

**The Bulldog Barks**  
**April 23, 2021**

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Mr. Dennis-Principal

[randy.dennis@mystmarys.com](mailto:randy.dennis@mystmarys.com)

# HUGE

The Governor held a press conference yesterday with some news for many of our families. The House and Senate just passed the proposed budget. In that budget, there were changes to the funding of the Choice Scholarship which many of the families use to attend St. Marys. Here are the two points that stand out the most:

- The amount of income allowed to qualify has increased greatly. For instance, to get the full voucher, a family of 5 could earn \$57,424 currently. The income allowance has increased 300%. This means that the family could now have an income of \$172,272 and still qualify!
- Currently, people qualify for either a 50%, 70%, or 90% scholarship. They are doing away with those tiers. Going forward, everyone that qualifies will get the full 90%. For St. Mary's and St. Lawrence schools, the 90% covers our full tuition.

More news will be coming out about this soon. The bill was just passed yesterday and is awaiting the Governor's signature. I will continue to share information with you as things progress. This is fantastic news for all Catholic schools and their families!

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ILEARN testing will continue testing through next week. The testing is going well with very few problems. The students have been giving it their best with many feeling confident in their responses. Thank you for all you have done to get them prepared.

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We are continuing to advertise for our new lead preschool teacher in the bulletin and on the Archdiocesan website. I am excited to say that I have already received interest from some highly qualified candidates. If you know anyone who might be interested, there is still time to submit an application to our website. Please share this information with anyone who you think might be interested and would be a good fit for our growing preschool program. Please feel free to share the [link](#).

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The weather will be warm soon. We have five weeks left. It is hard to believe. Praise God for all that is good.

- We had a blast this week learning about weather, and such a crazy weather week we had.
- Thursday was Earth Day and we enjoyed some dirt pudding and planting grass heads. We will keep you posted on how much hair we grow.
- Alphabet: We learned all about the letter W this week. We made worms and windsocks. The kids loved reading the story *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* and making a craft with their favorite foods following from a cloud.
- Math: This week we focused on the number 20. They can now recognize and write numbers 1-20.
- Shapes: We keep getting better and better at recognizing our shapes everyday.
- Color: We can now spell the colors green yellow and orange! We did lots of activities all week with these colors.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Important Dates</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">5/7: Mission Festival!</p> <p>Start bringing in money to buy raffle tickets, the 8th graders will be selling them to us each day for the next couple of weeks.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Star Student!</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stella</p> <p>Favorite Color: Pink Favorite Snack: Fruit Snacks Favorite Animal: Horse Favorite Season: Summer Favorite Movie: The Grinch Favorite Book: <i>Lullaby Moon</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Next Weekly Focus!</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Letter: X</b> <b>Number: Review 1-20</b> <b>Colors: purple / orange</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Next Star Student!</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dawson</i></p>

**Kindergarten – Mrs. Denning**[amy.denning@mystmarys.com](mailto:amy.denning@mystmarys.com)

In phonics this week we will be working with 2 new digraphs, - **ch**- keyword-cheese, and **ee**- keyword-sheep. We will also review all digraphs learned, work with blends, read and write sentences, and get reader #14, "Three Rich Sheep". We will get our last "pop-up" word. That will make a total of 57 "pop-up" words.

In math we will work with money- pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. We will also identify and match equivalent sets, work with addition and subtraction story problems, and count by 2's to 100. Show-n-Tell for the week of April 25 is, "Student Choice". Please check your child's bag to see what letter was picked.

Midterm letters will be sent home Thursday, May 6. Please make sure to sign and return them to school. The letter will list all the skills that the children need to know for final evaluations. It would be helpful for your child if you would copy the "pop-up" (high-frequency) words to practice at home.

**Grade 1 – Ms. McPherson**[mcperson.1@mystmarys.com](mailto:mcperson.1@mystmarys.com)

In phonics the 1<sup>st</sup> graders will be learning the fourth and final sound of the letter a (as in wallet). We will also be learning the two sounds of digraph ei (as in receipt and veil), and digraph ew (as in cashew).

In math we are learning to round a number to the nearest tens, counting dimes, nickels and pennies, and identifying fractional parts of a whole.

Spelling test #22 will be on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Remember to study!

**Grade 2 – Mrs. Grove**[annmarie.grove@mystmarys.com](mailto:annmarie.grove@mystmarys.com)

Second grade went to the Art Gallery Thursday for a quick field trip. Mrs Beinkemper opened up the gallery just for us. On the way back to school we wore gloves and picked up litter in honor of Earth Day. Please pray for us as we prepare for our First Holy Communion. It will be at the 4:00 Mass on Saturday, May 8. Parents, don't forget to bring your first communicant and stay with them for the retreat next Saturday, May 1 from 10-12 in the parish office and church.

We are busy rehearsing for a play we want to present to some of the other classes in a couple of weeks. It is in the back of the Friends book that the students have at home. Ask them to read it to you since you won't be able to see their play. I will send pictures.

**Grade 3 and Grade 4- Mr. Rector**[adam.rector@mystmarys.com](mailto:adam.rector@mystmarys.com)

Hello Everyone! We will not have Spelling Words during the ILEARN. Third grade has tests Wednesday and Friday, and Fourth Grade has tests Monday Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Our Reading Log Goals are 17 days of reading for at least 20 minutes. There are 4 (as of Monday) more days in the month. Make sure you read enough to hit your goals! The newsletter is a bit wider than before, but now contains more specific information about what we are doing in class. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out. Thanks!

**Grade 5 and Grade 6 – Mrs. Rice**

**[suzy.rice@mystmarys.com](mailto:suzy.rice@mystmarys.com)**

Save empty paper towel tubes, tp tubes, paper board that can be bent and cut to send to Mrs. Rice’s room. We need these items for a stem project in a few weeks. We also can use donations of any kind of tape.

Testing continues next week, keep well rested and eat well each day and all weekend! Have a good book or 2 to read in case you have time after testing.

**Grade 7 – Mrs. Rector**

**[kim.rector@mystmarys.com](mailto:kim.rector@mystmarys.com)**

Students did a great job working hard on the ILEARN tests this week. They seemed to take it very seriously. A shout out goes to Mr. Dennis, Ms. Emily, and everyone else who provided snacks for the students for each testing day. We will finish up the ILEARN tests by next Friday. It will be good to get back into the regular routine for the last month of school. The midterm is next Friday and the report will be sent home the following week.

The seventh graders began reading *Fever 1793* in language arts class. It is interesting to read how the citizens of Philadelphia reacted in the time of an epidemic. The book came highly recommended by the eighth graders.

If you were admitted into the National Junior Honor Society, be sure to return the form that came with your letter to Mrs. Rector by next Wednesday. The induction ceremony will be on Sunday, May 2 at 7:00 PM. Student members should dress up.

Have a great week!

**Grade 8 – Mr. Waldon**

**[jim.waldon@mystmarys.com](mailto:jim.waldon@mystmarys.com)**

Our annual Mission Festival will be held on Friday afternoon, May 7th from 12:30 until 2:00 in the Activity Center. Help the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders raise money for several charities and mission causes! If you have white elephant items which we could use for prizes, we would gratefully accept them. (Please, don’t send prizes which were won in previous years.) We plan to have face painting, ring toss, free throw, other games, cake walks, refreshments, a jail, many prizes, pie-in-the-face, and lots of fun. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

We have the majority of ILEARN behind us! This next week, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will test on Thursday and Friday mornings, so again we advise that they get a good night’s rest, eat a good breakfast, and just try their best.

Thanks to Marge Waldon for visiting us on Wednesday and telling us about growing up during the Great Depression. Our time went too fast, but we enjoyed her answers to the students’ questions and a glimpse into her childhood.

KEEP IN MIND THAT ALL RELIGION AND VOCABULARY BOOKS SHOULD BE KEPT IN STUDENT BACKPACKS WHEN NOT IN USE, AS WELL AS THE NOVEL WE ARE CURRENTLY READING. THIS IS AN ONGOING ASSIGNMENT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. Whether students are at home or at school, the materials should be in the backpack when they are not in use.

God bless you!

**Cafeteria/Playground**

Contact Aimee Hollingsworth at 744-8738, to sign up for cafeteria and playground duty. The schedule is online at [www.mystmarys.com](http://www.mystmarys.com), under “Student Life”, under “Cafeteria/Playground”. If you can fill in one of the open positions, you can call the school office to let us know!

**Lunch:**

- 11:00 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. – K-1
- 11:30 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. – Grades 2 - 4
- 11:40 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. - PreK
- 12:00 p.m. – 12:25 p.m. – Grades 5 – 8

**Recess:**

- 11:35 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. – Grades K – 1
- 12:00 p.m. – 12:25 p.m. – Grades 2 – 4

**Cafeteria and Playground hours:**

**Cafe:** First lunch is served at 11:00 a.m., so arrive 10 – 15 minutes early. Serve three lunch periods and help clean up kitchen, wash dishes, etc.

**Playground:** First recess is at 11:35 a.m., so arrive 10 – 15 minutes early. You will help the teacher supervise students on playground, Activity Center or at the park (depending on weather).

**Cafeteria Volunteers:**

4/26-Diane Patterson, 4/27-Kay Gigerich, 4/28 Marge Waldon, 4/29-Jill Zigan, 4/30-Lisa Grove

**Playground Volunteers:**

4/26-HELP NEEDED, 4/27-Connie Powers, 4/28-HELP NEEDED, 4/29-HELP NEEDED, 4/30-HELP NEEDED

**\*\*We need more playground volunteers. If you can help on any day, please call the school office at 812-926-1558!**

**Lunch Menu: ~~\$17.50 per ticket (5 meals)~~ All meals are free for all students, until further notice.**

26 3-Way Tossed Salad Green Beans Fruit Milk	27 Chicken Patty On Bun Corn Green Beans Fruit Milk	28 Hamburger or Pizza burger FF Baked Beans Fruit Milk	29 Cheese Stuffed Bread Stick w/ Pizza Sauce Broccoli Fruit Milk	30 Sliced Turkey Mashed Potatoes Corn Sliced Bread Fruit Milk
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I am Nicole Eaglin, and I am the Box Tops for Education Coordinator for St. Mary's School. For those of you not familiar with Box Tops for Education, there are several products our school is able to earn money on just because we purchase those items. St. Mary's receives \$.10 for every Box Top label submitted.



Box Tops money may be earned two ways. Some products have labels on the box that you can turn into your child's teacher. I take care of submitting these for reimbursement.

Now Box Tops has gone digital. Just download the Box Tops for Education App. If you purchase items that have a digital label, just scan your receipt. Our school will earn money and receive a check for those items. If you need any help setting up your app or if you simply have any questions, please contact me at [nreaglin@comcast.net](mailto:nreaglin@comcast.net). I appreciate all of your help in earning money for St. Mary's School.

### **Ronald McDonald – pop tabs**

To many, a pop tab is just a piece of aluminum with one purpose – to open a can. But to Ronald McDonald House Charities, these teeny tiny pop tabs are a valuable resource. Why? Collected pop tabs are recycled, generating much-needed funds to support the House and the nearly 5,000 families we serve each year.



Funds received from the recycling of tabs typically add up to between \$30,000 and \$50,000 annually. All this money goes to the operating expenses of the Ronald McDonald House Charities and can cover the cost of operating 3 rooms in the House for an entire year.

Thanks to generous school children, families, businesses, clubs, and churches, over one billion pop tabs have been donated since the program's inception in 1995, generating more than \$820,000 in pop tab revenue for the House.

There is a yellow can by the FYI Board in the school lobby. Send in any pull tabs with your child(ren) and we will get them to the appropriate person.

# Calendar of Events:

Wednesday, April 28, 2021	Mass at 9:00 –Giving Basket
Sunday, May 2, 2021	Induction Ceremony NHS 7:00 pm
Monday, May 3, 2021	6-8 Academic Super Bowl Competition
Wednesday, May 4, 2021	Mass at 9:00
Friday, May 7, 2021	Mission Festival
Saturday, May 8, 2021	First Communion @ 4:00 mass
Wednesday, May 12, 2021	Mass at 9:00; May Crowning
Thursday, May 20, 2021	Awards Banquet (Extra Curricular) 7:00 pm
Tuesday, May 25, 2021	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation 6:00 pm
Wednesday, May 26, 2021	No Mass Kindergarten Graduation 1:00 pm
Friday, May 28, 2021	Mass and Ceremony starting at 12:30 Last Student Day

## School Theme for 2020/2021

Friends I have a youtube video of our school theme song. I think the words: Your Grace is Enough will work well for this crazy time.

Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LISbMRp0Y64>

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Rev. Benjamin Syberg  
Pastor of St. Mary's and St. Lawrence Catholic Churches



**Join us on Social Media:**

- Like. Follow. Share on Facebook: **[St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception](#)**

- Follow us on Instagram: [myst.marys](https://www.instagram.com/myst.marys)

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Sara Dennis – Spanish (3-8) .....[sara.dennis@mystmarys.com](mailto:sara.dennis@mystmarys.com)