

The theme for St. Mary Catholic Schools this year is **SERVANT LEADERSHIP**. The servant leadership attribute that we are emphasizing in the month of April is "**Perseverance**".

Curriculum and Professional Development

The AdvancED High School Accreditation Site Visit is scheduled for May 1 & 2. The visiting team has scheduled a time to meet with members of our Board of Trustees: Tuesday, May 2, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. in the high school IMC. Thank you to those Board members who are able to participate. Please let Pat Batey know in advance if you plan to attend or not. Also, thank you to Pat Batey for leading the accreditation process for the high school!

Erin Loritz of CESA 6 has started working with our elementary classrooms by demonstrating literacy mini lessons while class room teachers observe. Erin then debriefs with the teachers to review and answer questions after the lesson. Three of these fishbowl experiences are scheduled in each elementary school. Teachers expressed how valuable this instructional support has been.

Several teachers completed a graduate class (Research-based Best Practices in Literacy Instruction) that coincided with our professional development this year.

SMCS sponsored two early childhood teachers to attend a one day workshop at Silver Lake College in March. Feedback from the teachers was "wonderful"!

Literacy Samples

Samples for our elementary schools and 6th grade are in the classrooms. Teachers received a review guide to use in order to help identify pros and cons of the programs. Presentations from consultants will be complete this week. We have had great participation from teachers and principals. Erin Loritz is meeting with the principals this week to provide insight on what she sees out in the field in our state.

Admissions/Enrollment

Our deadline to apply for WCPC vouchers is April 20th. We have been working hard to meet our goal of 130 voucher applications. Approximately 6-8 of the applications will not be verified, leaving us with 124 potential voucher awards. It is difficult to predict a number to expect because many more schools are now participating in the Choice program. However, with the cap being raised 1% for next year, we anticipate our voucher awards to grow beyond our current 96.

Registration is still showing strong activity; following are a few stats:

- Next year registration total count for 2017-18 is at 836 vs 883 this year
- High school and middle school enrollment counts for next year are about equal to our September 2016 counts:
 - HS = 243 (includes 15 STS/GO projected) vs 242 this year
 - MS = 176 vs 176 this year
- Enrollment at all three elementary schools continues to lag, primarily in our early grades (K-2):
 - Elementary = 328 vs this year 358 total for three schools
- Pre-school numbers are expected to increase over the next three months:
 - Preschool = 90 vs this year 107

We continue to recruit new students and work with current families that have not yet registered. A full report and updated dashboard will be presented at our May BOT meeting.

Human Resource Transfers/Changes/Hires

- Administrative retirements for 2016-17: Eleanor Healy
- Tina Fairweather promoted to SMM Principal for 2017-18
- Pat Batey accepted a newly created part-time position as Director of Educational Services for 2017-18
- HS Principal – search and interviews being conducted
- Teacher contracts were distributed with a due date of 5.15.17
- HS Business Teacher (.5) – Lori Probst hired for 2017-18
- Mental Health Counselor – deferring to start 2017-18
- Aquinas Teacher/Program Director – deferring program to later start date tbd
- Michelle Gomes and Kathy Geiger resigned from food service; hired Julie Packer

Business Services: Finance-Technology-Food Service

The audit conducted by CLA determined SMCS was in compliance of pupil count enrollment requirements for the January 2017 DPI count. SMCS is therefore eligible to receive the WCPC February and May voucher payments.

A meeting to share the details of the new health insurance plan to all benefit eligible employees will be held on Thursday, April 20th. Representatives from the Diocese as well as the new third party administrator will be with us to provide the overview and answer questions. Following are a few of the highlights of the new plan:

- *Enhanced network:* We will be moving from the Arise Health Plan network to the United Health Care Choice Plus Network. UMR, part of United HealthCare, will be our new third party administrator. The United HealthCare Choice Plus network is more robust than our current network and we are excited about the expansion of in-network providers.
- *Enhanced plan:* We have been able to negotiate health plans which closely resemble our current plans, with enhanced benefits. We anticipate positive changes to our copays and co-insurance levels.
- *Additional plan:* We understand that not everyone needs the same level of insurance coverage. For those looking for a high deductible health plan (HDHP), coupled with a health savings account (HSA), we will offer an additional HSA plan with a \$5,000 deductible.

Fine Arts

- Middle school play *Godspell* will take place April 22 & 23
- Band and choral students in grades 5-8 recently participated in the solo & ensemble festival.
- Our high school choirs welcomed 25 eighth-grade students from three different middle schools to a music clinic where they learned a couple pieces with the high school students and performed for each other.
- SMCS students in grades 6-12 were treated to an exciting experience at the FAEC that included opportunities for our middle school musicians, singers and dancers to interact on stage with the band Vic Ferrari and do a few pieces of their own. The high school strings musicians also played, and freshman Everly Marshall was a big hit in his play-off with the special guest, renowned violin player Mark Wood of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

Fund Development

Annual Fund: 7.1.16 – 4.12.17 = \$149,775

7.1.15 – 4.12.16 = \$150,823

We are bridging the gap! We also sent letters to people who gave \$500 or more last year but not yet this year. That amount is worth \$19,000.

In May, we will call the people who gave a gift twice last year to see if they would consider the same this year.

We also have a pledge envelope being inserted into the SMCS newsletter. Every time we send a pledge card out we get more gifts vs. just written or verbal reminders in school newsletters or email updates.

We also do not have 100% BOT participation – please make your gift soon! Thank you!

Zephyrfest:

2017 Gross revenue = \$601,000 / LY Gross revenue = \$457,047

Net profit = TBD (expenses will be much higher than last year due to purchase of some large packages/trips)

Reasons for success:

- Complimentary bar
- Able to double more live auction items than ever before and items went for much higher value
- Emotional plea from Dave at beginning of the program
- SMC video and pictures created an emotional picture of ‘the need’ for the night
- Successful silent auction
- Raffle Sales: first time we did multi-ticket sales (i.e. 3/\$50). With the exception of one raffle, all sold out
- Golden Tickets: normally sell 320, this year we sold 380 tickets
- Attendance was higher than LY by 100 people

This is Robin Gallucci’s last Zephyrfest, so we will be working to update job description and hiring process for new event manager.

Next year’s Zephyrfest: Saturday, March 24, 2018 in the Fox Cities Expo Center.

ON TRACK:

The last ON TRACK presentation was made last Tuesday. There were about 20 parents in attendance for the “Parenting in the 21st Century” presentation by Officer Jason Weber. Working on next year’s ON TRACK schedule.

Band/Choir NYC Trip:

Working with SMCHS Band and Choir Directors to prepare fundraising plan for March 2018 trip.

RFP and Foundation: Work continues on these two committees – both of which are going in front of BOT for vote 4/19.