area. Students receive t-shirts after reaching the marathon mark (26.2 miles).

Piano Lessons – Private piano and violin lessons are offered for interested students. The lessons are held during the student’s lunch recess.

PSIA (Private Schools Interscholastic Association) - Academic competition for students in grades 1-5. Events include: Dictionary Skills, Maps/Graphs/Charts/, Number Sense, Creative/Ready Writing, Mathematics, Prose Interpretation, Music Memory, Story Telling and Spelling. Parents are encouraged to coach students to compete. Teachers also act as coaches. The state competition is held in Ft. Worth.

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.

Student Council – Students in grades 3-5 run for office positions in Student Council and participate as members. Student Council sponsors many of the service project efforts that are done throughout the school year. Student Council teaches leadership, parliamentary procedure, team work and service to others.

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 the spring fund raiser.

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.

Awards Assembly (K thru 5th) – Held during the last week of school. Students in grades K-5 receive awards/recognition for various achievements gained throughout the school year. Only students in grades 3-5 receive academic awards.

School Contact Information (Parents) – www.stmarysamarillo.org and 376-9112. School hours are 7:55a.m. until 3:30p.m., Monday through Friday. Students may be dropped off no earlier than 7:30am. Early arrivals wait in the cafeteria under staff supervision.

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.

St. Jude Math-A-Thon (K thru 5th) – Students raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. They complete math problems at home and return the booklets to the school. The math-a-thon takes place during Catholic Schools Week.

St. Nicholas Day (Dec. 6) – Students leave their shoes outside classroom doors and HSA parents fill the shoes with bags of various goodies. It is intended to be a surprise!

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

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. The training 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) – The principal 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. It is also posted on the school website. The school has a Facebook page and posts various announcements and events. Communication also occurs through emails sent through RenWeb and occasionally through Flocknote.

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. Wonderland Night normally occurs in late April. It is preceded by a family picnic sponsored by the HSA and the Knights of Columbus.