

February 1, 2018

Greetings St. Gregory School Families!

We are just about finished with another epic Catholic Schools Week! It has been a fun-filled week of so many wonderful activities. It was apparent that the staff loved the events as much as the students. It is also obvious that this environment embodies a love for our faith and one another. We had a lot of visitors, and I am hoping that they felt the presence of Christ. This week especially, that fun and loving atmosphere is even more prominent. I want to make sure I congratulate the 8th graders on their win against the staff!

Last week we held registration for new families. If you have friends or relatives that would like to take a tour, please have them contact the office. Some of our classes do have a waiting list, but there are definitely openings in others. Enclosed in this family folder you will find the new tuition rate for the 2018-2019 school year. Please remember that there is aid available through the Scholastic Opportunity Scholarship Fund (SOS). There are different levels for qualification. A big thank you goes out to all of the local businesses who supported EITC/OSTC. If you are part of a business, please talk to us about ways in which your business can earmark state taxes to our school. This money has helped to bring tuition assistance to over 20% of our school families – that is remarkable! **The SOS can be found online through the FACTS website. Be sure to follow the directions, and mail in the form by the March 15th deadline.**

Speaking of website...did you happen to notice? St. Gregory School got a new website! I am thrilled with it, and I hope you are too. The teachers are updating their websites, and access to them is much easier on this new site. Google Analytics shows a lot of webpage activity. It is not too late to sponsor our new website. Becoming a sponsor of STG is easy! Just complete the online form and send a check into the school office written out to "St. Gregory School". If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Sponsorship acknowledgement will be advertised daily on the school's website using your corporate logo.

I want to thank the school families who are involved with St. Gregory Athletics. Thank you for the hours of volunteering you put in to make our program successful. I would also like to thank the St. Gregory School Athletic Board. They have promoted and fostered good sportsmanship, team play, competitive spirit and school loyalty. If you are new and would like to join the Board, please email me. Father Jim and I will choose the new board within the next few months. I have also seen so many new faces volunteering. Families are definitely taking part in our *Family Share Program*. I hope to have your hours out to you sometime this month.

Again, thank you for all you do to make St. Gregory School special.

God Bless,



Mrs. Harris
Principal

February Blurbs

Snow Make-Up Days:

Due to our three snow cancellations, we will be having school on Friday, February 16, Monday, February 19 and Wednesday, March 28.

Book Fair Recap:

We want to thank everyone who came to our Book Fair during the Open House or throughout the school week. We had one of the most successful fairs ever, with a total of \$3,788.88 in sales. These sales will give us a Scholastic Dollar profit of over \$1,900 which will be used for items in the classroom. Hopefully everyone picked up some great books.

St. Jude Math-a-Thon:

In this family folder you will find the annual St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Math-A-Thon packet. Please look it over and if you are interested in having your child/ren participate, fill out the bottom portion, mark whether you will use the printed or online fun book and return to the school office by Monday, February 12. For those that want a printed book we will get them ordered and sent home as soon as possible. We are asking that all donations be turned in to the school office by Monday, February 26. Be sure to make checks payable to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Stations of the Cross:

Our students will be attending Stations of the Cross on Fridays during lent. Stations will be at 2:20 in the afternoon and all are welcome to attend with us. Our 8th grade class will be presenting "Shadow Stations" on Friday, March 23rd at 2:00 and 7:00 pm. Please make an effort to attend this powerful expression of the final days of Jesus' life.

Lawn Fete:

Mark your calendars for our annual St. Gregory Lawn Fete Summer Festival - June 21, 22 & 23. Perhaps you and/or your family would like to take charge of a particular booth or lend a hand one of the evenings. Help is needed in many areas to make this a success. It truly is a lot of fun; a great way to meet people and proceeds help our school. Hope to see you there!! Look for volunteer sign-up sheets to come home soon. The next planning meeting is Tuesday, February 13th at 7:00 pm in the library.

Pastor Verification Forms:

It is time to start thinking about next year, and for those of you who belong to a Catholic parish other than St. Gregory, we have included a Pastor Verification Form in this folder. You must have a new form signed by your pastor each year in order to receive the subsidized tuition amount. Please return this form to the school office by May 31st. (Note: This is different than the "Pastor Signature" form that is required for the financial aid.)

Financial Aid:

The financial aid link is now up on the school website under the "Admissions" tab. All applications are to be submitted by March 15th and you must have your 2017 taxes available to include with your application.

Mixed Bag:

We are kicking off our 2nd Mixed Bag fundraiser of the year. There are many new items for the spring season. Orders and payment are due by Friday, February 23rd. Please make checks payable to St. Gregory P.T.G. and mark "Mixed Bag" on the memo line.

Family Fun Night:

Our 2nd Annual Family Fun Night is Friday, February 9th. Tickets can be bought in advance through Friday, February 2nd for \$4.00 per person. The price will be \$6.00 per person at the door.

Doors will open at 6:30 and games will begin at 7:00. The evening will wrap up by 9:00.

Our theme is "Pittsburgh Sports Night" so dress up in your favorite team attire. (encouraged!)

(A volunteer link is available on our web site.)

Fish Fry:

It's almost time for our Fish Fry Dinners! Our dinners have become a very popular choice for Lenten dinners and they are a great way for us to blend our school and community in one series of events! Spread the word to your family and friends. They won't be disappointed!

Dinners include: 8 oz Breaded & Fried Cod, 8 oz. Hand Breaded Baked Cod, Fried Fish Sandwich on Amoroso Roll or Fried Shrimp. Children's menu items include Pizza, Fish, Shrimp or the Weekly (non-fish) Special. All entrees come with your choice of 2 sides: Mac & Cheese, French Fries, Veggies or one of our other "Special Sides". Also included with each meal: Homemade Coleslaw, Dinner Roll, Dessert and (if eating in) Beverage. Please come and support our school!

Every Friday from February 16 through March 23 - Dinner served from 4:00 - 7:00 pm.

Call 724-452-8010 after 3:30 for Take-Out orders - Pick up in the Concession Stand

Adults: \$10.00 / Seniors (65+): \$8.00 / Children (4-10): \$5.00 / 3 and Under: Free / Add \$3.00 for Combo

(A volunteer link is available on our web site.)

Swap Shop Weekend:

Clean out your kids' old uniform clothes and trade them in for the next size up! We will be hosting a Swap Shop weekend from Friday, February 9th through Sunday, February 11th.

Send in your items to be donated this week, February 5-9. All approved school uniform items will be accepted.

Come and "shop" for free on Friday night (during Family Fun Night) from 6:30 – 9:30 pm, on Saturday from 11:00 am – 7:00 pm or on Sunday from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm in the Blue Room.

Sarris Easter Candy:

Please support St. Gregory's School by buying Easter candy from Sarris Candy. Please make checks payable to St. Gregory PTG. In the memo portion of the check, please write "Easter candy". Please do not send cash as a payment. Orders will be due on Friday, February the 16th. The candy will be delivered to the school on Friday, March the 16th. Happy Easter!!!

Auction News:

We are excited to announce that our annual auction planning is underway. This year's auction will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018; the doors will open at 6:00pm. As always, we are asking each family to donate \$10.00 toward the auction to help defray some cost. There is an envelope included in this family folder for this purpose. Please place your donation in the envelope and return it to school by March 2, 2018. The classrooms will also be donating items for baskets, which will be themed. You will get more information about your child's classroom basket in the next few weeks.

This is one of the biggest fundraisers for St. Gregory School so we need everyone's help to make this a success! We could use some volunteers for the night of the auction, as well as anyone who would like to help with the planning. You can e-mail Charlene Peacock at charlenepeahen@gmail.com. Look for the volunteer sign-up sheet to be available soon.

Staff Appreciation Committee

We would like to introduce you to a small parent group within the school and invite you to participate in our efforts. It is our **Staff Appreciation Committee**. Our goal is simply to do little extras throughout the school year to show the staff our appreciation for the ways they go above-and-beyond to give our children a wonderful school experience.



We do not only recognize the classroom teachers, but all members of the school and parish staff. That is roughly 45 persons who we recognize. Each year we plan different events or small gifts to give periodically throughout the school year.

Some of last year's highlights were: a grab-and-go brunch for conference day, a Christmas Cookie Walk, a Soup-er Bowl Luncheon to close Catholic Schools Week, a take home pie to mark Pi Day, an end-of-the-year luncheon (with gifts!) and some other individual recognitions of above-and-beyond special efforts from some of our teachers.

Please consider contributing to our Staff Appreciation Events, by making a monetary donation. This will be used to fund events for the second half of the school year. Donations can be sent into the school office marked "Staff Appreciation". (Please include your child's name and grade.) Participation is voluntary, however, we find that it only takes a small donation from each family to make each event possible and it is all **GREATLY** appreciated by the entire St. Gregory staff!

Additionally, if you would like to join our committee, please let us know. We are looking for some new faces to keep this committee active. There are things that can be done from home or you can assist with planning/setting up an event (ie: luncheon). It is not a large time commitment at all and we are very flexible in our expectations of your time/availability.

We appreciate your participation and welcome your input and we look forward to another A+ year at St. Gregory School!

Gratefully,

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