

February 20, 2019

Faces of Faith in Christ

Greetings St. Greg's Parents and Families,

We are 51 days into the New Year and have already had 7 inclement weather days off of school. The groundhog said that we were in for an early spring. I have since learned to never trust a groundhog.

Calendar Changes

Because of the inclement weather days, we are required to make some days up to regain compliance with DPI and the Archdiocese. Please note the following changes to our school calendar for the rest of this school year.

1. Friday, March 22nd is now a full day of school for all students.
2. The 8th graders will extend their attendance to Wednesday, June 5th, which is the new date for the morning graduation mass and evening ceremony. This mass will also be the final all-school mass for the year.
3. Friday, June 7th will be extended to a full day of school for grades 1-7 and will be our annual Fun Day Celebration.
4. Monday, June 10th is our final day of school for grades 1-7. It will be a half day, with dismissal at 11am.

Lenten Challenge- Building a Feeding Farm

This year our students will be collecting money to build a classroom "feeding farm" during Lent. Students are encouraged to EARN money by doing extra chores or tasks around the house in order to contribute to the purchase of farm supplies/animals for the classroom farm. By collaborating with classmates, we hope that students will see the value in making sacrifices and working together to provide for those in need. Each week students will be able to pool their money to decide on what they can purchase for their feeding farm. Money collected will go to Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Program.

Standards Based Grading

Last month I wrote about transitioning to a standards based grading format next year. I mentioned that I would add more information to each newsletter that would address some of the common questions that may arise as we move through this transition. *How does Standards Based Grading change the way my child experiences learning?* Standards Based Grading provides parents and students with specific feedback on each learning standard. Since the focus of instruction is on mastery for students, they will have more than one opportunity to demonstrate mastery, if and when it is needed. Feedback from assessments tell students what learning goals they have mastered and what they still need to work on. Students "own" their learning which creates a culture of learning that is more engaging for students and embraces learning as the goal. If you have any questions regarding SBG, please contact me directly or attend our SBG parent meeting coming up later this spring. Date TBD.

Spirit Day Friday

This Friday, February 22nd, is our monthly spirit day. This month we are allowing students to wear appropriate pajama bottoms with their school spirit wear shirt. Please be sure the pj bottoms are okay to wear outside and are safe enough to wear when traveling up and down stairs. Appropriate jeans or other allowable bottoms are still welcome to be worn. Also, **Tuesday, February 26th is our community worker attire day for grades 1-4. This day is the make-up day from Catholic Schools Week.**

Parking Lot Issues

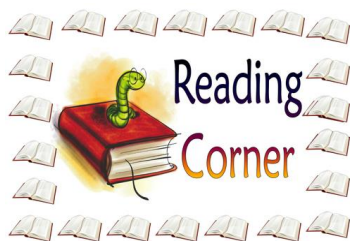
Due to the large amounts of snow we have been receiving, our parking lot space has been shrinking. The far back border of the lot has been creeping forward, leaving little room for cars to pass through the exit lane. We ask that cars do not park in the last slots

of the east side of the lot in order to leave enough room for cars to exit. Also, please remember we do not allow cars to park in front of the garage area. There is enough parking, even with the snow, to accommodate all cars at pick-up time. You may have to park on the north area of the lot and walk to meet your child. In addition, we have seen an increase in cars crossing straight across the parking lot without using the lanes to go up and down the aisles. As always, we are most concerned about the safety of our students and families.

St. Gerard Grant Funds

We are delighted to be the recipient of a grant award from The Catholic Community Foundation- St. Gerard Association Endowed Scholarship Fund. St. Gregory the Great received \$7200.00 in grant money to be used for tuition assistance. For more information about this grant opportunity, please go to www.legaciesoffaith.org.

Kind Regards,
Amy Schlegel
Principal



All around St. Greg's students are engaged in literacy instruction that will make them even better readers. Students in first through third grades are focusing on nonfiction or informational texts, learning all about the various text features that support their reading of this genre. Second grade students are wrapping up a thematic research project all about penguins. Students in fourth and sixth grades are trying to figure out "who dunnit?" while reading different mysteries. Our middle school students are embarking on a blast to the past while studying historical fiction novels. Research has shown that students who read a variety of genres have increased vocabulary and improves one's overall reading ability. More information can be found in this article from Reading Rockets.

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/importance-reading-widely>

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Scholastic Book Fair. Despite the inclement weather closures, we had a great turnout. A special thank you to all the families who purchased a book(s) from our teachers' wish lists. We are all grateful for your generosity!

The month of February is full of celebrations: Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, and Chinese New Year to name a few. February is also Black History Month. Even though black history is American history, we should still take time out to remember and honor those who made a difference. The article below features a small sampling of children and young adult literature that celebrate lesser known African Americans and their contributions.

<https://www.readbrihtly.com/books-celebrate-lesser-know-african-americans-contributions-history/>

Looking for even more? Check out one of my personal heroes Marley Dias and her 1,000 black girl books campaign here.

<https://grassrootscommunityfoundation.org/1000-black-girl-books-resource-guide/>

Save the date:

Jali Kunda Learn about traditional West African drumming and storytelling with Keba Diabate and the artists of Jali Kunda. **Saturday, Feb 23, 1:30-2:30 pm @ Zablocki Library**

Browser's Book Bash Celebrate your love of reading, books and the characters that make them special. The Milwaukee Public Library celebrates our city's diverse community of readers and the books that Milwaukee loves! Join us on Dr. Seuss' birthday for music, comedy, literacy activities, animals, art and cookie decorating! Look out, you might just see the Cat in the Hat or Curious George! **Saturday, Mar 2, 10 am-1 pm @ Central Library**

Literacy in the news:

~McDonald's happy meals now come with Roald Dahl books instead of toys in New Zealand. The fast food giant launched a global reading program called Happy Meal Readers in 2001. To date, they have put 450 million books inside of happy meals.

~*Wonder* is the first ever live-action United States movie to get American Sign Language interpretation. Rebecca Ruiz, journalist for Mashable.com writes, "The entertainment company Lionsgate announced its partnership with the mobile application Actiview and Deaf activist and actor [Nyle DiMarco](http://NyleDiMarco) to create an ASL interpretation of *Wonder*."

New book releases:

Happy Reading!
Mrs. Wabiszewski,
Reading Specialist

Incredi-Roll Skate Party

It's a Private Skate Party & You're Invite!
For families, students or members of St. Gregory the Great.

Monday, February 25th ~ 6-8pm

\$4.50 Admission (regular skate rental included if needed)

Incredi-Roll Skate & Family Fun Center
10928 W. Oklahome Ave., West Allis

(Jill Schneider, Home & School)

Track & Field Sign-up

Grades 5th -8th

Fee: \$35/child

Online sign up: February 20th -27th
<https://stgregsmil.weshareonline.org/track>

In person sign up: February 27th, 4:30-6:00 pm in the concession room (gym)

(Jill Schneider, Co-Athletic Director)

DSHA Conference

On Friday, February 8th, seven students from St. Greg's attended the 5th annual Middle School Leadership Conference at Divine Savior Holy Angels high school. The sixth and seventh grade girls spent most of the day in small break out sessions on a variety of topics including: importance of diversity, organize your life, dress to impress, and balancing school, sports, and social life. All break out sessions were led by current DSHA students. Before lunch there was a pep rally in the gym where our very own Kaylee Sponder was chosen to participate in the scooter relay race. The girls who attended not only got to know each other a little better but also who they are as leaders and how they can use their leadership skills at school. Congratulations on representing St. Greg's at this year's conference:

Crystal G. (6)

Genevieve S. (6)

Isabella S. (6)

Kaylee S. (6)

Katrina A. (7)

Jaide C. (7)

Mary K. (7)

(Mrs. Amy Wabiszewski, Reading Specialist)

Catholic Memorial High School

Junior Crusaders Girls Basketball Summer League!

Open to all 4 - 8th graders

Sign up for 6 weeks of league play and 6 practices for only \$185!

League starts June 10th.

For Full Details and Registration Go to: www.catholicmemorial.net and click on Youth Programs!

Junior Crusaders Football Registration

Registration is NOW OPEN!

Grades 4-8

Be a part of the WINNING TRADITION at CMH!

Full contact tackle football with emphasis on player skills development and education.

Early bird registration goes until March 31st.

For Full Details and Registration

Go to: www.catholicmemorial.net and click on Youth Programs!

(Krissy Hartung PR/Communications & Admissions Associate)

Upcoming Events

February 19-22: American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge ([flyer](#))

February 22: Spirit Day - Spirit Wear Shirts with pajama bottoms

February 25: Private Skate Party for St. Greg's Hosted by Home & School, 6-8pm
([flyer](#))

March 6: Ash Wednesday

Links

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[February Lunch Menu](#)

[March Breakfast Menu](#)

[March Lunch Menu](#)

[2018-19 School Calendar](#)

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Positive People, Learning, Living, and Growing in Christ Through Faith and Service

St. Gregory the Great, 3132 S. 63rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53219

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