

# ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS

## January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

*I am*  
*the Good Shepherd*  
*John 10:11*



Dear St. Mary's Families,

Welcome back! I hope everyone enjoyed some quality time with their family. The weather is getting colder and we will be going outside to get to the cafeteria, for recess, and during aftercare. Please make sure your child has appropriate winter clothing. Students will go out to recess and aftercare if the **FEELS LIKE** temperature is 20 degrees or above.

Our annual PTO Chili Supper is on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The PTO is trying something new this year. Instead of the PTO making the chili for everyone, we are having a chili cook-off competition. There are 2 categories (regular and spicy). If you are interested in submitting your chili, please fill out the registration form and return it to the school office by January 9<sup>th</sup>. More information will be in the PTO newsletters.

ISTEP+ pass percentage scores were released to the public today for all schools. St. Mary's School had 85.4% pass English/Language Arts, 82.1% pass Math, and 74% pass both Eng/LA and Math. As you probably have heard, scores across the state have been significantly lower than in the past; however, St. Mary's scores are still above the Archdiocese of Indianapolis' and Jennings County School Corporation's averages. The decrease in test scores across the state is due to the **MANY** testing controversies that occurred, the new standards that were introduced last year, the use of a more rigorous assessment, and the length of the test. The staff has already started analyzing this data to see what improvements can and will be made. We have looked at sample questions that are located on the IDOE website for the test this year and are forming classroom assessments to mirror the style of questions. We are fortunate to be able to use NWEA results along with ISTEP+ results to really know where students have grown or need improvement. I can assure you, we are doing everything we can to improve teaching and learning. Archbishop Tobin has recently written, "Catholic schools are more than educational institutions- they are formational and transformational ministries that are integral to the life of the Church and to the mission of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis". With that said, St. Mary's School has always prided itself on keeping faith formation as our number one priority, but also keeping a high standard of academics. Please see the attached letter from Gina Fleming, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, on the 2015 ISTEP+ results. You can access materials and more information on the Indiana Department of Education website. <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment>

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter reports cards are going home today. Please check your child's green folder for it.

The annual ski trip for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade is scheduled for Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. A blue permission slip is in your child's green folder today. Reminder, only parents and St. Mary's students can attend using our group rate. Every adult going must have Safe and Sacred and a background check on file in the school office before attending. <https://safeandsacred-archindy.org/login/index.php>

We have two maternity leave subs in our building right now. Miss. Molly Moore is teaching Kindergarten for Mrs. Inman and Miss. Kristin Wiley is teaching physical education for Mrs. Egloff. Congratulations to Regina and Brian Egloff for the birth of their son Greyson William Egloff. All family members are doing great.

Thanks to those who volunteered for New Year's Day Bingo. It was packed and busy. We could not keep up with the pull tab demands, but everyone did an awesome job. We made over \$6400.00 on this one day event.

Blessings,  
Mr. Goddard

<b>Important Dates for the Week</b>	
<b>Thursday 1/7</b>	All School Mass- 5 <sup>th</sup> grade 6 <sup>th</sup> Boys BBall Game-AWAY Math Bowl Practice 2:45-3:45
<b>Friday 1/8</b>	
<b>Saturday 1/9</b>	
<b>Sunday 1/10</b>	
<b>Monday 1/11</b>	
<b>Tuesday 1/12</b>	All School Mass-4 <sup>th</sup> grade 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> Girls BBall Game-Home
<b>Wednesday 1/13</b>	

**Bingo Workers for Jan. 7 - TEAM 5**

Alisa Gasper – Captain	Patty Kintner
Joe Doran	Gloria Cabrales
Samantha Price	Mary Bott
Crissy Beesley	Tony/Tammy Lane
Tony/Misty Gasper	Mike/Katie Mollenhoff
Brian Cane	Jennifer Rockey
Ed Ertel	Tonya Anderson
Linda Dickerson	Ginger Reitman
Marianna Megel	Leah Euler