

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul,
and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.
The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

St. Ann Family,

October 29th, 2017

This past week we celebrated an annual school tradition, Red Ribbon Week. Our Student Council hosted a series of fun dress down days and activities including Gus' pretzels, a Red Ribbon Week raffle, and a visit from the UMSL baseball team to talk to students about the importance of leading a drug free lifestyle, making wise choices, taking care of our bodies, and succeeding in school. St. Ann is very lucky to have a neighbor like the University of Missouri St. Louis. It took a lot of hard work from our Student Council members and the STUCO moderators to plan and carry out the week and we are very grateful to them.

Last Thursday's Parent Teacher Conferences seemed to go smoothly. I have a few ideas for improvement in mind but I think the online sign-up process was a success and we will most likely be utilizing something similar in March. If you were unable to conference with your teacher, please reach out to set something up for the near future. Even a phone conference can be very helpful in building a collaborative approach to your student's school experience.

Our Student Council also led our Wednesday Mass last week. Fr. Nick talked to us about the importance of living in an honest and fair manner. This morning we celebrated Fr. Nick's Commissioning Mass. After his very successful first year, Fr. Boehm (on behalf of the Archbishop) and Archdiocese officially commissioned Fr. Nick as St. Ann's pastor. We are very blessed to have Fr. Winker's leadership and hard work in our school and parish community.

On Wednesday our 2nd grade class traveled to the Pallotine Renewal Center for a day-long retreat to learn about the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. We're grateful to the Federation of North County schools and the Pallotine Center for helping plan and host this special day for our students. Our 5th and 6th grade classes visited Cahokia Mounds last Wednesday. They had a fun and educational day of hiking and climbing to the top of historic Monk's Mound.

Tuesday, October 31st, is Halloween. We will have classroom parties hosted by each classroom's respective room parents. Each classroom party will begin at 2:00pm. Students are not to wear costumes to school on Halloween. It will be a regular, in-uniform day, but students are encouraged to add some simple Halloween accessories to their normal uniform (Halloween glasses, headbands, jewelry, bracelets, hats, etc.).

Wednesday, November 1st, is All Saints Day, a holy day of obligation. School will be in session and the all school Mass for that Wednesday will be led by our 3rd graders who will be participating in an annual 3rd grade tradition, the Saints Mass. Each 3rd grader will be dressed in costume to represent the saint they have chosen to learn about and emulate. In the

afternoon, the 3rd graders will host the Saints Wax Museum, an interactive presentation in the gym for students and parents to tour and meet the saints.

On November 9th we will be hosting an informational Confirmation Meeting for 7th and 8th grade parents. Please make yourself available to come and learn more about the preparation students, sponsors, and staff will be engaging in before the sacrament is completed in April. The meeting will begin at 6:30pm.

There is NO SCHOOL on November 10th. The calendar initially listed this day as a noon dismissal day but it is, in fact, a NO SCHOOL day. Teachers will meet in the morning for planning and will then join other Federation schools in the afternoon for professional development.

The St. Ann Talent Show is scheduled for Saturday, November 18th. If your student would like to participate and showcase their skills, please send your child's name, grade level, and proposed act to Mrs. Harrington at beckyh@remax.net. Practices will be held every Wednesday after school until 5pm. All acts and their content (props, accompanying music/lyrics, scripts, and costumes) will be subject to review to ensure an appropriate and family friendly performance. We're also bringing back a chili cook-off competition in conjunction with the Talent Show. We're calling all student, parent, teacher, and parishioner chefs to submit an entry! Dust off that old cookbook, jump on Pinterest, or utilize that old family recipe passed on for generations. Bring in a 5-meat chili, a vegan chili, the spiciest chili in the world. Whip up some Coney dogs, a Chili 5 way, Chili Mac, whatever you like! There will be prizes and we'll have the book fair open before the show and during intermission.

Many families have returned their Economic Deprivation Survey. Many others filled theirs in at the Parent Teacher Conference night. This survey is used by St. Ann to communicate to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education about the number of students attending our school, in which school districts our students live, and whether or not they may qualify as 'economically deprived' based on the criteria explained by the form. This survey is only seen by me and only used to help us report information to DESE. That information is filtered to our students' respective school districts which will result in determination of St. Ann's state funding for things like Title I funds (additional teaching/instruction services) and Title II funds (staff professional development opportunities). Please fill this brief form in for your family to the best of your knowledge and return to school ASAP. Your cooperation will help St. Ann students and teachers in the 2018-2019 school year.

Wednesday, November 22nd, is Family Day, a St. Ann tradition held each year on the day before Thanksgiving. It's a noon dismissal day that includes an all-school Mass and activities for family members to enjoy with their students. We invite parents, grandparents, siblings, and all family members to join us for a special morning of gratitude and love.

•If you still need to complete a Protecting God's Children Workshop, more sessions are available around town. The schedule can be found through this link:
http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theOrgID=14498&theme=0

Mark Your Calendar

October 31st-Halloween classroom parties @2:00pm

November 1st-Saints Mass-3rd grade Saints Museum

November 10th-NO SCHOOL

November 18th-Talent Show

November 22nd-Family Day

Blessings,
Jacob Reft

Look for a Special Halloween Guessing Game on Tuesday!