



Summer Newsletter
From the desk of Mrs. Marge Mc Donald

Greetings!! I hope students and parents alike are enjoying a peaceful, relaxing summer break, and that all are faring well despite the heat and humidity this season has brought. Once again, let me express how delighted I am to be back at Saint Mary School. After spending 14 years here in the classroom, I am excited to have the opportunity to lead this faith-based learning community into the next decade of the millennium.

Saint Mary School has been a very busy place since school closed in June. Here is a glimpse of a few things that have been going on:

- ✚ Mr. Jose has been toiling in this heat to clean every nook of every classroom office, hallways, etc., to ensure that we return to a sparkling building when school resumes in September. Thank you, Mr. Jose!
- ✚ Mrs. Nicole Kelly, our new Pre-kindergarten teacher, has spent countless hours already preparing her classroom for her 3 and 4 year old students. Welcome, Mrs. Kelly. I know you will love it here!
- ✚ Mrs. Hurley and Mrs. Barrett have worked closely with Father Keough to make certain the textbooks have been ordered and will be here in time for the opening of school. In case you haven't heard, the new math textbooks, which are compatible with the Smartboards, have been purchased. Thank you Mrs. Hurley, Mrs. Barrett, and Father Joe!!
- ✚ Mr. Cosham, Miss Alteri, Mrs. Ronkese and their able-bodied assistants have been doing a spectacular job with the Summer Program. What a great way to spend a day, week, or a month. Great job to all!!
- ✚ Mr. Bret Nichols hosted his Basketball Camp again this year, and it was an outstanding success. Go Wildcats!

Now, let me share some of the changes that have been put into motion for the coming school year.

- ✚ Teaching has always been my first passion, so I am delighted that I will share in the teaching of math in grades 7 and 8. I will teach the 7th grade pre-algebra class and the 8th grade algebra class, while Mrs. Barrett teaches the on-level math classes in these grades.
- ✚ I am happy to announce that Mr. Scott Gangloff will be assuming the position as 7th grade homeroom teacher. He will be teaching some of the subjects in grades 6 through 8 in addition to his physical education classes for Pre-K through 8. He has also agreed to stay on as our Athletic Director. As you can see, Mr. Gangloff will be very busy in the coming year.
- ✚ Our extracurricular offerings will be enhanced this coming year as well. In addition to the familiar options of basketball, cheerleading, soccer, chorus, dance and Student Council, the newspaper club will be back by popular demand. New to our offerings this year will be a "Lego" club. Finally, I plan to invite the students to suggest activities they would like to have in place.

On August 26, orientations will be held in Kindergarten and in all classes for new families. Mrs. Barrett will also hold her annual parent meeting for 8th grade parents at 6:30 p.m. There be an ice-cream social for all Saint Mary School students and families in the gym following the orientation.

Our Pre-school teacher will be holding orientations for students and parents. The Pre-K orientation for the children will be September 8 at 9 a.m. and the orientation for Pre-K parents will be September 9 at 6:30 p.m. The first day of school for Pre-K 4 students will be on September 13 and the first day of school for Pre-K 3 students will be on September 14.

For over 50 years, Saint Mary School has been an outstanding educational option for all children of Newington and the surrounding towns. In a time when school districts are facing budgets cuts, reduced services, and increased class sizes, I am proud to report that Saint Mary School is continuing to improve its offerings. Thank you, Father Keough, for your support and commitment to Saint Mary School. It is wonderful to have a Pastor who is actively involved in our learning community. How truly blessed we are!!

In closing, let me take this opportunity to thank you for your enthusiasm and your outpouring of support for my appointment to the role of principal. Working together, I know that Saint Mary School will remain a beacon for our students and for all area children for years to come.

Enjoy the remaining days of vacation!

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Marge McDonald

