

St. Francis School



May 2017



Pastor's Message—Father Pat

For the month of May we honor Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Our Catholic Church has prayer with and honored many since the founding of the church two thousand years ago. First of Mary's attributes is that Jesus is God. Mary is the essence of the beautiful Christmas story because the love of Joseph and Mary turned hardship into joy. At the cross, stood Mary, His mother. Mary is our sister in prayer. "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of death. Amen."

From The Principal—Mrs. Sikora

Wow! What an exciting month May will be with graduations, the Choir Show, choir outing, fifth grade trip, May Crowning, First Holy Communion, field day, lock-in, and the school picnic. The Father/Daughter dance was a HUGE success! The PTO Officers did an outstanding job planning it, as well as spoiling teachers and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank you so much Tonya Mendez, Erin Vriendt, Mary Emmett, Judy Moore, and Kristin Lemaster.

Our beautiful playground was dedicated this week in honor of Father Matheny's mother, Dolores Matheny. We are delighted with the final product, and thank everyone who helped make this project a dream come true.

I am proud of the progress of students using the Accelerated Reader Program, and would like to give a special 'shout out' to Aiden Wilson with 526 points, Josie Thomas with 178.3, Nate Burns with 103.9, and first grader Mia Cloer with 65.6 points.

A BIG congratulations goes to Connor Givens for Perfect Attendance for the entire school year! Way to go, Connor!

Each year Catholic School fifth grade students across the nation take the Assessment of Children Religious Education, and I am proud to say that this year's students scored in the 95th national percentile. Way to go fifth graders and Mrs. Martin!

Looking ahead to next year, our future is bright! The kindergarten class is full, the collaborative preschools have four spaces remaining, and we have new students coming in the upper grades. Our success is a testament to the dedication of our pastor, teachers, staff, volunteers, and supportive families. During the summer our teachers

and staff will continue to learn and grow through technology workshops and online classes. Please continue to read and practice math over the summer so that children maintain their skill level. Math can be practiced using everyday experiences, such as counting money and telling time.

Mrs. Julie Binion will be leaving us to finish her master's degree. She is a lovely lady, and we wish her all the best. We are happy to announce that Ms. Amy Burns will teach the collaborative preschool class. Ms. Burns is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson University and has been working with the preschool students for two years. We are also happy to announce that in addition to teaching third grade, Mr. Bryan Swalley will serve as Assistant Principal. Mr. Swalley completed his Master's in Administration in December 2016. Mrs. Shari Richardson will teach technology next year, in addition to Title I Reading. Mrs. Richardson has a Master's Degree in Instructional Technology, and we are excited to have her in this new role.

Condolences to the Harpold family on the loss of their grandfather. Please continue to pray for Kathy Shomo, and for 5th grade parent, Kimberly Miller.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy summer.

April Good Samaritans

The Good Samaritan Award is given to a child who shows concern for his/her classmates. Keep up the great work!

K-2: Ezekiel Burgroff

3-5: Josephine Thomas



Best Dressed

**The grade with the highest percentage receives extra recess!
Congratulations to Kindergarten!**

K-92%

1st-91%

2nd-93%

3rd-90%

4th-82%

5th-72%

Preschool-Mrs. Binion

We have enjoyed this year so much and have matured in so many ways! I am proud of all of the children and the steps they have taken forward during their year of PreK. We have completed all of the nursery rhymes this year! These are a great accomplishment and will serve as a great background for reading, comprehension, and speech.

Thank you for working with your child each week, as a parent I know sometimes extra work can be overwhelming, but you all have done an amazing job being involved with your little one.

Caitrin and I cannot express enough how proud and thankful we are for your children. Each one has brought something different to the class and caused us to grow in ways we did not expect. We have seen growth in every child. They are all special in their own way and we know they are destined to do great things.

Preschool-Mrs. Lago

We are so very proud of all of the children. They have grown and learned so much this year. This month we will be counting, sorting, and planting during our Flower Study.

Our Preschool Graduation will be on Monday, May 22, 2017 @ 12:15 in the church. Congratulations to all our graduates.

Have a great summer.

Preschool-Mrs. Shrewsbury

Wow! It is hard to believe that our school year is almost over! I am so proud of all that our preschoolers have accomplished. We have had a wonderful time learning, playing and making new friends! In May we will study ocean life and talk about summer safety.

A BIG thank you to all of the parents, grandparents and family members who helped make our year so amazing! Also, a special thank you to Zayee Cossin's family for coordinating our awesome parties!

Our preschool celebration will be on Monday, May 22, 2017 at 10:00. We will distribute certificates then have a morning of fun!

Happy Birthday to Ethan Knapp, who will be celebrating a birthday this month! Summer birthday wishes to Mac Sekercak, Elliott Cox, Chloe Reed, Audrey Wini- esdorffer, Grant Ferro, Michaela Franco, Tyler Franco, Peyton Coleman, and Cooper Wilson.

It has been a blessing to work with your children! I hope everyone has a happy and safe summer!

Kindergarten News—Mrs. Gregg

It is hard to believe that another school year is almost over. We have really enjoyed the class and will be sad to see them go. I am so glad to say they have done well and are prepared for first grade.

Thank you to the PTO who makes us feel so special with all the lunches last week, the door decoration and the beautiful fern.

We will be having a graduation mass on the 24th of May. Later that day kindergarten will enjoy a water fun day at school. We will have children bring shorts or bathing suits to change into.

First Grade News—Ms. Potter

We are ready to visit Italy! I'm looking forward to seeing the children's costumes. If you haven't sent in a small picture for your child's passport, please send it in soon for our flight. We will be taking our first trip to Cafe' San Francesco (Father Pat's backyard) on May 10th. We are also planning to go to Olive Garden on May 22nd. Notes will be coming home soon with more information. The children are really enjoying learning about this beautiful country. We would like to thank Ms. Ramella for creating these wonderful lessons and working so hard to find a special Italian name for each child!

The students are becoming wonderful readers and writers! It is amazing to see their progress from the beginning of the school year. They have been working hard on their writing portfolios. Their work will be on display at school soon. If you have a chance, please stop by and look through them. You will find that we have some future authors and illustrators in our class.

It is hard to believe that we are near the end of the school year! Please continue to review homework with your child and have them read the vocabulary words. It is so important to reinforce the skills that they are learning in class at home each day.

Thank you parents for your support throughout the year! It is a blessing to work with such wonderful families! Have a safe and relaxing summer and enjoy reading with your child every day! Please visit the library over the summer break and enjoy some of the fun activities they offer for children.

Second Grade News—Mrs. Lopez

We have almost made it!! Thank you parents for all your help this year with my first year back to teaching second grade, I couldn't have done it without your support.

First communion went very well and everyone looked amazing. I am very proud of all the kids. Thank you to all the parents that sent in food for our second grade retreat especially Jessica Davis who organized all the food. A big thank you to Whitney Burgroff for cutting out all the banner pieces. Also, a big thank you for all the help on Friday with the retreat: Melissa Booth, Whitney Burgroff, Tina Coakley, Jessica Davis, Carol Kalou, Megan & Richard Knapp, Sharon Schmidt, Rebecca & Levi Shamblin, and Jennifer Ronen. The day would not have been as successful without your help!

Happy Birthday to Emma and Scarlett!! I hope everyone has a great summer.

Third Grade News—Mr. Swalley

This has truly been a wonderful year. I have really enjoyed getting to know the students and you, the parents.

We have started reading Charlotte's Web and we will continue to do so until the end of the year. We are on schedule to finish it during the last week of school. We will be wrapping up third grade math very soon and will begin fourth grade math.

Thank you, everyone, for helping make this year great!

Dear Second Grade Families,

I just wanted to take a minute to write a letter to the families of the incoming third grade students. Late in the school year, our class began having weekly read alouds. A parent (different one each week) volunteers to come into the class near the end of a school day and reads to the students. This has been great on so many different levels. The students have loved it, parents have loved it, and I have loved it. In addition, it creates a nice opportunity for a parent and me to have a little facetime. My only regret about this is that we did not start it earlier. With that said, I would very much like to continue this next school year. I look forward to seeing you!

Fourth Grade News—Mrs. Martin

It is hard to believe it is May! We are currently studying the history of our beautiful state, finishing our textbooks, and voting on a novel for our class to read together.

We have many celebrations this month. The May Crowning will be beautiful as every student represents a rosary bead. Jelina Lopez will crown our Blessed Mother. The choir dinner show, “Just Like You and Me” will be May 16. It has truly been an awesome year in fourth grade. I want to thank all of my wonderful parents who have helped and given their time, talents, and support endlessly. You are truly amazing, and I love all of you from the bottom of my heart. I am so proud of my fourth graders and their accomplishments.

I wish each one a very happy and safe summer.

Fifth Grade News—Ms. S.

Wow! Where has the year gone? I am so proud of the fifth grade class and all that they have accomplished this year! This month is one of the busiest months of the year. We will be participating in the May Crowning with Ms. Jelina Lopez as our queen. Also, the fifth grade trip to Ohio will be coming up too. The fifth grade graduation will be held on the 25th of May and please make sure to turn in your R.S.V.P. by the 18th. The annual end of the school year picnic will be held on the 26th of May.

I will be sending out reading packets to the upcoming fifth graders and a supply list too.

I wish the fifth grade class a happy and safe summer! Good luck next year, and as always my door is always open if you ever need anything! Many blessings.



SUMMER ACADEMY

Our *fun-filled* Summer Academy begins Monday, June 5, 2017. The hours are Monday-Friday from 7:30am-5pm. Check out our website www.sfsww.com for registration and rate information.

UPCOMING EVENTS—REMINDERS—DATES

For more information on the calendar of events, school lunch menus, and much more, visit our school website: www.sfsww.com!

- Mass Every Tuesday @ 8:15 am—Grades K-5
- Choir—Wednesday, May 3 & May 10
- Thursday, May 11—2nd Grade Mass
- Thursday, May 11—PTO Meeting—Elections
- Friday, May 12—May Crowning @ 1 pm
- Friday, May 12—Popcorn Day
- Tuesday, May 16—Choir Spaghetti Dinner 5-6:45; Program 7 pm
- Wednesday, May 17—Choir Fun Day to Chuck E. Cheese
- Thursday, May 18—3rd Grade Mass
- Thursday, May 18 & Friday May 19—5th Grade Trip
- Friday, May 19—No Collaborative PK—Daycare Available
- Monday, May 22—Ms. Libby's PK Celebration @ 10 am
- Monday, May 22—Lago's Graduation @ 12:15 pm in the Church, Binion's Graduation @ 1 pm in the Church
- Monday, May 22—1st Grade—Olive Garden for lunch
- Tuesday, May 23—5th Grade Graduation @ 8:15 am Mass (Grades K-5)
- Tuesday, May 23—Last Day of School for ALL Preschool
- Wednesday, May 24—No Collaborative PK—Daycare Available
- Thursday, May 25—Track & Field Day @ St. Albans High School
- Friday, May 26—Last Day of School Picnic @ FMC Sportsman's Club in Winfield. Mass begins @ 10 am at FMC (address: 5000 Poplar Fork Rd. Winfield, WV) - NO DAYCARE AVAILABLE

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!