

St. Mary's School

Morning Memo – Week of December 11, 2017



1. Follow us on Twitter: @stmarys_mh, Instagram , and Facebook
2. St. Mary's School is once again offering "Homework Club" every Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30. During this time, a Math/Science teacher and a Humanities teacher are available to help the students with their homework, or to provide them with a quiet place to work and computer access. Several teachers are also offering drop in help before school and at lunch.
3. During December, we will be allowing students to wear hats on Friday's with a donation of a Loonie to Mission Mexico. Donations made to Mission Mexico at St. Mary's this year will go towards "Alex's Welding Shop."
4. Upcoming Events
 - Monday – Assembly - Period 1
 - FA 7/8/9 to the MHC for rehearsal in the am
 - FA 9 for the pm as well
 - Tuesday – Homework Club 3:30 to 4:30
 - Christmas Concert at the MHC 12:30
 - We are walking so dress appropriately
 - Wednesday – Homework Club 3:30-4:30
 - Art Club 3:18-4:30
 - Thursday –
 - Friday –UGLY Sweater Day
 - Hats for Mission Mexico \$1
 - Kernels popcorn and yogurt \$2
 - Pizza by the slice \$3
5. Sports Events this Week
 - Tuesday – Boys A-CHHS @ 4:15
Boys B2-CHHS @5:30
Boys B1- Parkside @5:30
 - Wednesday – Girls A- Seven Persons @5:30
 - Thursday – Boys B2-Seven Persons @5:30
 - Boys B1-Home @5:30
 - Friday - Boys B1 at FP Walshe Tournament
 - Girls B at FP Walshe Tournament
 - Girls A at Dr. Wilson Tournament
6. Chocolates & Chocolate covered pretzels, are due back as soon as possible (October 31). For convenience, chocolates can be paid for using School Cash Online. Profit on these chocolates

(50%) is used to run student activities at the school. Prizes are offered as an incentive for sellers.

7. Congratulations to all students and staff who participated in our “Word of the Week” program last week. We will continue this week.
 - Staff and students are encouraged to be “caught” using the word of the week. If this happens they will be given an entry form for a draw to be completed on Friday mornings during announcements (Staff draw will occur monthly).
 - i. Student Word-Precocious *adj.* Manifesting or characterized by unusually early development or maturity, especially in mental aptitude.
 - ii. Staff word- Avuncular *adj.* Kind and friendly toward a younger or less experienced person.
8. This week’s article discusses some ways of enhancing literacy in our teens and ourselves to establish a community of readers. St. Mary’s is very fortunate to have an incredible space for reading filled with great books.

An Oklahoma School Librarian Makes Her Space a Magnet for Readers

In this article in *Knowledge Quest*, Oklahoma school librarian Amanda Kordeliski says that when she arrived midyear at a high-school library position, she was impressed with the school’s reading day: students were expected to have a “prime time” reading-for-pleasure book with them at all times. Brilliant idea, she thought – a schoolwide reading culture, kids (and adults) reading for pleasure. But then she noticed that at the beginning of each reading day, the library was besieged with students checking out books, and at the end of the day, the library’s book drop was overflowing with books that had been checked out earlier in the day. “Students carried books around so they didn’t get in trouble in class,” says Kordeliski, “but few teens and even fewer teachers were actually reading for pleasure during this time.”

She had grand plans to improve things during her first full year as librarian, but the school embarked on a renovation and she had to work in a small space with most of the collection in storage. Kordeliski improvised, collaborating with the public library, and when the renovated library opened the next fall, she approached “every student in the building as a potential reader who ‘lost’ their love of reading during the construction.” With book trailers, a school newscast, costume wardrobes for favorite characters through a fashion app (Polyvore), fan fiction, turning the library into a Tardis for the Dr. Who books and Hogwarts for Harry Potter, she believes the library became a “first-choice destination before, during, and after school.” The renovation gave Kordeliski a pivot for creating this kind of library, but she believes the same outcome can be accomplished anywhere with five key factors:

- **A school librarian who reads widely and recommends current young adult books** – “Reading what the students read gives you credibility and goes a long way in building relationships with the students,” she says. “Teens and tweens have an uncanny ability to know when you are pitching books you haven’t read and do not intend to read.” She shares her own likes and dislikes – thumbs up for romance novels, thumbs down on manga – and encourages students to do the same: “Students need to understand they should never feel embarrassed by what they like to read or apologize for liking certain books.” Of course a librarian can’t read every book in the collection, but it’s important to try to know *something* about every book and series and be honest if you haven’t read it. Kordeliski makes a point of reading the first book in a series and noting the release days of new series books and, during her hall duty, alerting students she thinks will enjoy them.

• **Access to books that teens and tweens want to read** – Kordeliski asks students for book recommendations, gets advance copies at conferences, reads reviews and blog posts, watches book-related video channels, and writes grants to supplement her school’s library budget. In the spring, she visits her high school’s feeder middle schools to introduce her library and get a sense of the kinds of books students are reading. This means that incoming students “already know when they walk through the doors in August they are welcome in the school library and most have an idea of at least one book they want to read or activity they want to do.”

• **Teacher buy-in** – “All teachers, not just English teachers, need to believe in the magic and power of pleasure reading,” says Kordeliski, and she runs a monthly staff book club on YA novels. At her school, teachers have laminated signs on their classroom doors with the books they are reading, and there are interactive displays highlighting books teachers love, sparking ongoing conversations with students.

• **A willingness to adapt programs and rules to fit the needs of readers** – Kordeliski has let go of some standard library rules – for example, she allows food and drink in the library, lets students check out more than one book at a time and keep books over the winter and summer breaks, doesn’t levy fines, and permits students to use the camera equipment, editing software, 3-D printer, and maker space for any school project. “I do all of those things not to be a rebellious rule breaker,” she says, “but because the students asked for them. If I couldn’t explain the reasoning behind the rule and the kids could articulate why doing something like eating lunch in the library was important to them, I abandoned or modified the rule to the best of my ability.”

• **A safe and welcoming space for all, even if they aren’t readers (yet)** – “I don’t believe we can have a community of readers until we have established a community,” says Kordeliski. “Making sure every student – whether or not students consider themselves to be readers – feels welcomed and at home in the school library is priority number one for me... Books can be both mirrors and windows, and my goal as a school librarian is to make sure that all kids in the school can find themselves, both who they are and who they want to be, reflected back to them in the pages of a book found in the school library.”

“Establishing a Community of Readers in a Secondary Library” by Amanda Kordeliski in *Knowledge Quest*, November/December 2017 (Vol. 46, #2, p. 8-14), no e-link available; Kordeliski can be reached at akordelis2@norman.k12.ok.us; she and other teachers have created a website, with research and lesson plans integrating World War II topics into the middle- and high-school curriculum: www.abmceducation.org.

[Back to page one](#)

Important Dates 2017-2018

December

11	Assembly
11	Door Decorating Contest- more info to follow.
11	Rehearsal for the Christmas Show 9:00AM-2:20PM
12	Christmas Show at the College 12:30PM and 7:00PM
13	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
15	Ugly Sweater Day
15	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
18	Assembly
18	9Van Christmas Caroling at Cypress View Seniors Centre
19-21	Detentions for lost library books and lost textbooks
20	School Mass 10:00 AM – Holy Family Parish
21	PJ Day- PM for classroom clean up/lockers and movie in the gym.
22	PD Day

January

8	Return to School
8	Assembly
9	Grade 9 Immunizations
10	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
12	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
12-13	Girl's B Basketball Tournament
16	Alberta Opera
16	Parent Council meeting at 6:30 PM in the Library
18	Ski Trip/Activity Day
19	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
19-20	Girl's A Basketball Tournament
22	Assembly
24	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
25	Friday's Schedule
25	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
26	PD Day
31	Twin Day
31	First Day of Semester II (options change only)

February

2	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
2	Pep Rally for Basketball
2-3	Boy's B Basketball Tournament
5	Assembly
6	St. Mary's Orientation 6:00-8:00PM
7	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM

9	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
9	Fine Arts Silent Art Auction and Wine Gala
9-10	Boy's A Basketball Tournament
13	Shrove Tuesday
13	Red/Pink Day
14	Valentine's Day
14	Ash Wednesday
16	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
19-21	PD Days – No School for students
22-23	Teacher's Convention – No School for Students
26	Assembly
28	Pink Shirt Day

March

2	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
5-6	Choral Music Festival
7	Face to Face Retreat
7	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
9	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
11	Daylight Savings Time Begins
12	Assembly
13	Friday's Schedule
13	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
13	Parent Teacher Interviews 4:00-7:30PM
14	Band Music Festival
15	Green Day
16	PD Day
20	Parent Council Meeting 6:30 PM in the Library
21	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
22	PARTY Program- 9 Law
23	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
26	Assembly
29	Holy Thursday Celebration
29	Find The Bunny Activity
30	Good Friday

April

9	First Day back after Easter
11	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
13	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
16	Assembly
17	Parent Council Meeting 6:30 PM in the Library
20	Zoo Day
20	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
23-27	Madagascar Jr. Production
25	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM

26	Students will attend Madagascar Jr. Production at 1:00PM
27	PD Day
30	Assembly

May

3	Track Day
4	Fake An Injury Day
4	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
8	Grade 9 English Language Arts Achievement Part A Exam
9	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
10	Grade 9 French Language Arts Achievement Part A Exam
11	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
13	Mother's Day
14	Assembly
15	Gr. 9 Immunizations
16	Friday's Schedule
16	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
17	PARTY Program- 9 Rus
18	PD Day
21	No School
23	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
25	Disney Day
25	Grade 9 Practice Math PAT- period 1-3
25	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
28	Assembly

June

1	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
4	Parent Council Meeting 6:30 PM in the Library
6	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
7	Friday's Schedule
7	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
7	St. Mary's Dance 6:00-9:30 PM
8	PD Day
11	Assembly
11	Rehearsal for the Spring Show
12	Spring Show at the College
13	School Mass 10:00 AM – Holy Family Parish
15	Neon/80's Day
15	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
17	Father's Day
20	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
22	Grade 9 French Language Arts Achievement Part B Exam
22	Grade 9 Farewell
25	Grade 9 Social Achievement Exam
26	Grade 9 English Language Arts Achievement Part B Exam

27	Grade 9 Math Achievement Exam
28	Grade 9 Science Achievement Exam
29	Last Day for Teachers