

January 27, 2017



St. Mary Catholic Schools  
Grades P3-12

**Catholic Schools Week** begins this Sunday! Check out all of the opportunities our students will have to celebrate Catholic education, and please plan to join us for the ones that interest you! Be sure to enjoy a **pancake breakfast** hosted by SMCS at St. Gabriel Parish (9:00-11:30 a.m.), St. Margaret Mary Parish (8:00 a.m.-noon) or St. Mary Parish (8:00 a.m.-noon).

Click here to read [Bishop Ricken's letter](#) to the diocese regarding the important role of Catholic Schools and the [proclamation](#) issued by the State of Wisconsin. The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) also put out a [nifty graphic](#) citing ten reasons to choose Catholic education.

We were excited this week to share the big news that a **Training and Fitness Center** for our middle and high school students will be built on the main campus. Construction will begin in April, and we send a big "thank you" to Bergstrom Corporation for giving us this gift! The news appeared in a [Post Crescent article](#), and you can [read the full release here](#).

In addition to the high school band students whose name were listed as participants in the conference honors band earlier this month, several additional students participated in the **choral honors group**. Congratulations to SMCHS students Olivia Tomasi, Katelyn Flanagan and Rachel Zimmerman who participated in the event, and to Olivia Pennings who was selected but was unable to attend.

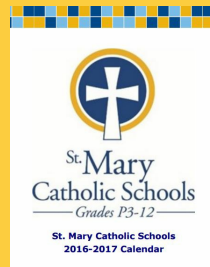
The date for our **SMCS State of Our Schools** presentation is Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m. Due to historically low attendance, we are evaluating the event and looking for ways to make it more meaningful to our community. Please take a moment to complete our [short survey](#) (three brief questions) *by the end of the day on Monday, January 30* to let us know what topics are of interest to you, and to let us know if you are likely to attend.

We hope that your family enjoys all of the Catholic Schools Week activities!



The following changes were made to the [SMCS 2016-17 calendar](#) this week:

February 1	SMCS Fine Arts Fruit Sale begins
February 15	Last day to submit orders for SMCS Fine Arts Fruit Sale
February 24	St. Mary Elementary Movie Night
March 3	Pick-day for SMCS Fine Arts Fruit Sale
March 20-24 (May 6)	St. Mary Elementary Book Fair SMCHS Placement Test Date canceled (still scheduled for May 2)



## Big Events on the SMCS Main Campus Tomorrow

**10:30 a.m.** in the FAEC Black Box Theater--Locally beloved children's entertainer [Randy Peterson](#) will be our performer at the SMCS Early Childhood Event. There is no charge for this event.

**3:30-5:00 p.m.** at the middle school-- Our [Chinese New Year Celebration](#) will feature Chinese treats and opportunities to try a variety of Chinese activities. There is no charge for this event.

**6:00 p.m.** [Clash of the Choirs](#) in the FAEC--Local high school choirs will compete as they sing three selections (one sacred, one secular and something else of their choice) for a panel of three judges and host Cami Rapson, Sing Off/American Idol-style. The winning choirs will win cash and audience members can win an autographed Jordy Nelson Packer Jersey or a Big 10 basketball autographed by WI Badger Head Coach Greg Gard. Admission is \$3.00 in advance, \$5.00 at door. Contact the high school at 722-7796 for pre-show tickets.

## Zephyr Spirit Wear

Print out and complete the order form for this season's sports apparel by clicking on the corresponding link below or visit the [APPAREL page](#) on the website and scroll to spirit wear. Size samples will be available at the high school spring sports meeting on February 13; **orders are due by February 28, 2017.**

[Soccer](#)

[Track](#)

[Zephyr Athletics \(non sport-specific\)](#)

Check back for baseball, golf and softball spirit wear, which will be available soon!

Please note that this clothing is *not* dress-code compliant. All proceeds go to the [SMCS Booster Club](#), which supports athletics and activities for the middle and high school.

## Fine Arts Fruit Sale Starts Next Week

All students in grades kindergarten through 12 and their families enjoy our amazing fine

arts education center! That is why *we are asking every family*, not just those whose children participate in fine arts activities, *to please join us in raising funds to keep our fine arts facility running smoothly and looking beautiful.*

A **fruit sale** featuring delicious, fresh-picked apples, oranges, grapefruit and pears as well as cheese, sausage and a variety of nuts **will begin on February 1, and orders will be taken through February 15.** The order forms will be sent to all families on that date, and will also be available on the website. In the meantime, why not be thinking of your friends and family who might enjoy some of these delectable treats? At a minimum, please consider placing an order for your own family. Every dollar raised will be used for the operating expenses of the Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center.

### Wisconsin Parental Choice Program

St. Mary Catholic Schools participates in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP), which offers the possibility for students to receive a Catholic education free of charge. Applications are completed online via the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website and will be available online on Wednesday, February 1, 2016. *Please note that this link will not be active until next Wednesday.*

For a link to the application and up-to-date information about the program, please visit the [WPCP page](#) on the Department of Public Instruction's website or attend our [WPCP Open House](#) on **Monday, February 27 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.** in the high school IMC.

### Arts Scholarships

Les and Dar Stumpf Youth Arts Scholarship, established to provide financial assistance to area students interested in an art discipline, is accepting applications. This scholarship opportunity is offered to children in kindergarten through high school in local school districts. Applications are due April 1. Recipients can use the scholarship money toward summer arts programming. The application is also available on the [Community Foundation website](#): click on Art/Music Lessons and Music Camp.

### Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration will take place on **Friday February 3** at Mary Catholic High School from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The day will begin with a Mass celebrated by Father Schuster at 7:15 a.m., so please plan to join us for that liturgy and perhaps stay for adoration. The liturgy will end in time for students to make it to class on time--guaranteed!

What a wonderful way to cap off Catholic Schools Week by praying for the needs of St. Mary Catholic Schools, our families and benefactors.

If you are interested in spending an hour with the Lord, please [visit the sign-up page](#) or contact [Barb Unruh](#).

### Wines Around the World

Wines Around the World is St. Margaret Mary Elementary School's annual fundraiser, and this year will be another great event! "All that Jazz" is the theme, and it will feature tasty wine pairings, fabulous silent- and oral-auction prizes and the smooth sound of a great jazz trio. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets. [Click here](#) to see the evening's program, which includes details about all of the exciting packages you can bid on!

### **On Track: Turning Your Assets into Retirement Income**

Join us on **Tuesday, February 21 at 6:30 p.m.** in the black box theater in the FAEC for On Track to learn about how to turn your assets into retirement income. Presenters sponsored by Van De Hey, Van De Hey and Associates will share with future retirees and retired people ways make informed decisions about their retirement income and help create personalized income strategies that are right for them. [Click here](#) for details.

### **Day-to-Day at SMCS**

Not everything that goes on in our schools makes the news, but many interesting and cool things do make our Facebook page! Follow our [Facebook page](#) or check out these [Facebook highlights](#) from January 20-26. If you have a photo of a neat SMCS experience to share, please email our [director of communications](#).

### **Tuition Assistance Application Period Open**

[Applications for tuition assistance](#) for the 2017-18 school year are due to the SMCS Business Office by Friday, February 10, 2017.

### **Enrichment Update**

Club Invention (STEM) class will be on Tuesdays at St. Gabriel Elementary! Back by popular request is Clay Animation! Reminder that a new session of Karate starts next week. The [registration link](#) is now open for all of these classes. Stay tuned for makeup schedule for all classes that were cancelled due to weather this session.

### **Don't miss early registration! Deadline is next week**

Register your children now to take advantage of our reduced registration fee. A \$50 per student registration fee (\$150 family max) is available through January 31, 2017. After that date registration fees will increase to \$100 per student.

We have been experiencing some technical glitches with our registration system this week. If you encounter any trouble, please contact our [director of admissions](#) for assistance.

### **Zephyrfest 2017 Key Club Raffle**

Zephyrfest will be celebrating its 32nd anniversary this year! One of the most exciting features of Zephyrfest is the opportunity to walk away from the event with a new car. This year's Key Club has a new twist! The winner will get to choose between a super cool 2017 Jeep Rubicon OR a \$40,000 credit towards any new vehicle at any Bergstrom Automotive store within a week of Zephyrfest. Keep in mind, there will only be 600 total Key Club memberships sold, so your chances are great, but the memberships will sell quickly. Without question, having the chance to be a winner in the Zephyrfest car raffle is exciting! However, the true excitement is in knowing that your contribution helps support the outstanding Catholic education and quest for academic excellence for so many students within the St. Mary Catholic schools.

[Flyers](#) with more information are available at any SMCS school office. For details, please contact Robin Gallucci at SMC at 920-722-7796 ext. 852 or email at [rgallucci@smcatholicschools.org](mailto:rgallucci@smcatholicschools.org).

## Road Construction Updates

Read the [latest road construction updates](#) that may impact your travel to or from SMCS campuses.

## Parochial School Tax Deduction

Parents in Wisconsin with a child in a parochial school can receive a tax deduction for K-12 tuition. Click here for [detailed information](#) about this opportunity. A Wisconsin Tax Form PS must be filed with your Wisconsin income taxes to receive this deduction. Click here for [instructions and a PS form with SMCS information](#) completed, which you may print out and use with your taxes, or as a template for completing your form. The required FEIN # is 39-1656963.

## In the Community

### Help With Tax Preparation

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) offers free tax assistance, preparation and electronic filing services for people with low to moderate incomes. The program is available now through April, 18. Visit the [VITA website](#) for details.

### Neenah/Menasha YMCA Upcoming Events and Activities

[Bump, Set, Spike Winter Volleyball Clinic](#) (grades 3-6)

### Neenah Soccer

Sign up for Neenah Soccer Club's [spring/summer recreational soccer program](#) and read important information about the opportunity.

## SMCS Media

[SMCS Announces Fruit Sale to Benefit Fine Arts](#)

[SMCS Announces Plans to Enhance Fitness for Grades 6-12 Students](#) (*Post Crescent article*)

[SMCS to Celebrate Catholic Schools Week](#)

["Giving Back so Our Community and Area Children Can Prosper"](#)

*Appleton Magazine* article re: John Hogerty and SMCMS

[SMM to Host Wines Around the World](#)

[SMCS Early Childhood Promotional Video](#)

[SMCS Elementary Schools Promotional Video](#)

## Did you know?

SMCS was recognized by the United Way Fox Cities for the success of our 2016 campaign.

## Important Links

[Apparel](#)

[Big East Conference Calendar](#)

[Elementary Enrichment](#)

[Photo Website](#)

[Update Family Information](#)

## Stay Connected



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