

December 1, 2018

Merry Christmas St. Gregory School Families!

'Tis the Season! What a wonderful time to reflect on our faith and spend quality time with our families. We are all so excited to celebrate this special month of the Immaculate Conception and our Savior's birthday. We will display the Advent Wreath and Jesse Tree beginning next week. Each day the kids will reflect and pray; this keeps the true meaning of Christmas at the forefront. It is my hope that we can all feel His Presence during this busy season.

December is filled with exciting activities! This Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> is our largest Super Bingo. Please consider signing up to help on the online volunteer spreadsheet; we are in need of volunteers! Santa's Workshop begins on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and the band concert will be the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup>. December 16<sup>th</sup> is our special Santa Pancake Breakfast. Santa will make a special appearance, so you definitely don't want to miss it! Finally, the school Christmas Program will be on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Due to our limited space and the limited number of tickets available for the evening show, we invite family members who cannot be here in the evening to come and enjoy the Christmas performance during a special 10:30 am dress rehearsal. There will be no tickets necessary for the morning performance, but you will be required to submit your tickets for the evening performance. We will send out a survey so you can reserve up to 4 tickets. Extra tickets will be allotted to our larger families as they become available.

Please jot down these important dates in January: our Open House will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> with school registration for parishioners (St. Gregory, St. Ferdinand, and Holy Redeemer) beginning on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Open enrollment for the public begins on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Please continue to share with your friends how amazing your school is and how much we have to offer. We will also begin St. Gregory School preschool registration at this time. Please be on the lookout for additional information. I am hoping for our largest enrollment ever! Remember, too, to turn in your re-registration forms as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. We need to know how many spots are available in each grade.

I have been reflecting a lot about the reasons to send a child to Catholic school. I find the answer to be so obvious: our faith! Not only are we an embodiment of prayer, but we also have a rigorous curriculum, Christ as our model, a safe and supportive environment, high expectations, and service. And let's be honest – it takes a village! We can't do this alone (and yes I am speaking from personal experience). I know as a mother of a child in the building, there is no greater comfort than knowing that I am sending him to a place full of love where he is given the opportunity to grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, and academically. Additionally, as the former 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, I am a firm believer that students should remain in Catholic school through their middle school years. This is such a critical time of formation, and I can see the benefits when students remain with us until the end. Please consider keeping your child with the St. Gregory family throughout their middle school years. Also, please spread the word so families continue to flock to our school.

Since it's the season of cold weather and snow, we may have more delays and/or cancellations. We will use the following to inform you of any changes to the school day: OptionC text/email/phone alerts and WPXI. Please make sure you double check these information sites if there is inclement weather. **We follow Seneca Valley School District's decisions on all delays and cancellations. Our snow make-up day will be on February 15<sup>th</sup>.**

On behalf of the teachers and staff at St. Gregory School, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

God Bless,



Mrs. Harris

Principal

# December Blurbs

## **Band Concert**

Our annual Christmas band concert will be Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. All are invited to come and enjoy the sounds of Christmas presented by our 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade band members.

## **Christmas Concert**

Our annual Christmas program will be Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. Please be sure to look for our e-mail regarding tickets. We will be allowing family members to observe the dress rehearsal at 10:30 am for those who can't make it to the evening performance. See Mrs. Harris's letter for more information.

## **Christmas Vacation**

Our last day of school before the Christmas break will be Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. We hope that you will all have a relaxing and blessed Christmas season. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Early Dismissal**

We will be dismissing ONE HOUR early on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> for the start of the Christmas break. Please mark your calendar!

## **No After School Care**

There will be NO after school care available on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. If your child normally stays for day care, please be sure to make other arrangements and remember to let us know how they will be getting home that day.

## **Christmas Outfits**

The children will be permitted to wear their new Christmas outfits for two weeks when they come back from the Christmas break.

(January 2 through January 10)

Please remember that the children should still be in the school uniforms for Mass on Friday, January 4 & 11 and they must be in gym appropriate clothes on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Clothing must still meet the uniform guidelines for dress down days:

*"While the students do not have to be in uniform on dress down days, they must be dressed appropriately. Pants cannot have holes, shorts and skirts must be no shorter than 2" above the knee and, if leggings are worn, the shirt must be long enough to cover the backside. Shirts must cover appropriately (no bare backs, bellies or sides) and not include any inappropriate graphics or sayings. Spaghetti straps are not permitted. Hats are not permitted unless specified as a hat day."*

## **Snow Make-Up Day**

We will be making up our November 16th snow day on Friday, February 15th. Please mark your calendars.

## **Looking Ahead:**

January 18 – Open House / Putt Fore Fun / Book Fair

January 21 – No School (Teacher In-Service)

January 22 – End of Second Report Period

January 26 – Children’s Choir will sing at the 5:00 pm Mass

January 27 – Catholic School’s Week kicks off and continues all week!

# PIG News

## **Santa’s Workshop**

Our annual Santa’s Workshop will be happening Monday through Wednesday, December 10th, 11th and 12th. Your child will be bringing home a flyer and their shopping envelope on Wednesday, December 5th. Please work on the list with your child and return it on Monday, December 10th. Make sure you include the child’s FIRST and LAST name and GRADE and enclose their spending money in the envelope.

The kids always love this chance to shop for surprise gifts for their family.

## **Breakfast with Santa**

Our annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa will be Sunday, Dec. 17th from 8:30 – 10:30 am.

Come enjoy a delicious breakfast and don’t forget to bring your camera to have your child’s picture taken with Santa!

If you are able to help work the breakfast, it would be greatly appreciated. We also need help with set up on Saturday. This is a great opportunity for our 8th graders to get service time.

Please contact Andy Harmer at [harmers5@zoominternet.net](mailto:harmers5@zoominternet.net).

## **Dine & Donate – Brighton Hot Dog Shoppe**

Join us for our next St. Gregory dine and donate event at the BRIGHTON HOT DOG SHOPPE, Cranberry. Wednesday, DECEMBER 5th from 5:00 – 9:00 pm!

20% of the proceeds will generously be donated back to St. Gregory School. Enter our HOT DOG CONTEST for a chance to win a dress down day for your class! Bring the enclosed flyer.

## **Skate for a Cause**

We invite you to join us at UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex for an evening ice skating event; 50% of the proceeds will go back to St. Gregory School. Enjoy free hot chocolate and some delicious cookies during your skate. Skates included in this special pricing. PLEASE SHARE!

Themed Skate: UGLY SWEATER NIGHT - Prize for the ugliest sweater!!!

Date: Saturday, December 22nd from 7-9pm.

See enclosed form for more information and for registration details.

### **Railroad Museum FUNdraiser**

Create a new family tradition by visiting the Western Pennsylvania Model Railroad Museum and spend time with your St. Gregory friends and families in this special Christmas fundraising event.

WPMRM will donate 20% of the admission proceeds back to St. Gregory School on the evening of Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:30pm.

Enjoy an evening of spectacular Christmas sights and sounds while viewing and interacting with these fun and unique displays.

Visit their website @ <http://wpmrm.org/>

### **Auction Baskets:**

Though you may not have been contacted by your classroom parents yet, as in years past, each class will be assembling a basket for use in the Chinese Auction at the 50's Sock hop Themed, 2019 Auction Night. As always, parents are being asked to donate items for the class baskets.

For those who wish to shop early, and maybe take advantage of Black Friday deals, the Auction Committee wanted to provide everyone the assigned theme for each class.

You will be contacted by your classroom parents with further instructions on baskets at a later time.

- Preschool: Milkshakes & Soda Pop
- Kindergarten: Drive In Movie
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Hula Hoop
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Classic Cars
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Beauty Parlor
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade; Mom's Family Dinner
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Beach/Pool Party
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Diner
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Cocktail Party
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Father Knows Best or your Theme of choice

### **Mixed Bag & Yankee Candles:**

Did you miss your chance to order Mixed Bag or Yankee items? It's not too late.

Mixed Bag orders can still be placed online through December 10<sup>th</sup> to get items in time for Christmas. Saint Gregory School will make 40% off of all orders placed online.

[www.mixedbagdesigns.com/saint-gregory-school](http://www.mixedbagdesigns.com/saint-gregory-school) - Our school code: 174815

Yankee Candle orders can still be placed online through January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Visit the website: <https://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com>

Scroll down; on the right there is a section that says "Start Shopping".

Our group number: 990010753

### **Shadrack's Christmas Lights:**

We still have a limited number of Shadrack's tickets available in the school office. The cost is \$20 each and each ticket is good for one car, up to 8 people.

# Join Us for Breakfast with Santa!

Enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns and more – and visit with our special guest, Santa Claus! Don't forget to bring along your camera for a photo!



**Sunday,  
December 16, 2018**

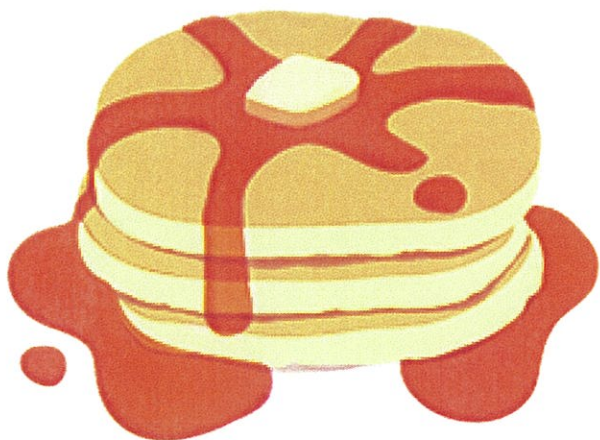
**8:30 to 10:30  
a.m.**

**St. Gregory School  
Cafeteria**

**Kids 10 and under: \$4.00**

**Seniors 65+: \$5.00**

**Adults: \$6.00**



Proceeds benefit:



**Sponsored by St. Gregory PTG**

*The 2019 St. Gregory P.T.G.  
Lucky Lottery Calendars are here!  
Get your lucky number before it's gone!*

Saint Gregory P.T.G. will be selling Lottery Calendars once again this year and there are many chances to win! The cost per calendar is \$20.00 and they are good for the entire month of January.

Each calendar has two different three-digit numbers which means you have two chances to win on each calendar. Prize amounts range from \$50.00 all the way up to \$1,000! The winner will be based on the first drawing of the 7:00 pm PA Daily Number.

If each family will sell / buy just 3 calendars we will easily get them all sold. These make a wonderful Christmas gift for those in your life that you never know what to get! What better gift than a chance to win some money and help support Saint Gregory School at the same time.

If you would like to request *your* lucky numbers – please be sure to order right away! With only 500 calendars available, lucky numbers will go fast! We will do our best to get you your number, but if we cannot, we will try to find some combination of your number.

Please return this order form to the school office!



**Lucky Lottery Calendar Order Form**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send home \_\_\_\_\_ lottery calendars. Our payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.  
*Quantity* *\$20 each*

If possible, please send home the following numbers. (All numbers are 3 digits.)

If your numbers are not available, we will try to substitute a similar combination.



**REGISTRATIONS FOR 2019-2020**  
**PLEASE RETURN BY: December 14<sup>th</sup>**

Believe it or not, we will soon be taking registrations for next year. It is important that we have these forms back before we start the registration process so that we know how many openings are available in each grade. If you are unsure about your plans for next year, still need you to return this form now and simply update us as soon as you have made your decision.

FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**RE-REGISTRATION – Pre-4 and K-8**

I/We will be sending the following child/ren back to St. Gregory's next year.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

*Returning this form is all that is necessary to re-register a child already attending St. Gregory's.*

**NEW REGISTRATIONS (Including Pre-3 and Pre-4)**

I/We will be sending the following child/ren to St. Gregory's for the first time next year.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

*For all new registrations, please bring in a birth certificate, a record of immunizations  
and a baptismal certificate (if not baptized at St. Gregory).*

*Students must be of age on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. (age 5 for Kinder, age 4 for Pre4 and age 3 for Pre3)*

**WITHDRAWALS**

The following students **will not** be returning to St. Gregory School next year.

Children Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**UNDECIDED**

I/we are **undecided** about the following child/ren for next year.

Children Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*Please let us know as soon as you have decided so that we can plan accordingly.*