

The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School
January 2019

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 7 marks the start of the third quarter, and second quarter report cards will be available on Gradelink on January 10. The midway point of the year is a great time to work with your child on evaluating his or her progress so far and helping him or her to set goals for the remaining months of the school year. Please take time to talk with your child about how he or she doing in school. Communication at home is important to setting the tone for success at school.

January is always a busy month. We hope to see many of you at the Parents' Association general meeting on January 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center Gathering Area. Come and hear what our Parents' Association committees are doing, as well as an update from Mrs. Woodman as we work to keep moving our school forward and 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 27 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to share our school with your family and friends! We have some exciting new features to share with you during this year's Open House,



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with many of our talented students to be our traveling entertainment, and a fun way to make sure you visit all parts of our school! This open house kicks off our week-long Catholic Schools Week celebration, continuing through February 1. Some of the highlights of Catholic Schools Week this year will be our traditional service projects in the community, helping us to share the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and a special focus on learning about the Holy Spirit through dedicated classroom activities. A complete schedule for the week will be sent home soon. As we prepare to join nearly 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. Thank you for choosing to provide your children with a Catholic education at St. Hilary School.

Re-registration will begin January 4. This year, re-registration will be done online through Gradelink. During re-registration, families will also be asked to complete online the required additional forms for the 2019-2020 school year, which will eliminate almost all back-to-school paperwork in August. A mass email with complete information and step-by-step instructions will be sent to all email addresses in our One Call Now system on January 4. Re-registration must be completed online by February 8. Registration for new students entering kindergarten through grade eight will take place at the school office during school hours on February 4, 5 and 6. All new students must be registered at this time, even though they will also be listed during the online re-registration process for current students.

We will hold our school spelling bee on January 17 at 1:30 p.m. and our school geography bee on January 22 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.

MAP testing for grades K-8 will be administered January 7 – 25. Please be sure your child has a good night's rest each night and a wholesome breakfast each morning during testing. Thank you for avoiding scheduling appointments during testing. There will be one final round of MAP testing for grades K-8 April 29 — May 17. Because this round of MAP testing begins immediately after school resumes from Spring Break, please bear this in mind as you plan Spring Break vacations and return arrangements. In addition, grades 3, 5 and 7 will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT) the first week of March. Please watch for updates as these tests approach.

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, our Facebook page, via 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. Woodman

Mrs. Alexander

