**Mr. Watters Message- March 2019**

It’s hard to believe we are almost finished with the third quarter, which ends this Friday. We have also completed our second round of MAPS testing. There will be one more round in the beginning of May. We will announce honor roll recipients at the next Awards ceremony on Thursday, April 4th.

About six years ago, our school year was ten days longer than public school. On top of that, we added three additional days because of snow/ice. We had many students and parents upset because they missed out on sports camps and vacations that they had planned. We decided to look for alternatives to just adding days to the end of the school year. The faculty and staff decided to use snow day packets for any of the additional days. As it stands now, we do not have to extend the school year because of the snow day packets. We have discussed the use of snow day packets again this year and are working to standardize the expectations from the teachers so that it is consistent throughout the school. This is not a perfect solution, but we believe it is better than extending the school year.

March is reading month and we have had many activities planned to make up for the missed activities during Catholic Schools Week. Keep an eye on Mrs. Brejcha’s newsletter for details to round out the month.

With two behind us already, our Friday Fish Fry has been a huge success! Thank you to those who came to support the event and our school. Just a reminder that every family needs to work one fish fry (feel free to work more than one - they go toward your volunteer hours), unless you made previous arrangements/payment to opt out. The funds raised support our PTO which in turn supports our school. Remember many hands make light work and this is a fun event to participate in as well as enjoying a delicious meal!

The date for the spring gala has changed to June 1.Remember this is our one major event fundraiser. This event requires volunteer participation from all school families as noted in your contract; you cannot opt out. The executive committee has met several times and will provide everyone with the different tasks you can sign up for. Attendance at the event is not mandatory. In fact, most of the help is needed prior to the event as well as cleaning up after.

Great news! We have raised enough funds to replace the parish center floor. Due to the amount of time it will take to tear out the old and replace with new flooring, the project will not be completed until summer break. Thank you to all for the support on this project!

If you still need your volunteer hours completed, contact Mrs. Brejcha and she can direct you to all the available opportunities. The following roles need to be filled ASAP so that a smooth transition can take place for next school year: Athletic Director, SCRIP Coordinator, and Lunch Room Supervisor (paid position). This will count toward your volunteer hours. Please consider donating your time and allowing others to take a break and pursue other areas in need.

We currently have 103 K-8 students enrolled! Next year’s Kindergarten may be a full class of 25. We are always open for enrollment so remind potential families that there are several discounts and tuition assistance available. Families that refer a new student will receive $100 tuition credit as a thank you.

Feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions or concerns: 231-796-6731 or jbwatters@stmarybr.org.

Thank you!

JB Watters