

St. Mary's School

Morning Memo – Week of January 29, 2018



1. Follow us on Twitter: @stmarys_mh, Instagram , and Facebook
2. Internal registration is on now. Students have brought home “prepopulated” registration forms, please complete and return them by February 2. Space in the Fine Arts Academy is limited, so please return your registration forms promptly to avoid disappointment. Open house for new and prospective students is planned for February 6 from 6:00 to 8:00.
3. St. Mary's School “Our School” student survey will conclude this week. Parent Accountability Surveys were sent by Alberta Education to grade 7 parents. Please complete the survey by February 24. If you are a grade 7 parent and you have not received a survey, please call the school. The survey provides us with valuable information when developing our three-year education plan.
3. Upcoming Events
 - Monday – No Assembly
 - Tuesday – Homework Club 3:30 to 4:30
 - Wednesday - Homework Club 3:30-4:30
 - Twin Day
 - First Day of Second Semester
 - Thursday –
 - Friday – Open Registration begins
4. Sports Events this Week
 - Monday – Girls B at Home- 4:15
 - Girls A at Home- 5:30
 - Tuesday- Boys A at Wilson- 3:30
 - Boys B2 at Wilson- 4:45
 - Wednesday – Girls B at Parkside- 4:15
 - Girls A at Parkside- 5:30
 - Thursday - Boys A at Home- 4:15
 - Friday/Saturday –Tournaments
 - Boys B at Home
 - Girls A at Brooks
 - Boys A at Lundbreck
5. Congratulations to all students and staff who participated in our “Word of the Week” program last week. We will continue this week.
 - a. 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 – defy- resist or disobey
 - ii. Staff word- cacophony- an unpleasant mixture of sounds, harsh noise, discord.
6. The Leadership group will be selling “Crush” for your crush tags every day at lunch time. Students can purchase these and send a Crush pop to their friends on February 13, 2018.

7. We have bagged up all the lost and found items. If your child is missing something please have them look through the bags at the office. Otherwise these items will be donated to a charity.
8. Today's article is on Improving Student Success particularly in regards to test taking. Enjoy...

Metacognition as a Tool for Improving Student Success

In this article in *Edutopia*, Youki Terada says getting students to think about their thinking “can close a gap that some students experience between how prepared they feel for a test and how prepared they actually are.” Overconfidence is a common problem among students as they walk into exams. It was dubbed the Dunning-Kruger Effect after a landmark study two decades ago.

One reason students have this false sense of mastery is that they're using ineffective study methods, including rereading material and highlighting. “They review a passage and move on without realizing that they haven't thoroughly understood and absorbed the material,” says Terada. “It's far too easy for students to overestimate their understanding of a topic simply because they're familiar with it.” This dynamic is especially damaging for weaker students because they don't realize why they're doing badly, become discouraged, and aren't motivated to use better strategies next time.

A second reason students are poorly prepared for tests is that teachers haven't checked for understanding as they teach. “Don't assume that every student understands the material just because no one asks a question,” says Terada. “Keep in mind that struggling students may not know what questions to ask, or may feel too embarrassed to ask any.” The best teachers encourage question-asking and frequently use low-stakes assessments like exit tickets, pop quizzes, or one-minute papers to identify gaps in knowledge and immediately follow up.

A third reason students are ill-prepared as they walk into tests is that they're not tuned into their thinking strategies, have a fixed mindset about learning (*I'm not good at math*), and haven't learned to take charge of their own learning. Teachers need to explicitly address all three. Terada suggests giving students the self-questioning techniques below (they're geared to middle and high school, but can be adapted for elementary):

During instruction, students should ask themselves:

- What are the main ideas of this lesson?
- Is anything confusing or difficult?
- If something isn't making sense, what questions should I ask the teacher?
- Am I taking good notes?
- What can I do if I get stuck?

Preparing for tests, students should ask themselves:

- What will be on the test?
- What areas do I struggle with or feel confused about?
- How much time should I set aside to prepare for this test?
- Do I have the necessary books, supplies, technology, online access, and a quiet place to study?
- What study strategies will I use?
- How can I test myself to be sure of what I know and fix what I don't know?
- Should I study with a friend? Use note cards?
- What grade would I get if I took the test right now?

After a test, students should be required to answer these questions:

- Which questions did I get wrong? Why?
- Were there any surprises?

- Was I well-prepared?
- If not, what could I have done differently?
- Am I receiving useful, specific feedback from my teacher to help me progress?

“How Metacognition Boosts Learning” by Youki Terada in *Edutopia*, November 21, 2017,

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/how-metacognition-boosts-learning>

Important Dates 2017-2018

January

31	Twin Day
31	First Day of Semester II (options change only)

February

2	Open Registration begins
2	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
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	Pep Rally for Basketball
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
15	FA Grade 8/9 Field Trip to Choral Fest and Sherlock Holmes
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
16	Canstruction at MHC
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	Attending McCoy "Back to the 80's" at MHC Theatre
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
21	Year End Picnic (tentative)
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