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Mrs. Debra R. Masiello, Principal

## SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

*Welcome back to a new school year at St. Mark's.*

*You will receive a newsletter at the beginning of each month. Please ask your child for it. It will contain many activities and announcements you won't want to miss.*

**Openings:** We still have openings in our school. If you recommend someone to our school and they stay through December 31, you will be eligible for our Christmas Club which is the credit of \$500 towards your June's tuition.

**Friday, September 16, is a half day of school.** Dismissal is at 11:30 AM for all students. Each month has a half day of school, usually the first Friday of the month. Teachers will have their monthly faculty meeting and take part in professional development. Aftercare will run until 3 PM.

**Sunday, September 25 is Christian Education Sunday at St. Mark's.** All of our faculty and staff will be in attendance at Church for the "Blessing of the Teachers."

**Meet the Teacher Night** is on September 20, beginning at 7:00 PM. We meet first together in the church where you will hear a short presentation by the principal and the PTL. Following that you will be invited to your child's classroom to hear what goes on during your child's school day. This is an evening to discuss curriculum and classroom routines. Please arrange to meet at a different time for a private meeting with the teacher concerning your child. Please arrange for your child(ren) to stay at home. This is not an evening for them.

Our first **School Spirit Day** is Friday, September 23. Wear RED and WHITE – Our school colors. The year's schedule is attached. Students do not need to wear their uniforms on these days.

**Aftercare Program** will begin next Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Forms are available in the school office if needed.

**Chapel Schedule** for September is as follows:

Sept. 14 – 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade sings.

Sept. 21 – 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade sings.

Sept. 28 – 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade sings.

**Dismissal:**

**Pre-K 3** dismissal is at 11:30 AM for half day and 2:30 PM for full day.

**Pre-K 4 and Kind.** are at 2:45 PM.

**Grades 1-8** are released at 3:00 PM.

**Safety** is always of utmost concern to us. Parents, please do not drive quickly onto the parking lot. Parents, please keep an eye on your children before they enter the school and after you pick them up from their teachers.

Let's keep our children safe.

Please **DO NOT PARK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PARKING LOT AND LEAVE YOUR CAR FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME!** Grades 1- 8 have their recess at 12:00.

Gym classes are held outside in good weather.

If you see children at play in the parking lot, please do not enter. Park on the street.

Our **Tardiness** policy is as follows: The main door of the school is open at 8:00 AM for arriving students and closes at 8:15 AM. After that, you are considered late. We follow the time in the school office. If you are late five days in a quarter, your child will not be allowed to attend school on the following day. Excessive tardiness is a disruption to the teacher and classroom and not helpful to your child. If you are consistently running just a few minutes late each day, please leave earlier. No child should be arriving after 9:00 AM without a doctor's note.

**Absence notes** (including half days or when your child went home early) must be sent in with your child. They need to be kept with the school attendance books.

**Hot Lunch** will begin next week for students in Grades 1 - 8. Menus are sent home on the first day of the week. All menus and monies **MUST** be sent in by Friday of the previous week.

**Forms:** If you have not yet done so, please send in all the forms from your summer packet as soon as possible. These need to be completely filled out. For new students, we must have a copy of your child's birth certificate. If you have not done so, please send one in as soon as possible.

**One Call Now** is our communication system with parents. This is a communication system whereby, with one phone call, text message, or email from the school, every parent can immediately be notified of any school closing, delayed opening, emergency, etc. Reminders of activities and other information will be sent out via email using this same system. It is important to get those emergency cards back so we add our new parents. No text messages will be sent unless you choose to opt in to that delivery system. New cell phone numbers will receive an initial text so that you will have the opportunity to opt in.

For returning parents - If your phone numbers or email has changed, please inform the school office so we can update One Call Now.

**Dress Down Mondays:** For a cost of \$5 PER CHILD, students may dress down on Mondays. This \$5 is paid monthly and is due on the first Monday of each month. If we do not have school on a Monday, they do not dress down that week. Teachers may also pay \$5 and dress down on Mondays.

***Dress Down Mondays starts next week!***

**Tuition** is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. You have a grace period until the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. If the 10<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend, you have until the next school day to make your payment. After that, tuition is late and a \$45 late fee is added to your tuition.

The **milk program** begins next Tuesday, September 13. If you want to receive milk for your child, you need to send in the form from your summer packet and the monies by Thursday, the 8th.

**McLean Ave. Street Fair** is Saturday, September 17. Plan on stopping by the St. Mark's table and say hi. We will have a poster display of our school and activities. If you are able to help us man the table, please let the school office know.

**World's Finest Candy Bar** sale will begin the week of September 19th. More information will follow.

Phase 1 of our **Bathroom Renovations Project** is nearly complete! The boys' and girls' rooms (What we commonly call either the big boys and big girls' bathrooms or the church bathrooms) will soon be open for use. Phase 2 will be the annex bathrooms and the office bathroom. We hope to complete Phase 2 over Christmas break. Phase 3 will be the main school's first floor bathrooms. We hope to complete Phase 3 during next summer.

Fundraising will take place over the course of the year. Information about the **Grand Re-Opening** of Phase 1 will be coming out soon! Donations towards the Bathroom Renovations Project are greatly appreciated and still being accepted!

