

KidMail

February 23, 2024

This week we really begin diving into the heart of the Lenten season. In our Catholic faith, we begin to back away from self-centeredness and indulgence, to focus on what I always refer to the kids as “the spiritual work”. We begin to look inward on what we need to work on to live our lives like Christ did. On Ash Wednesday, we acknowledge our sins, our humanity and our mortality symbolized by the ashes. I encourage you to refer to your child’s class newsletter to learn about the activities students will engage in as they reflect on how maybe not just what they might sacrifice or resist indulging in over Lent, but also what aspects about themselves might they work on such as kindness, using words to solve problems, making new friends, being more tolerant and open-minded, working more as a team, or giving more back to the community. One Lenten goal I have for all students right now is for us to work on our kindness to one another. The Disciple Mark reminds us that when Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, he responded, “ Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. And love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:30-31). I am still seeing too many students in my office for physically aggressive or verbally aggressive behavior, cell phone violations, or unkind language. This is not the way. We will be meditating and reflecting on this daily as a school during the Lenten season. I encourage positive discussions at home that reinforce our Christian values.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to reach me at (414) 442-7600 extension 119 or at johnston@mgcparish.org.

In Faith,
Rachel Johnston
Principal

Dates of Importance

March 7 11:30 Dismissal, End of T2
March 8 No school, In-service
March 18-April 26 Forward Testing
March 20 Wear Be Kind shirt and uniform bottoms
March 28 11:30 Dismissal, Easter Vacation begins



Calendar Changes

Because of the snow days we had in January, we will be adding days to our calendar. May 10 will be a half-day and June 7 will also be a half-day. Previously these were Professional Development days.

Forward Testing

All students in grades 3-8 will participate in the 2024 Forward Exams. Testing begins on March 18. It is important that parents talk to their children in advance and encourage them to do their very best on these exams. These results can be one of the factors taken into consideration for advancement from one grade to the next. Parents are asked to be extra attentive to having their children present in school every day and on time. Forward Testing time is March 18 – April 26.

Black History Month

“You may write me down in history

With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise...”

--Maya Angelou “*Still I Rise*”



Inspired? Read entire poem, and learn more about Maya Angelou and her work at:
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/maya-angelou>

What is Happening During Black History Month???

In Mrs. Talley’s Music class, students are focusing on African rhythms at the younger levels and protest songs in the upper grades. They are learning about exciting percussion instruments, authentic African rhythms and instruments, and the power of song in the fight for justice and equality for all.

In K3, kids are also learning some music and art history for Black History month. Students will be learning about Alma Thomas and creating artwork in her style. Students will also explore the music of Rossetta Tharpe by watching the video of her performing [This Little Light of Mine](#). They will learn to sing this song and also talk about some of its gospel origins.

In 5th grade, they are learning the history of struggle for Black Americans in the United States and on a global scale. The class will watch the film, *Watsons Going to Birmingham*, students use a story packet comparing characters from their actions in Michigan and the differences in Birmingham.

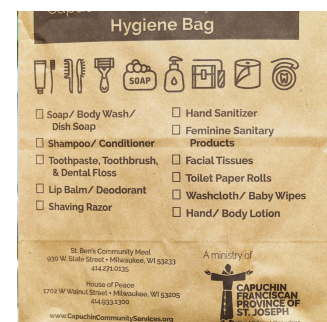
In K4, students are learning about African Folktales, learning about African beats, and reading a variety of picture books that reinforce equality, peace, and justice.

In first grade, they are focusing on the story “The Best Part of Me” and then writing an opinion piece about our best parts. Students are also beginning to learn about social justice..

In Middle School, students are reading short stories from Black authors, and doing research projects on Black owned companies and businesses.

Capuchins Hygiene Bags

Together with the Capuchins, we are collecting hygiene items for those in need. These items will be distributed to those at St. Ben’s and The House of Peace. The items needed are listed on the bag itself. This service project goes until March 26.



Next Year?!?

Yes, believe it or not, it's almost time to start registration for the 2024-2025 school year! School Choice will open again on March 1. Parents, please keep a copy of your January WE bill, cable bill, or a pay stub dated in January. You will need to log in to your DPI account in and register and then send us your proof of address – using one of the documents listed above. Let's try to have all returning students re-registered in February. <https://sms.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/>

Cellphones and Technology

Just a reminder MGC families of our cell phone policies here at MGC. Students are allowed to bring a cellphone to school, but they are to be turned off while on the MGC campus. This includes the church, playground, North lot, or any other area of the campus. Furthermore, each day students are to put those phones in a secure locked box in their homeroom. Students are not allowed to call parents or friends or text throughout the day. All phone calls are to be placed in the main office. Please be aware that students who try to capture on video any fighting, or verbal aggression or post videos on any social media formats can be out of school suspended or even up for expulsion. Furthermore, when students are using MGC computers or Chromebooks, these are the sole property of MGC, and communications on the applications are not private. MGC has email access, and security systems in place. Looking up inappropriate material, using profanity, making threats in chats, etc, is a serious violation that will be met with disciplinary action. Mrs. Johnston is happy to answer any questions regarding these policies. Thank you for your cooperation with this important matter and for helping keep MGC a safe space for learning.

ECP

Parents, just a reminder that any hours not covered through the Wisconsin Shares Program will leave you with a balance. Those of you with outstanding balances will receive a letter soon. These will have to be paid off or you will need to commit in writing to a payment plan, as your care will be suspended in February. Funds for ECP go to pay qualified employees, cleaning services, providing nutritious snacks, and enrichment activities. Please contact Mrs. Johnston if you have questions or concerns.

Birthday Club



Celebrate your child's birthday the MGC way! For \$20.00 you get all that is in the picture and their name on the sign outside the school. The link has been updated.

<https://uploads.weconnect.com/mce/e411a490148911bb6ee16beaa6f794a437b3bc9d/School/Birthday%20Club.pdf>

Like us on Facebook and Instagram



We hope you will "like and follow" us on Facebook! We post MGC School news, pictures, updates and more on the page so be sure to "follow" us.

<https://www.facebook.com/MGCMilwaukeeWI>

On Instagram we are @mgcparish

MGC's Website

Have you checked-out MGC's website (www.mgcparish.org)? If not, please do so. You'll find a great deal of information about our church and school. The hot lunch menu is posted there so you don't have to worry about losing yours. Current and past editions of KidMail are also posted there. There are also many great student resources available through the library page. Don't miss this great resource!



MGC School Calendar 2023-2024

ALL students are expected to arrive on time and to be picked up on time.
Students may start arriving at 7:35 AM



7 - 11:30 Dismissal, End of T2
8 - No school, In-service
12 - School Committee Meeting
18 - April 26 - Forward Testing
20 - Wear Be Kind shirt and uniform bottoms
28 - 11:30 Dismissal, Easter vacation begins

Full calendar may be found on the School News page

<https://www.mgcparish.org/school-news>

Parents/guardians are encouraged to check KidMail each Wednesday for regular updates.

MGC's Extended Care Program is fully licensed. Children must be registered with all completed paperwork turned in. ECP is open on school days and for summer camp, but children must be pre-registered. Parents/guardians are responsible for all ECP fees; failure to pay may result in dismissal from the program.

*Mother of Good Counsel Catholic School is an inclusive urban community committed to:
serving, learning, loving, and living lives of integrity as Christ did.*