



Parents,  
Guardians,  
&  
Students

Happy New Year! I would like to extend best wishes to all for a happy and healthy new year. At SMS we place great value on seeing our students showing continued success and progress in their faith and academic journey. As we approach the midpoint of our school year, students are focused and the staff is energized. We are excited and ready to embrace all that 2023 has to offer us.

## SMS Celebrates **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

The CSW theme is "**Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.**" Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, love God and neighbor, and enrich our communities by being examples of **faith**. Academic **excellence** is the hallmark of Catholic education intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Finally, **service** is fundamental to Catholic education and the core of Catholic discipleship. Service is intended to help form people who are not only witnesses to Catholic social teaching, but also active participants through social learning.

The Catholic school, like the Catholic Church, is not a building or an institution, but it is the people. As the people of God, we work together to bring the Kingdom of God to Earth and raise up the next generation to do the same. May we all strive to live in active service of Jesus and his mission as we join together during Catholic Schools Week and always.



- Friday, January 27: **Celebrating Families** - Family Fun Night at SMS from 6:30-8:30pm, including games and snacks!
- Sunday, January 29: **Celebrating our Parish** - Alumni & Children's Mass at Church of St. Mary at 10:00am; School Breakfast and tours of the school from 9:00am-12:30pm at St. Mary's Catholic School
- Monday, January 30: **Celebrating our Community** - Jersey Day! Students will write letters to members of our community who take care of others; Pine Villa, Rose View, Hospice, and Home Health Care Workers.
- Tuesday, January 31: **Celebrating our Students** - Hat/Hawaiian Day! Students will sit by someone new at lunch and partner read with students from another grade.
- Wednesday, February 1: **Celebrating Vocations** - Pajama Day! Students will learn about the different ministries people are involved in within our church.
- Thursday, February 2: **Celebrating God's Creation** - Funny Sock Day! Little Saints-3rd Grade-sledding day near St. Mary's School. 4th-6th grade-skiing day at Andes Tower Hills.
- Friday, February 3: **Celebrating Faculty and Staff** - SMS Spirit Day! Students will wear SMS clothing or blue, white, and purple clothing. Mass is at 8:30am; Mini Courses will be after lunch.

Student  
Alumni  
Connection

## SMS is *Thankful* for our **ALUMNI!**

**THANKFUL** is defined as **expressing gratitude and relief**, a simple word that means so much to us at SMS.

There are many wonderful people we are thankful for, and our alumni play a huge role in that gratitude.

Alumni have been essential in supporting SMS through the years, through mentorship, volunteering, and financial donations. We are thankful for the continued prayers and testimonials that show how wonderful this school is; we are proud of our SMS graduates and are excited to see the amazing accomplishments they achieve in life. We're also thrilled to see alumni return to SMS as parents of new students; this cycle of family education is so meaningful to us. So how can you help SMS continue to succeed as an alumni member? Here are a few ways:

- **Mentor our students:** visit a classroom and talk about your work, your adult life, and how SMS played a role in your decisions.
- **Volunteer at school:** we love having volunteers in the classroom for individual projects or the whole school year!
- **Be an Ambassador:** promote our school in person and on social media; share our posts and encourage people you know to visit our school.
- **Pray for our students and staff:** we pray for you often as well. Send us notes; we'll write back :)
- **Make a financial contribution to our school or endowment fund;** any amount is appreciated.

Thank you so much for your continued support; we look forward to making lasting connections with our alumni members!

**“We each have a **UNIQUENESS** that can be expressed through making **ART.**”**

Artist Carol Moore presented Watercolor & Art History, a 4-day art residency focusing on watercolor techniques and famous artists, with grades 2-6 in January. Each day provided a new subject from a historical artist such as Van Gogh, Seurat, or Monet. The kindergarten and 1st graders had one day of art with the artist as well. The theme was Signs of the Seasons; each seasonal painting took on a style from a famous painter or a unique watercolor technique.

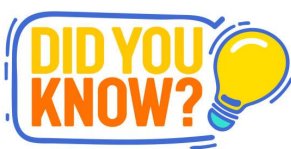
*This activity was made possible through a grant from the Central Minnesota Arts Board, thanks to funds provided by the McKnight Foundation. The art will be displayed at our Catholic Schools Breakfast on January 29th. SMS is also grateful to the Jane Mullen family for their continued support of our Partners In Art Program, which teaches our students about new artists each month.*



- SMS Auction4Education: **“Luau for Learning”** Mark your calendars for March 4, 2023!
  - **Raffle Tickets** are on sale now for \$100 each with a grand prize of \$20,000! Drawing will be held at 7:00pm the night of the auction.
  - **Luau Experience** at the Melrose American Legion on March 4th from 5:30 to 8:30pm; free will donations for the food are appreciated. **50/50 drawings** will be held too; please join us there!
  - **Online Auction** at <http://www.bidpal.net/smsmelrose>. Online viewing begins on February 19th, online bidding begins on February 26th. Online bidding will close the night of the auction.
  - **Live Auction** for the classroom items will be held during the luau event-don't miss the excitement!
- Winter Open House: Monday, March 13th, 5:00-7:00pm

**6th graders host the**  
**LIVING WAX MUSEUM**  
 highlighting the 1970's and 1980's!

The 6th grade class researched, prepared, and hosted a living wax museum in November. The celebrities represented included: Mark Zuckerberg, Kirby Puckett, Christa McAuliffe, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Sylvester Stallone, Randy White, Princess Diana, Katherine Hepburn, and Steve Jobs. The SMS students and 6th grade families were invited to attend the event; everyone was impressed with the work the students put into their projects!



You can sponsor a child at SMS by donating to the Stacy Meyer Scholarship Fund at St. Mary's School or Sponsor A Child program through the parish. Contact SMS at 320-256-4257 or scan the QR code for more information.



**Alumni** - stay connected with SMS by signing up to receive information and the SMS Word by email.

