



ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

1.27.22

STEWARDSHIP MASS: Our next Stewardship Mass is THIS Sunday, January 30 at 8:00 a.m. at St. Paul Church. Mass parts are being handed out at school. If your child has been assigned a part, but come Sunday morning, you can't make it, please contact your child's teacher or send a Remind message. Students in grades K-8 that attend are asked to sit on the left side of the church in the pews behind the organ to make up the choir - only two students per pew. PreK students are also encouraged to attend, but we ask that they sit with their families. This is our **KICK OFF** to Catholic Schools Week so we hope to see MANY of our students and families at Mass!

CSW: Please let the office know if you are in need of another Catholic Schools Week schedule. It will be emailed again before next week and is also posted on the school's website. Daily "Reminds" will go out with each day's theme.

S.O.S. COLLECTION: On Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week, we will be taking up a collection of items for Operation S.O.S. out of Dwight. The group will be sending care packages for Valentine's Day to nearly 40 military members from the area stationed across the globe! Below is a recommended list of **individually wrapped items** to send in: rice krispies treats, fruit snacks, beef jerky/slim jims, granola bars, gum, non-chocolate candy (so it doesn't melt), cheese/peanut butter crackers, etc.

CALENDAR CHANGES: The superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Peoria has given approval for every diocesan school to schedule a "mental health day" for faculty/staff and students each month for the remainder of the school year. This comes on the heels of a new state law allowing students in public schools to take such days. COVID has brought about significant changes in the educational environment and while we have worked extremely hard to keep our building open and keep things as normal for the students as possible, some days pose challenge on top of challenge...on top of challenge. We will begin utilizing these days next month, so there will be **NO SCHOOL on Friday, February 18**. This will extend the Presidents' Day weekend. The remaining dates will be sent out once they've been finalized. There is NO homework or remote learning on these days, and they will NOT be made up at the end of the school year. These last few years have really shown us how crucial our mental health is to our overall wellness. We hope our students, as well as faculty and staff, use these days to refresh in body, mind, and spirit.

SPRING RAFFLE: Tickets went home last week for the big spring raffle. Please let the office know if you need more to sell. Each ticket you sell will count for ONE Booster Club credit hour. If you hit your 20 hours, you will receive the \$250 tuition credit! Please contact the office with any questions. Tickets turned in by **Tuesday, February 1** will be entered into the \$500 early bird drawing which also takes place March 5.

AUCTION ITEMS: We are in need of items for the online auction. Think outside the box! Think of items family or friends would bid on! Putting an "experience" or service on the auction block is a great idea too! Items need to be turned in by Tuesday, February 22 so the website can be updated prior to the auction. Please contact chairperson Amy Turner at 815.685.2656 with questions or auction item ideas.

WAY TO GO: We are so proud of our students and families for donating over \$250 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation this week! Thank you!

SCREENINGS: A representative from the Livingston County Health Department will be in on Monday, January 31 to perform annual vision and hearing screenings. Vision screenings will be done, as mandated, for the following children: Pre-K, Kindergarten, 2nd, and 8th grades. In addition, special needs students, teacher referrals, and transfer students during the 2021/2022 school year will also be screened. Vision screenings are not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Your child is not required to undergo this vision screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist has completed and signed a form indicating that an examination has been administered within the previous 12 months and is on file at the school. Vision screening is not an option. If a vision examination report is not on file at school for your child, your child in the mandated age, grade, or group will be screened. Hearing screenings will be performed on students in Pre-K through 3rd grades.

THE COVID: Please continue to be mindful and watch for COVID symptoms in your children and yourself. While we are coming down from the surge we had at school, we must remain vigilant. Many of the recent cases presented with fevers or just like a cold - sore throat, runny nose, headaches, etc. Please keep your children home if they display any of those symptoms and have them tested. From ALL we've heard lately regarding testing, it appears the SHIELD testing (the "spit" test) is the most reliable and produces the quickest result. You can find more information regarding SHIELD through Heartland Community College at www.heartland.edu/coronavirus/testing.html.

UPDATE FROM MRS. DORAN'S ROOM: It's been a whirlwind for first and second grade since returning after Christmas break. We have been learning about the Ten Commandments in religion. We have done some fun STEAM projects, such as making sleds and parachutes. We are learning a lot of problem solving strategies in math. We are looking forward to kicking off Catholic Schools Week on Sunday. We have some fun things planned for our students. Most of all, we are practicing our safety standards for staying healthy during a pandemic. It is a challenge, but we offer up our sacrifices to God. We thank you all for your prayers and support during these trying times. May God bless you for all you do for the students, faculty, and staff of St. Paul School!

UPDATE FROM MRS. HARBACK'S ROOM: Last Week at St. Paul - Grades 3 and 4 have been studying electricity in science. We are continuing our study of United States regions with the Northeast. Third grade continues to study verbs in language arts, while 4th grade is working on adjectives. In reading we finished a unit on figurative language. In math, 3rd grade is learning division and 4th grade is working on multiples and factors. We continue to study the commandments in religion. We are thankful for St. Paul School and to all of our kind and generous benefactors.

"Happy are those who observe God's decrees, who seek the Lord with all their heart." Psalm 119:2

UPCOMING ST. PAUL CALENDAR:

✠ Sunday, January 30.....	Stewardship Mass @ St. Paul
✠ Monday, January 31.....	Vision & Hearing Screenings
✠ January 31 - February 4.....	Catholic Schools Week
✠ Tuesday, February 1.....	Early Bird Raffle Deadline
✠ Friday, February 4.....	11:30 Early Dismissal
✠ Monday, February 14.....	Vision & Hearing Re-Screens