

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 18 FEBRUARY 14, 2018

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. Pope Francis stated that “Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.” During this time, we should think of how we can share our time and talents with others. By sharing our time and talents, we are sharing God’s gifts. It is also a time of reflection and self-examination.

I hope that everybody has a relaxing break next week. Be safe and when we return on the 26th of February, we will be celebrating Read Across America Week.

God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski



Your commitment fee now includes supplies with the exception of Middle School calculators, headphones & other technology needs!

Re-Registration Packets have gone home!
March 1st is the last day to register to receive the \$50 discount.
Do you know someone who is interested in joining our family? Registration packets are available in the school office!

*Congratulations
to our
Christian Witness
Recipients for the
month of January!*



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/14 - Ash Wednesday
Mass, 8:30; Clam Chowder
Dinner, 4-7pm
- 2/15 - Gr. K-5 Read To
Ride Tracking Sheets Due
- 2/19 - 2/23 - **NO
SCHOOL**, Winter Recess
- 2/26 - School Resumes
- 3/2 - Christian Witness
Mass, 8:30
- 3/5 - 1:00 Dismissal,
Dress Down Day
- 3/9 - Mother/Son BINGO
6-8:00pm
- 3/16 - No School
- 3/19 - St. Joseph's Day
Feast, 6:00

FUNDRAISERS BY THE NUMBERS

SCRIP:

From Feb 5 – Feb 11, 2018, the Scrip rebate profit earned for the school was \$134.00.

Monthly Scrip	Monthly Scrip
<u>Sales Goal</u>	<u>Profit Goal</u>
\$30,000.00	\$1,500.00
February	February
<u>Sales-to-Date</u>	<u>Profit-to-Date</u>
\$5,325.00	\$266.63

From September 1, 2017 through February 11, 2018, the Scrip rebate profit earned by the school was \$8,967.02, which is excellent! I know that we can hit our goal every month if each family strives for a profit of \$250/year in Scrip rebates. Please contact the Scrip office at scrip@smeschool.com to find out how you can support this fundamental program.

CANDY BAR SALE:

ALL 931 boxes have left the building. So far we have collected \$41,000. We still have \$3,000 outstanding. **Please send your monies in.** Prize distributions will be sent home for all current accounts this week. A schedule of prize events will also come home at this time.

Mega Raffle:

Tickets Sold to date: **186**

Tickets Remaining: **464**

Did you get yours?!

The past two years we've sold out before the event!

FEBRUARY FREEZE TOURNAMENT

SME's February Freeze is here!

Join us this Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday for SME's Second February Freeze Basketball tournament! Come cheer on your SME teams!

If you ordered t-shirts, you may pick them up at the admissions table anytime during the tournament. There are also a few extra shirts that will be available for \$12 at the admissions table.

The first game times for our SME teams are:

- Girls 5th grade- 2/15, 5pm Parish Center
- Girls 6th grade- 2/17, 10:15 Gym
- Girls 7th grade vs. Girls 8th grade- 2/16, 5:00 gym
- Boys 5th & 6th- 2/15, 7:30 Parish Center
- Boys 7th grade- 2/15, 7:30 Gym
- Boys 8th grade- 2/16. 6:15 Gym

A full copy of the brackets are included with the electronic copy of the NewsNote today! Best of luck to all of our SME Teams!

Lenten Boxes and Cards are coming home today. Each year the students of SME participate in collecting donations (spare change) in their boxes to help with raising money for CATHOLIC CHARITIES. If your child is able to collect a donation we will need the boxes and cards returned by April 9, 2018 when we return from Easter Break. All proceeds will be donated to Catholic Charities.

There is a half page flyer in the blue folder outlining upcoming fun dress days as part of our Catholic Charities Collection.



Tonight St. Mary's is holding their annual Clam Chowder Dinner from 4-7. All are Welcome! Student volunteers should check in with Mrs. Pierce upon arrival.



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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

"...VISIBLE EXAMPLES OF GOSPEL
LIVING..."

DIOCESE GALA

The Buffalo Diocese Catholic Education Gala took place on Thursday February 1st. Joseph (8th grade) and Austin (6th grade) represented SME by showcasing our STREAM integration during the cocktail reception. Joe and Austin engaged attendees in conversation sharing with them all the wonderful things SME offers through our STREAM integration. They did a wonderful job and represented SME well!



BISON FUND



Giving Parents a Choice.
Giving Children a Chance.

As we welcome 2018 we are accepting Pre-Applications for funding for the 2018-2019 school year. Families should apply on-line through our web-site at <http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarships> The Pre-Application will only be available electronically again this year. The Pre-Application is only for families **new** to BISON. Our deadline is February 28, 2018.

Current families will be e-mailed a link to complete the requalification process starting on February 15, 2018. The families will log into the scholarship database and upload their financial information. As a reminder the deadline for that paperwork is April 13, 2018.

BENEFIT

A meeting is being held tomorrow, 2/15 @ 7pm at St. Mary's HS for anyone interested in volunteering at a benefit supporting the Lipiarz Family. The benefit will be held on April 29th at SMHS. For more information please contact Mrs. Wanat at 859john@gmail.com.

FROM THE KITCHEN

During Lent, the Friday Julienne Salads will have no meat. The salads will have cheese, hard boiled egg and a package of sunflower seeds.

This is for Ash Wednesday and Fridays during Lent only.

SPORTS REPORT

It's time to sign up for a Spring sport! If your child is interested in playing a Spring sport they must get a sign up form from the school nurse during their lunch period. **Deadline** for ALL sign ups are due no later than **Wed. Feb. 28th**.

Spring sports are as follows:



Boys volleyball- grades 5th-8th
Co-ed soccer- grades 1st-8th



Girls softball- grades 5th- 8th
Co-ed track- grades 3rd-8th



Your child may sign up for track AND another spring sport if they are interested. However, please note that there may be some conflicts playing 2 sports in 1 season.

Athletic fee is \$40.00 per athlete for volleyball, softball & soccer. The track fee is only \$20.00 per athlete.

Each athlete needs to have their OWN sign up form for the sport they wish to play, please do not add siblings onto 1 form. If your child is signing up for more than 1 sport, they need separate sign up forms for each sport. However, 1 check may be written for the total for a student playing multiple sports. One check is per family is also ok if there are multiple family members playing. (Ex. if a family has 2 children playing soccer and 1 playing volleyball and 1 member doing track, 1 check would be made payable to: St. Mary's elementary school for a total of \$140.00.)

Boys volleyball and Girls softball JV/Varsity Roster Info: Varsity = Grades 7 & 8 JV = 5 & 6

Adjustments to the varsity roster would only happen should there be a shortage of 7/8 students to fill the team; in which case 6th graders may be included. In the event the varsity roster is filled appropriately, 6th graders are **not** placed on a varsity team. In the event that there is not enough interest to form a JV team, there is simply not a JV team this season.

As always, any questions/concerns can be directed to Mrs. Julie Wipperman, Athletic Director at athletics@smeschool.com.

MISSION POSSIBLE

Round 2 of Mission Possible has begun and will run through April 15th.

**OUR GOAL IS TO DONATE 700
CANS/BOXES OF FOOD.**

To win, we need to surpass our goal. *During Round 1, we surpassed our goal by over 400%!*

Here are our goals for this period **per grade**:

PREK -1st grade = 50 cans

2nd grade- 6th grade = 60 cans

7th & 8th grades = 150 cans

Grand total = 700 cans

We are blessed by and thankful for your generosity and your willingness to serve others. The 8th grade Social Justice class will collect and count the cans each Friday throughout the challenge period. We will keep you updated in the newsnotes as to how we are doing.

Questions can be directed to Mrs. Hoag at hoagb@smeschool.com. Our 8th grade Social Justice Class is helping to lead this endeavor and I am very proud of their enthusiasm and participation.

Thank you and God Bless you,
Mrs. Hoag and the Social
Justice Class
hoagb@smeschool.com



MEGA RAFFLE

As a reminder, the Mega Raffle fundraiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families. So far, **51** of the tickets have been sold or purchased by school families – thank you for your support!! Please feel free to get creative with Social Media (posting this great opportunity to Facebook feeds, etc) as well as encourage multiple people to chip in on one ticket! Every ticket sold gets us closer to our goal and makes sure we have a successful drive! Thank you again for all of your continued support on this important fundraiser.

Prize winners will be announced at the live drawing on
Friday, June 1st at 6:30 in the Parish Center.



Flyers are available in the front office if you would like to bring them to your place of business to sell - people love a raffle!

If you are interested in joining our committee, or helping out the night of the event, please contact Mary Kate DeMarizo at megaraffle@smeschool.com or 510-1409.

GIRLS IN GRADES 3-8

You are invited to PJ Day at Mount Mercy Academy! Thursday Feb. 22nd, 2018. 9:00am-3:30pm

Spend one entire day of your February break in your pajamas. Bring a blanket or sleeping bag, and join us for a fun day of activities!

Register at : www.mtmercy.org/pjday or contact Molly Gasuik atmgasuik@mtmercy.org or 716-825-8796 ext 320



STAY IN THE KNOW

Save the Date: 2/14 Clam Chowder Dinner 4-7pm

Save the Date: February Freeze Basketball Tournament 2/15 - 2/18/18

Save the Date: 3/22 Winter Sports Banquet, 6-9:00 pm

Save the Date: 3/9 Mother Son BINGO, 6-8:00 pm

Save the Date: 4/29 Benefit for the Lipiarz Family @ SMHS

Read Across America Schedule of Events

Monday, February 26th – Fri. March 2nd, 2018



Attention Parents!

The week we return after Mid-Winter Break, Monday Feb. 26th to March 2nd is Read Across America Week commemorating Dr. Seuss (Theodore Geisel's) Birthday. SME students and staff will be celebrating in a variety of ways throughout the week. This year is the 21st Anniversary of Read Across America!

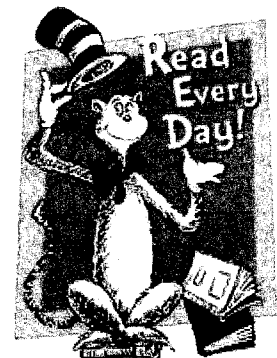
Daily Mystery Reader Contest: During morning announcements, the students will hear someone from SME reading a line from a Dr. Seuss story or quote. Students will need to identify who the reader is. The first student in class to give the correct response will be sent to the office where their name will be entered into a drawing to win a prize.

Caught Red Hatted Raffle: We are going to boost book interest by awarding raffle tickets to students "caught" reading for enjoyment during non-instructional time. A winner will be drawn at the end of the week from all of the entries to win a prize.

Special guest readers: will be visiting the classrooms throughout the week as well.

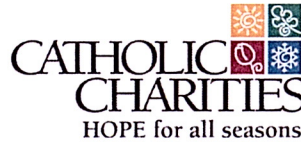
Surprise challenges: there will also be a surprise challenge during the week where prizes will be awarded.

- ★ Mon. 2/26: **Reader's Oath & Launch of Mystery Reader Contest:** SME School will take the Reader's Oath after the morning announcements to begin Read Across America week and then students will play the *Mystery Reader Contest* for the first time this week.
- ★ Tues. 2/27: **On The Places You'll Go-Day:** Students can dress in their favorite vacation shirt with uniform bottoms today. Otherwise students should be in uniform.
- ★ Wed. 2/28: **I'm Not Going to Get Up Today! - Day:** Just like in the story, we don't want to get up today, so what better way than to stay in your PJs? Today students may dress in school appropriate pajamas for \$1 (or more) to benefit Read to Succeed Buffalo (RSB). RSB provides a number of programs aimed at improving early childhood literacy here in our area.
- ★ Thurs. 3/1: **Dress as your favorite Dr. Seuss character & Reading Buddy Day:** SME students can dress as their favorite Dr. Seuss character today. Students may be out of uniform today only if they are dressed as their favorite Dr. Seuss character. Some suggestions: Thing 1 or 2, Red Fish, Blue Fish, The Lorax, Cat in the Hat, Starbelly Sneech, etc.... **Reading Buddy Day:** older students will pair up with younger reading buddies to read together today.
- ★ Fri. 3/2: **Read Across America Day/ and Cat in the Hat. Hat Day:** After mass today, students can wear their red and white striped, Cat in the Hat hats today to celebrate the official Read Across America Day.



Parents: If you have any connections with the press please share our good news with them. Let's brag to all about what a great school we have.

As always, remember to encourage your child to **READ, READ, READ**



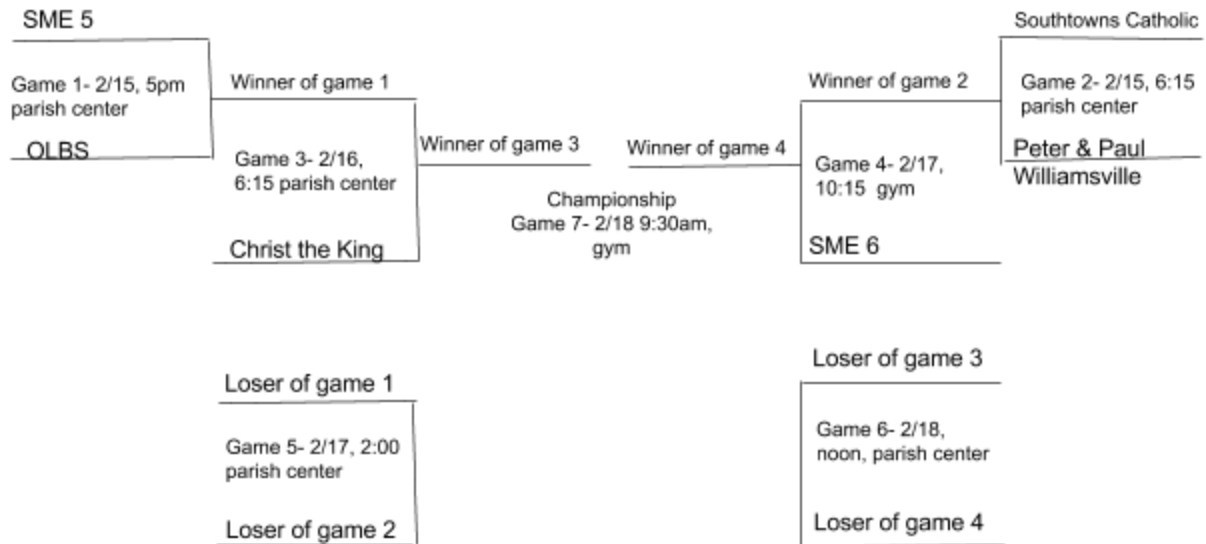
"FUN DRESS DAYS" to raise money for CATHOLIC CHARITIES

- **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018** - Dress Down in sports attire for \$1.00. The Bandits will be here for the day during gym classes. If your child(ren) have any Bandits attire, please have them wear it. The students may wear jeans but they must not have tears or holes in them.

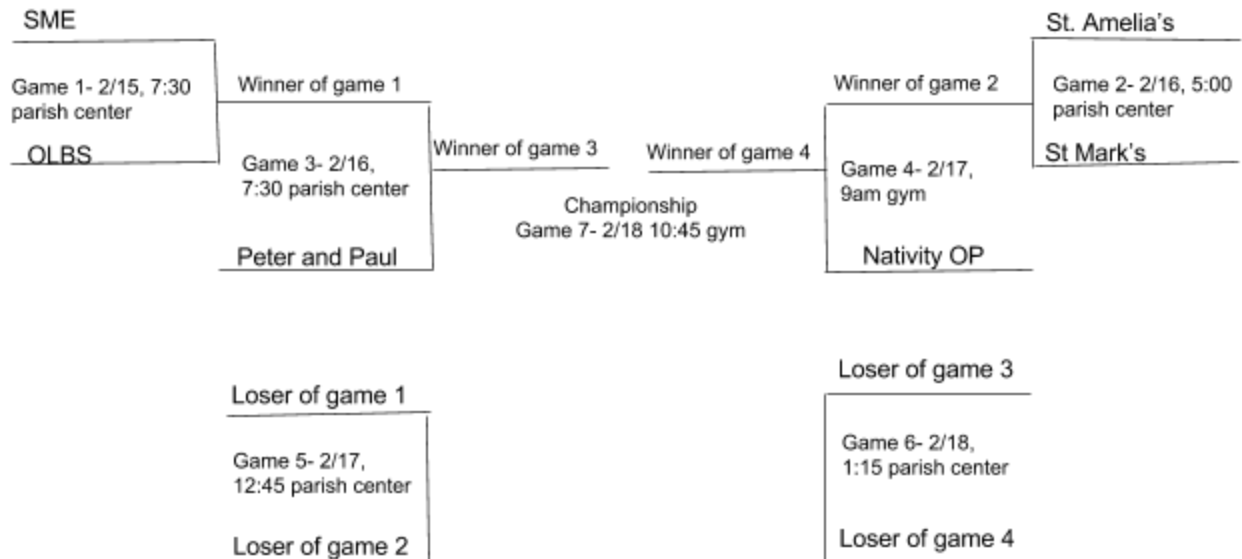
8th GRADE STUDENTS MUST BE IN THEIR SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR THEIR FIELD TRIP ON THIS DAY!!

- **THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018** – In honor of St. Patrick's Day – the students may dress in all GREEN from head to toe; students may come to school with green hair, but no green make-up. Jeans are allowed but must not have tears or holes in them.
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018** – Dress Down Day for \$1.00. Jeans are allowed but must not have tears or holes in them.

SME February Freeze JV Girls



SME February Freeze JV Boys



SME February Freeze Varsity Girls

Queen of Heaven

Game 1- 2/15, 5:00
gym

Nativity OP

Winner of game 1

Game 4- 2/18, noon
gym

Winner

SME 8

Game 2- 2/16, 5:00
gym

Winner of game 2

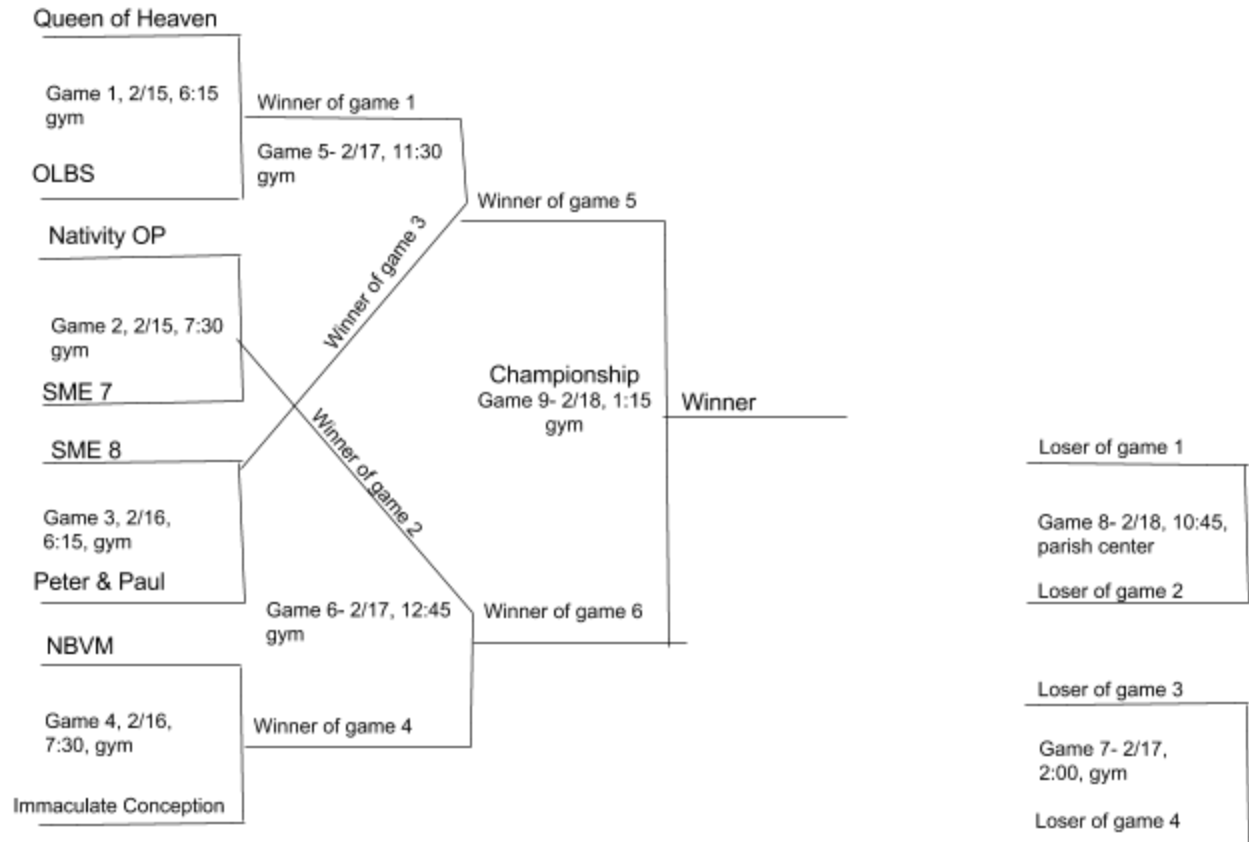
SME 7

Loser of game 1

Game 3- 2/18, 9:30am,
Parish Center

Loser of game 2

SME February Freeze Varsity Boys



To: All St. Mary's Elementary Families

From: Katie Parker RN, BSN

Date: February 2018

Regarding: Peanut and Tree Nut Free Snacks

Please remember that St. Mary's Elementary school has a strict policy regarding snacks and treats in the classroom. For the safety of all students here, all snacks and treats, which will be eaten in the classroom, brought in from home must be **PEANUT AND TREE NUT FREE**. Please be aware of advisory labels stating that a food item that "may have been manufactured in a facility that may contain peanuts/tree nuts" are also not safe.

We have numerous students here with severe life threatening allergies-please do your part to help keep them safe. I understand that checking food labels or finding a certain treat may be difficult and time consuming but this is what a parent/guardian of a food allergic child does numerous times throughout the day. Food labels are constantly changing; a once safe item may not be now...please check the label every time. We want all students here to feel safe and have fun during class parties. Please remember there are other ways to celebrate birthdays and holidays with non-food options.

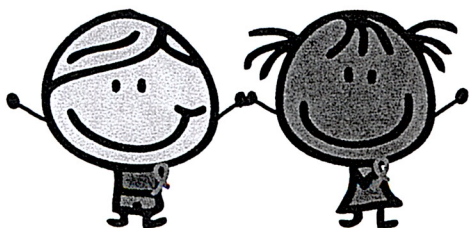
All treats brought in for parties must be checked prior to entering the classroom. Please remind your child to stop in the main office with their food item before going to the classroom in the morning.

Please see reverse side for some important tips and reminders for students to be a PAL.

Thank you for your understanding in this very important safety policy. As always, please contact me with any concerns....683-2112 ext 128 or parkerk@smeschool.com

Thank you!





Be a PAL® to Friends with Food Allergies

Did you know that 1 in 13 kids in the United States has a food allergy? That's about two kids in every classroom. For kids with food allergies, even a tiny amount of the food they are allergic to can make them very sick.

The most common food allergies are to milk, egg, peanuts, tree nuts (like walnuts and almonds), soy, wheat, fish, and shellfish (like shrimp and crab). But a person can be allergic to any food!

Since food allergies affect so many kids, it is good to learn how you can Be a PAL® to a friend with food allergies! Here's how:



Know that food allergies are very serious.

It's hard to believe that foods you eat every day can hurt others, but it's true!

If someone with a food allergy eats something they are allergic to, they can get very sick and sometimes have to go to the hospital.

If a friend or classmate has a food allergy, don't tease, bully or make fun of them. Tell an adult right away if you see other kids picking on someone with a food allergy,



Don't share your food with friends who have food allergies.

You can share jokes and laughs with your friends with food allergies, but don't share food. For kids with food allergies, sharing food can be very dangerous. So don't offer kids with food allergies anything from your lunch or snack. Why? Because it may have something in it that could make them very sick or hurt them.



Wash hands after eating.

Washing your hands with soap and water after you eat is very important. It's a good way to clean off any food that is on your hands.



Help all of your friends and classmates have fun together!

There are lots of ways to have fun without food! Listening to music, playing board or video games, making crafts, going for a bike ride, and playing sports are just some of the cool things you can do together. This way, everyone stays safe and has fun!



If a friend with food allergies feels sick, get help right away!

If your friend feels sick or thinks they may have eaten something they are allergic to, tell an adult right away or dial 911! They will make sure your friend gets help and gets the medicine they need to feel better.

**Save this handout so you won't forget how to Be A PAL®,
and Protect A Life From Food Allergies!**



foodallergy.org

Thank You to Our Exclusive Be a PAL® Sponsor





Faith Focus

This week's family connection activity is based on the Gospel reading for *Sunday February 18th*.

Peace,
Mrs. Hoag

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:12-15

Jesus is tempted in the desert by Satan.

Family Connection

**From Loyola Press*

The announcement that Jesus makes as he begins his preaching in today's Gospel is recalled on Ash Wednesday at the signing with ashes: "Repent and believe in the gospel." This is our challenge for Lent; indeed, it is the challenge of our entire life. During Lent, we are invited to strengthen and to renew the promises that we made at our Baptism, to reject Satan and sin so as to live as children of God. Through the grace of God that we received at Baptism, we follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit and know that with Jesus' help, we will be victorious over sin.

As you gather as a family, talk about the importance of Baptism. At our Baptism, our sins were forgiven, and we promised to live as children of God. As part of the Rite of Baptism, we rejected sin and Satan. **Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:12-15.** During Lent, we renew the promises of our Baptism, turning again from sin and promising to follow God. Light a candle, perhaps a candle used at one of your family member's Baptisms, and **pray together the Act of Contrition.**

Act of Contrition

Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you, and I detest all my sins because of your just punishments, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.

COMMON SENSE PARENTING

Do you find yourself
saying things you
later regret?

Do you argue with
your children about
their behavior?

Do you feel like all
you do is correct
your kids?

Do you use threats
that you won't
carry out?

Do you find the more
you punish, the more
your child misbehaves?

Do you repeat the
same instructions to
your child over and over?



Does parenting make you
feel like this?

**Common Sense Parenting brings
Parents like you together to address
Topics such as:**

Preventing Misbehaviors
Encouraging Positive Behaviors
Parents as Teachers
Correcting Problem Behaviors
Teaching Children Self Control
Handling Emotionally Intense Situations



...or you feel like this?

Classes Start: Wednesday, March 7, 2018
(Six Class Series: Mar 7, 14, 21, 28 & Apr 11, 18, 2018)

Where: Lancaster Youth Bureau
200 Oxford Ave. Lancaster

Time: 6:00 pm. – 8:00 pm.

Sponsored By: Lancaster Family Support Center

If you are interested in attending, please call to register before

March 2, 2018

(Space is limited to 30 registrants)

If you would like to register or need additional information

Please contact: Anne Monin 686-3806

Child Care will be provided