



Parents,
Guardians,
&
Students

March was a month filled with laughter, companionship, and coming together as a community to support St. Mary's School as we celebrated our 22nd annual Auction4Education. Now, through the Easter season, we are reminded of the joy given to us when Jesus is present in our lives and the importance relationships have in living out our mission to build the Kingdom of God here on earth.

As we begin our final month of school for the year, I want to thank our incredible school staff who works very hard to guide our children, help them learn, and encourage them to grow. Thank you to all our parents for trusting us with your children and for your investment and support to provide a quality education that includes your children's spiritual, intellectual, and social/emotional growth.

A *SUCCESSFUL* Night **DOWN ON THE FARM**

SMS families, friends, and community members enjoyed a fun-filled evening at the Auction4Education on March 2nd. Celebrating the 22nd year of the auction, committee chairs hosted a DOWN ON THE FARM evening with lots of farm-themed decorations, food, and fun attire. It was a joyful night of sing-alongs, food and drinks, and bidding to win items on the online and live auctions.

This year, the generosity of local businesses, SMS families, and the entire community helped us raise over \$154,000 (after expenses) for the school! This money will be used to help pay for the school's day-to-day operating expenses.

SMS could not have hosted this important event without the commitment and support of our hardworking committee chairs and committee members; thank you to all the SMS parents for contributing your time, talent, and treasure to make this event a roaring success again this year. Thank you also to all our friends and community members for your contributions as well; whether you donated auction items or money, bought raffle tickets or auction items, or attended the event, your support is very much appreciated!



St. Mary's School and Little Saints Preschool are so blessed to have caring, attentive, and dynamic staff members at our School. It truly takes a BIG HEART to inspire these wonderful students to use their hearts, hands, and voices to be lifelong learners, care for themselves and others, and live out their faith. Teachers and staff members change the lives of students every day, and their work and impact extends far beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

JOIN OUR TEAM

SMS is actively searching for a licensed teacher to join our amazing staff for the 2024-2025 school year. Do you know someone who's graduating this spring or wants to make a change in their career path? Please spread the word!





Ms. Pundsack retires after **36 YEARS** at SMS

Our beloved sixth grade teacher, Sue Pundsack, is **RETIRING** after teaching at St. Mary's School for 36 YEARS! Hundreds of students have had the honor of learning from her over the years, including many second generation students - in this year's class of 21 students, she taught 14 of the parents! Ms. Pundsack has been such a blessing to our school; beyond the obvious academic skills, she brought gifts of music, compassion, a genuine positive spirit, and the ability to make her students feel loved and cared about everyday that will truly be missed. **Please join us to celebrate Ms. Pundsack at a gathering after our all-school mass on Friday, May 10th.**



SMS Students continue their friendship with students at Global Orphanage through Simply *Love* International



The 3rd grade class at SMS has been communicating by video with students living at the Global Orphanage in Tanzania again this school year. This relationship teaches our students about a different culture across the globe and makes them aware of the many needs there are in other places in the world.



And this spring SMS students and staff are excited to announce that through the generosity of our families Lenten coin donations, SMS students will now be the proud sponsor of one of Global Orphanage's students! Please meet Catherine, a 4 year old student who lives with her mother, grandmother, and 1 year old brother, James, in a rental unit near the orphanage - a single room with no bathroom or shower - for \$12.00/month. Catherine's mother sells vegetables to earn \$1.50/day to support the family as Catherine's father abandoned them when Catherine's mother was pregnant with James. The family is grateful Catherine has this opportunity for an education as she wouldn't be able to afford to send her to school otherwise.



Catherine's favorite part of school is singing and reading. Her favorite color is blue, and her favorite animal is a lion. We at SMS are so excited to learn more about Catherine and be a part of her education journey!



- First Communion: 5:00 mass on April 20th, 12:30 Spanish mass on April 21st, 10:00 mass on April 28th and May 5th; celebration for SMS students at the May 17th all-school mass - Church of St. Mary
- Festival of Nations: Friday, May 3rd
- Sixth Grade Graduation: Tuesday, May 28th
- Last Day of School: Friday, May 31st

