St. Mary’s School

Morning Memo – Week of May 8, 2017

1. School fees are past due for the 2016-2017 school year. Your child should have brought home your statement. We would like all families to register for “School Cash Online.” Once registered this allows you to pay almost any school fee online. Please see the on how to register.

2. Alberta Health Services has an upcoming “Parenting is Prevention” workshops planned for parents. The message is geared for parents of 8-15 year old to help prevent alcohol and drug use in youth, as well as provide practical ways of communicating with youth. Please register at [http://parentingisprevention.eventbrite.ca](http://parentingisprevention.eventbrite.ca). The date is:
   - May 9, 16, 23- 6:30-8:30 at the MHPS Station Community Board Room

3. The Cheer Team is once again having the Spring Clinic May 15-18 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. We will also be inviting students from Notre Dame Academy as well to join us for this camp. All students interested in Cheer as an extracurricular are invited to attend.

4. St. Mary’s students will be attending Echo Dale for a school wrap up June 22. This year this will be coordinated with a “Color Run” at a cost of $5 with proceeds to go toward “Walk for Wishes.” Students who participate in the run will be heading out earlier in the morning, while others will attend regular classes until the remainder of the student body goes out later that morning. Hamburger lunch will be available at $4, pre-purchased using School Cash-On-Line and provided by St. Mary’s Parent Council.

5. Congratulations to the Colts badminton team on a very successful season, and most recently a very successful showing at zones.
   - Madison Schank – Gold
   - Duncan Markie & Brady Ulmer – Silver
   - Tyler Miller, Shane Fowlie, Eric Fedechko and Kiana Farrell – all made it to the quarterfinals.
   - Thanks to our alumni coaches for their work all year!

6. Upcoming Events –
   - Monday – No Assembly
     - Golf Practice at MHGCC ($50 fee due)
     - Spring Football camp begins
   - Tuesday – LA Part A final exam. Students have home room period 1-4
     - Golf Practice at MHGCC ($50 fee due)
     - Homework Club ‘til 4:30
   - Wednesday – Homework Club ‘til 4:30
   - Thursday –
   - Friday – Pizza by the slice $3, Kernels popcorn $2 and frozen yogurt $2
7. Colt’s Kitchen – Did you know that punch cards are available in Colts Kitchen? Punch cards are available through Cash-On-Line for $20. The card remains at school and is used at the student’s discretion until consumed.

- Monday – Chicken Alfredo, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Crepes, Burgers
- Tuesday – Pizza Bagels, Smores Bites, Cake, Pizza Pasta
- Wednesday – Chocolate Chip Muffins, Banana Bread, Pizza Bagels, Fries
- Thursday – Pizza, Cookies with Hemp Hearts, Quesadillas, Brownies

8. Today’s article deals with the potential positive outcome, from academic failure….

**Academic Failure As a Potential Turning Point**

In this *Chronicle of Higher Education* article, Raynard Kington (president of Grinnell College) says the most important event of his academic life was failing a test in 10th grade. He had entered an advanced college-prep program in Baltimore confident he could handle the work, but on his first algebra test, he got a 50. “I went home with tears running down my face,” says Kington. His failure was especially galling because he believed the teacher expected him (and the other African-American student in the class) to fail. But his parents rallied behind him and he got to work, practicing problems every night in an algebra book his mother bought in a local bookstore. With a lot of hard work, spurred on by their desire to prove the teacher wrong, Kington ended up near the top of the class.

“That experience changed my view of myself,” he says. “I found that I could be successful when I focused and studied. I don’t know if I could have excelled academically later if I had not had that first painful failure to motivate me… Failure itself can be either good or bad; it is what we do next that determines whether the experience is positive or negative.”

This insight has led Kington to build in ways to prevent Grinnell students’ inevitable failures from killing motivation and learning. He talks to students about how they dealt with early academic failures and pushes them to take risks and venture beyond their comfort zones. Each semester, he writes personal e-mails to students who made the biggest gains in their GPAs. “While 20 e-mails do not change a culture,” he says, “I hope that these students get the message that the college believes in helping them learn, including learning how to recover from an academic stumble.” In this vein, he’s launched several other initiatives:

- **Using faculty reports to identify students in trouble** – At mid-semester, all instructors report on first-year students in three categories: solid performance, marginal performance, and at risk of failure. This allows for intervention before students get poor grades that become part of their records.

- **Using GPA data to identify students who are faltering** – Kington and his colleagues have learned that a small drop in a student’s GPA, even within the A-B range, is often an early-warning sign that a student may drop out for academic or non-academic reasons. Advisors immediately reach out to learn what’s going on and support these students.

- **Intervening with students who do poorly first semester** – These students, many of whom may not have the family support Kington enjoyed, start their second semester working with faculty advisers and mentors in weekend retreats and weekly group meetings focused on study skills, academic tutoring, shared calendars of major assignments, and group study. The focus is on how to turn themselves around academically. “As I know well from personal experience,” says Kington, “the times that are the most instructive in life often begin with a failure.”

Important Dates:

May
9 - Grade 7, 8&9 LA Part A Achievement Test
9- Gr. 9 Immunizations 1:00 pm
11- Grade 9 FLA Part A Achievement Test
12 - Pizza Day $3, Kernels $2 and Frozen Yogurt $2
12 – Hat Day for Mental Health $1
14 – Happy Mother’s Day
15- Assembly
17 – St. Mary’s Track and Field Meet
18- PARTY Program for 9 Irvine and Mueller
19 - PD Day
22- Victoria Day
24 – City Track and Field
25- Neon Day
25 – Team Photos
26 - Hat Day for Mental Health $1
26 – Pizza Day $3 (Last Day), Kernels $2 and Frozen Yogurt $2
29 – Marian Celebration 9AM
30 – Zone Track and Field Day
30 - Red and White day

June
5  Assembly
5- Spring Concert Rehearsal 9:00-2:30
5 – Parent Council meeting at 7PM
6- Spring Concert Rehearsal 9:00-12:00
   Spring Concert 12:30-2:30 School Concert
6- 7:00-9:00 Spring Concert Public Performance
8-NDA School Dance 6-9 PM 9-9:30 Grade 9’s only
9 PD Day
11-School Sponsored Mass at Holy Family
13- Mass at HFP 10:00
16- Decade Day
16- Grade 9 Farewell
18 – Father’s Day
19-Assembly
21 – Aboriginal Day
22 – Echo Dale – lunch provided $4 paid thru School Cash-on-line
23- Hat Day
23- Grade 9 FLA Part B Achievement Test
23 – Last Day for LAP students
26- Grade 9 Social Achievement Test
26 – Staff Appreciation Lunch
26 – Gr 6 Orientation
27- Grade 9 LA Part B Achievement Test
27 – Gr 6 Orientation
28- Grade 9 Math Achievement Test
29-Grade 9 Science Achievement Test