

November 1, 2018

Happy Fall St. Gregory School Families,

We are just about a quarter of the way through the school year, and what a wonderful start it has been! October was a delightful month for all of us. Both volleyball and cross country ended with successful seasons, and basketball and cheerleading kicked off with Monday Madness. Additionally, the Great Pumpkin Race was a success again! Thank you to everyone who volunteered. For those of you who have children playing a sport, please refer to the Handbook in regards to academic eligibility. Mr. Dunker and I will be monitoring that closely. Also, a child who is absent during school is not permitted to play a sport the same evening.

The marking period officially ended Thursday, November 1st. On Monday, November 12th, we will hold parent-teacher conferences; the kids do not have school on this day. Please log into your OptionC account to schedule a conference. You will receive a notice if the time you selected needs to be changed. The teachers in the upper grades will be grouped together in the library. Everyone is allotted 15 minutes, so please be mindful of your time. If you feel you need more time, feel free to schedule a separate meeting with your child's teacher.

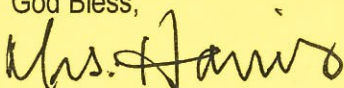
November is always an enjoyable month. Our annual *Cold Turkey Shootout* basketball tournament begins on the 9th. This is a wonderful event and I encourage all of the students to attend and cheer on St. Gregs! If you haven't heard about our "Zelie Zoo", then you must come experience it for yourself. It is great to feel our school spirit permeating throughout the hallways and at events. It's obvious how much the students love their school. I'll be sure to host a pep rally for the students before the tournament.

I am hoping that your child has mentioned that we have been reading "Jesus Calling for Kids" every day. The students are like sponges, and they seem to be soaking up the scripture and important messages that I read. Please discuss it with them at home too; this is a great way to stay connected to each other and our Lord. I am so proud of them for getting so excited about their faith. On the few days I forgot to read it, I had so many students tell me that they missed it. My heart is full!

As a reminder, please monitor your child's OptionC gradebook on a regular basis. This is a great way to keep up-to-date with your child's grades. I also want to clarify which forms of communication we use. I am a big believer that there is never too much communication, because I want to make sure you know what is going on in your school. OptionC is primarily used for grades, so if you need to talk to a teacher please call or email him/her directly. Of course you are used to seeing the emails that come home from the school office, but many of our parents are also using the Bloomz app. If you are having any issues with Bloomz, please email your child's teacher.

I hope you all have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving. These next few months are filled with joy, and I wish you blessings and happiness during this holiday season!

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs. Harris

November “Blurbs”

Dismissal Changes

Please **DO NOT** e-mail the teachers or the office with a dismissal change. We do not always get to e-mails until after dismissal. Always **CALL** the office with changes and please try to do it **BEFORE 2:00**. We understand that last minute emergencies come up, but we are getting way too many last-minute changes and it makes it very difficult to ensure that all of the children are getting home safe and sound.

Day Care:

Please keep in mind that our before and after school care programs are provided to accommodate working parents' schedules. It is not meant to be used as a play-date for the children. We have a large number of children who need to use the service, and while we are happy to make this service available, we do ask that you only use the service as you need it so that we keep the number of children in the program at a manageable level.

With the start of the Cheer and Basketball seasons, please keep this in mind as well. We understand that there is sometimes a need for a child to stay in day care until their practice, but again, please do not make use of the program just because your child wants to stay and hang out with friends until their practice. Keep in mind that teams with the 3:30 practice slot will report right to the lobby to wait for the coach. They will not be sent to day care first.

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 12th. Please log in to OptionC to schedule your child's conference. Grades K-3 should only schedule a conference with their child's homeroom teacher. Grades 4-8 must choose the same time slot for each of the teachers. Please schedule with your child's core teachers only. They will be grouped together for conferences so that we can fit everyone in. There is no school for students on this day. Preschool conferences will not be held at this time. They are scheduled for January.

Emergency Delays & Closings:

As we approach the winter months, please be keep in mind that any delays & cancellations due to weather will be announced via the OptionC alert system. If you would like to make any adjustments to how you receive these alerts you can do that under “Communication” and then “Manage Alerts” when you log in to OptionC.

As a back-up, you can always listen to KDKA radio, watch channel 2, 4 or 11, or check the Seneca Valley web-site for information. You can also sign up on many of the news stations websites to get alerts from them if you choose.

We will follow Seneca Valley's decision since we are within their district boundaries. If you live in another school district, your children will need to follow that district's decision about bussing. If Seneca Valley is on a normal schedule, we will also be on a normal schedule, but if you live in another school district your bussing will be determined by them.

It is possible that we may have a normal schedule and your district may be on a 2 hour delay or closed, or that we will be delayed and your district is running on a normal schedule. Please make sure that you do not put your child on the bus at their normal time if St. Gregory is on a delay.

If your district deems the roads in your area to be unsafe and they cancel school we ask that you use your own judgment in regard to bringing your child to school. While we are still required to mark them absent if they are not in school, we certainly want everyone to consider safety first and foremost.

Morning Day Care for Delays:

When St. Gregory is running on a 2-hour delay, we will also run morning day care on a 2-hour delay. That means that day care will begin at 9:00 am instead of 7:00 am. This is for two reasons. First, quite often a delay will be changed to a cancellation and that becomes a problem when we already have children in the building and parents have already headed to work. Second, if the roads are unsafe for the buses, they are also unsafe for our day care providers. The extra time gives the road crews a chance to treat the roads.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

The children are asked to bring in non-perishable food items to be used by Saint Vincent DePaul Society to make food baskets for families in need for Thanksgiving. The food items will be brought to the altar by the children on Friday, November 16th. This is always a big help to those in our area who are in need. Please mark your calendars and remember to have your child bring in non-perishable items for this worthy cause. This is just one way we can show compassion to those in need of some hope in their lives.

Christmas Program

Our Christmas program for grades K-8 will be on Tuesday, December 18th at 7:00 in the evening this year. We are limiting the number of seats per family to 4 and will be sending home tickets that will be collected at the door. This is being done in order to avoid unsafe overcrowding in the gym. Anyone who will not need all 4 of their tickets is asked to return them to the office.

Looking Ahead:

Wednesday, November 21 through Monday, November 26 – NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Vacation
Saturday, December 1 – Winter Market Vendor Fair
Sunday, December 2 – Super Bingo
Monday, December 10 – Wednesday, December 12 – Santa's Workshop
Thursday, December 13 – Christmas Band Concert – 1:15 and 7:00
Sunday, December 16 – Breakfast with Santa
Tuesday, December 18 – Christmas Program – Grades K-8 – 7:00
Monday, December 24 – Tuesday, January 1 – NO SCHOOL, Christmas Vacation

PTG News

Panda Express

Do you like Chinese food? Enjoy a night out at Panda Express, Cranberry, at our next Dine & Donate event. This Wednesday, November 7th from 4:00 - 9:00 pm.

Please share with friends and family and present the flyer (included in this folder) with your order.

Shadrack's Christmas Light Show

SHADRACK'S CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND - DRIVE-THRU LIGHT SHOW

Purchase through St. Gregory School and SAVE \$5!

Located at The Big Butler Fairgrounds from November 16, 2018 - January 6, 2019

Open Nightly from 6-10pm

We are selling discounted tickets for only \$20 per car, includes up to 8 passengers. Visit Santa's Village for photos with Santa, Rides, Concessions, and MUCH MORE!

Tickets will be held in the office for purchase; limited quantity available. Thank you for your continued support!

BounceU

Join us for a night of bouncing and pizza with friends!

Tuesday, November 20 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm

\$10.00 per child (ages 2 and older)

Located at Jackson's Pointe in Zelienople

Please reserve your tickets now by returning the form included in this folder by Friday, November 16th.

Rosalind Christmas Candy

Order forms for Christmas candy are included in this folder. Orders are due in the school office Tuesday, November 27th. Please include payment made out to: St. Gregory PTG and mark "Rosalind" on the memo line.

Enchanted Olive

Order forms for Enchanted Olive are also included in this folder. Orders are due November 16th. Please include payment made out to: St. Gregory PTG and mark "Olive Oil" on the memo line.

Breakfast with Santa

Save the date for our annual Breakfast with Santa! Sunday, December 16th!

Breakfast will be served from 8:30 – 10:30 am and will include Pancakes, Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Hash Browns & MORE!

Be sure to bring your camera to capture that amazing photo of your little ones with Santa.

Anderson Candy Bars

There are still a few families who have not sent in their \$48.00 payment from the candy bar sale. If you are one of them, please send it in right away so we can get that fundraiser closed out. Thank you!

There has been a longstanding tradition of academic excellence at St. Gregory School. That tradition continues with our recent results on the Iowa Assessment. We use this data to not only analyze student performance, but we also use it to guide our instruction and curriculum. We want to ensure that students are displaying strong academic achievement and growth over a period of time.

The chart below shows comparison between the National Percent Correct and St. Gregory's Percent Correct. As you can see, St. Gregory students at every grade level achieved well above the National average. The Grade Mean Equivalent is a decimal number that describes performance in terms of grade level and months.

*Group scores are not available for Kindergarten and 1st Grade.

