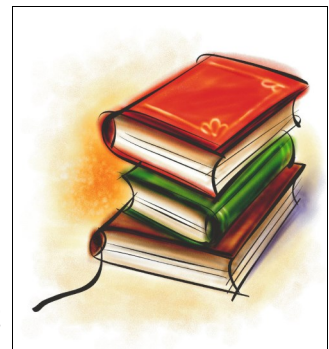


The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School
January 2016

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed the extended time with your families. As we begin a new calendar year, we are also at the halfway point of the school year. January 4 marks the start of the third quarter, and second quarter report cards will be sent home on January 14. This is a great time to work with your children on evaluating their progress so far and helping them set goals for the remaining months of the school year. Please take time to talk with your children about how they are doing in school. Communication at home is important to setting the tone for success at school.

One way we are fostering success here at school is by promoting reading! Inspiring students to read for pleasure and helping them to understand complex texts have been key goals the past two school years, and we are continuing to build on them this year. Please encourage your child to read every night. Establishing a habit of daily pleasure reading is the best way to help your child to be successful in school and in life. We even have dedicated reading time at school during the day!



We are continuing our focus on wellness, too, with our Wellness Wednesday feature every Wednesday afternoon promoting a different aspect of spiritual, mental or physical wellness. Also along the lines of physical wellness, we congratulate the following students who tied school records during our recent physical fitness testing: fifth grader Breyden Zupsansky for running the shuttle run in 8.9 seconds, eighth grader Anna Mark for scoring +13.5 in the V-sit reach, and eighth grader Jeffrey Pietrowski for jumping 8'9" in the standing long jump.

January promises to be a busy month! We hope to see many of you at the Parents' Association general meeting on January 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center Gathering Area, where the annual State of the School report will be presented. Come and hear what our Parents' Association committees are doing, and learn about our ongoing vision for moving our school forward as we work to develop the leaders of tomorrow. This meeting will be a joint meeting with our School Board, so School Board members will be on hand, as well. Dress-down passes will



be offered to all families with at least one parent in attendance at this meeting. All are also invited to our annual Catholic Schools Week Open House on January 24 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to share our school with your family and friends! This open house kicks off our week-long Catholic Schools Week celebration, continuing through January 29. A complete schedule for the week will be sent home soon. As we prepare to join 8,000 schools across the nation in celebrating Catholic education, we especially want to thank you for all you do to support our school. We know the sacrifices you make each day to give your

children the wonderful gift of a Catholic education. As our personal thanks to you, we will again host our restaurant, The Faith, Hope and Love Café, during our open house on January 24. The café will be open for lunch from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Please watch for more information about this, and plan to make a reservation for lunch! Thank you for choosing to provide your children with a Catholic education at St. Hilary School.

Re-registration materials will be sent home to every school family on January 8, and are due back to school by February 5. Registration for new students entering kindergarten through grade eight will take place at the school office during school hours on February 1, 2 and 3. All new students must be registered at this time, even if they are listed on the re-registration form along with current students.

We will hold our school geography bee on January 14 at 1:30 p.m. and our school spelling bee on January 21 at 1:30 p.m. Both events will be held in Horning Hall. Good luck to all students participating in these competitions! We also wish our eighth graders the best as they prepare to journey from elementary school to high school. Our eighth grade students will finalize the process of selecting a high school this month. Please keep them in your prayers as they make this important decision.

Standardized testing will begin earlier than usual this year. IOWA testing for grades 1-7 and CAT testing for grades 3, 5 and 7 will begin February 8 and is scheduled to continue through February 26. Please be sure your child has a good night's rest each night and a wholesome breakfast each morning during testing. Students will also need to have several sharpened #2 pencils. Please ask your child if his or her pencils or other school supplies need to be replenished. Thank you for avoiding scheduling appointments during testing.

During these cold winter months, it is especially important for children to dress appropriately for the weather. As a reminder, students go outside for recess daily when playground conditions permit, unless it is raining or the temperature falls below 18°. Please be sure your child has a coat, hat, mittens or gloves, and boots when necessary. School closings due to inclement winter weather will be announced on FOX 8, the school website, by email, and by our One Call Now telephone notification system as soon as a determination is made to cancel school.

We have already seen some signs of winter illness in our school during the month of December. With the cold and flu season in full swing, please be sure you are familiar with the health and absence policy contained in our Family Handbook. Please remember to call the school office by 9:30 a.m. if your child will be absent or late, and to make requests for homework at that time. Students should be symptom-free (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, severe coughing) for 24 hours before returning to school after an illness. Your cooperation helps us to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all students.

With wishes for a happy, healthy new year,

Mrs. Arnone

Mrs. Deemer

