



## Wildcat Weekly

A Weekly Newsletter from St. Mary's Academy

### National Blue Ribbon for the Lower School!

#### Great news to share with our community!

Today, the Department of Education announced that St. Mary's Academy Lower School is a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence! We are the only private school in the state of Colorado to receive the award this year.

This honor recognizes overall academic excellence and our students' accomplishments, and the hard work and dedication from faculty, staff, parents, and community members that went in to their success.

Stay tuned for more news about celebratory events! We are very grateful and very excited about this wonderful news.



### Community News

**Fall Festival is on Sunday!** 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM. This year's event will feature fun for the entire family! Come enjoy the following:

- Avid 4 Adventure Climbing Wall
- Photo Booth
- Magic Rob! Performances at 11:45 and 12:45
- Bouncy Obstacle Course and Slide
- Cake Walk
- Arcade Games
- Face Painting
- Food, snacks, drinks and music!

Click [here](#) for tickets!



We need many volunteers to make this event a success, please click [here](#) to volunteer. We also



need volunteers to provide cakes for the ever-popular Cake Walk. This is an easy way to help out! Click [here](#) to sign up to bring a cake.

### **Attention Parents!** We need your pictures!

Do you take pictures at your child's sporting event, concert? play? If you do, we would love your photos! Please forward them to Kathleen Hogan at [khogan@stmarys.academy](mailto:khogan@stmarys.academy). We are always looking for great pictures ALL YEAR LONG! Thank you.

### **Celtic Journey: Ireland and Scotland**

Our trip is a "go," and there are a few remaining spaces! SMA High School is planning an 11-day student trip in June of 2017. Led by Ms. Horning and Dr. Lee, and facilitated by EF Educational Tours, this is an invitation to a pilgrimage of adventure and personal discovery. Highlights include the Book of Kells in Dublin, the "peace-line" in Belfast, and hiking on the small Inner Hebrides Island of Iona, in Scotland, settled by Columba and his monks in 563. Our trip concludes in Edinburgh. This trip is designed for students of any faith tradition or none, based on the belief that personal reflection in historical places of both wild and "civilized" beauty contribute to our growth as human beings. A parent and student interest meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5 at 6:00 PM in Ms. Horning's room in the High School. Applications will be available at that time, and space is limited. This will be a unique and memorable journey!



**The Presto Orchestra** will perform on Saturday, December 10, at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House before Colorado Ballet's Nutcracker. Click [here](#) to order tickets! Click [here](#) to view seating.

### **Alumnae & Community Mass**

Sunday, October 2; 10:00 AM: High School Forum

Join our alumnae as they gather for Mass during SMA's annual Reunion Weekend. This year, we are opening up the Mass to our current families and we invite you to come celebrate alongside our alumnae and their families. A pastry and juice reception will follow Mass and then everyone is invited to head to the quad for Fall Festival. To RSVP, email [Molly del Monte](mailto:Molly.del.Monte).

## **Lower School News & Events**

- Thank you to the Lower School for contributing over 1000 cans of food to Southwest Improvement Council. The staff members were extremely grateful, commenting on the high quality of food, not to mention the quantity. This was the most successful of the five previous drives, exceeding the best by nearly 275 cans. Thank you for your generosity to this Loretto-affiliated organization!
- SMA (So Many Awesome) Dads Club will be hosting a pumpkin decorating table at the Fall Festival. If you are a Dad and would like to volunteer some time for this table, please email [Elizabeth Dowling](mailto:Elizabeth.Dowling) and let her know!



### **Events:**

- September 29; 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM: Fifth grade students individually visit the Middle School and shadow a current Middle School student for the day. Please drop off and pick up as usual.
- Friday, September 30: All fifth grade students visit the Middle School for half day. Pizza will be served!
- October 17; 8:30 AM: Paul Ernst, father to Cole Ernst in Kindergarten, will host a breakfast for LS Dads at his family's Original Pancake House on University and Orchard. An E-vite will be sent to all LS Dads soon!

## Middle School News & Events

### News:

- On Friday of last week, Middle School CAT teams competed in the annual CAT challenge games. Members of each CAT had friendly competitions in soccer, dodgeball, flag football and volleyball to mention a few. At the end of these games, each CAT nominated another team for good displays of sportsmanship.
- MS conferences are coming up on Oct 6 and 7. If you have not signed up for a conference time, please call Diane Siennicki in the Middle School Office at 303-762-8300.
- **PCR Parent Portal!**



1. Click on the [Parent Portal link](#) and click the orange reset password link to set your initial password.
2. You will need to enter your email address as your user name and check your email to go through the reset process; please check your SPAM folders if you have not received an obvious password reset.
3. Subsequently, you will be able to find a link to the PCR Portal under [Resources on the St. Mary's Academy website](#) (All Academy) - you will need to choose the Parent thumbnail.
4. Please bookmark your Parent Portal login page for easy access later!
5. From there, we invite you to tour and click around the portal. The site is self-explanatory and simple to use.
6. Problems? Issues? Email us at [helpdesk@stmarys.academy](mailto:helpdesk@stmarys.academy).

### Events:

- October 3,4,5: Eighth grade girls will be visiting the SMA High School! Have questions? Please email [Gracie Carr](#).

## High School News & Events

### News:

- Congratulations to seniors **Ceili Sauer** and **Annie Hess**! Both have been named Semifinalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program! These academically talented High School seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition.
- The [Colorado VisionWalk](#) is an annual Foundation Fighting Blindness event to raise awareness and funds for research into retinal diseases like high school senior **Miranda Loughry's**. This year's walk will be held from 9:00 to 11:30 AM on October 8, 2016 in City Park. Join her team [Miranda Means Miracle](#) for an inspiring, community-oriented morning with family-friendly activities and fantastic entertainment, and help cure blindness along the way.



## Admissions News & Events

### Middle School News



Mark your calendars for the following Middle School dates:

- **Sept. 29;** 8:30 AM-2:30 PM: Fifth grade students individually visit the Middle School and shadow a current Middle School student for the day. Please drop off and pick up as usual.
- **Friday, September 30:** All Fifth grade students visit the Middle School for half the day. Pizza for lunch!
- **Tuesday, October 4;** 8:00 AM: Parents are invited for coffee with Middle School Principal Martha Ashley. Student/Principal Panel, Q & A. Location: Middle School Commons.
- **Tuesday October 18;** 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM: Middle School Preview.



## High School News

Mark your calendars for the following High School dates:

- **Oct. 3, 4, 5;** 8:15 AM - 2:15 PM: SMA Eighth grade girls will be visiting the High School and shadowing a current High School student.
- **Saturday, October 22;** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Join us for our SMA High School Open House. Sixth, Seventh and Eighth grade girls and their parents are welcome to enjoy student-ambassador led tours and take the opportunity to meet our outstanding high school faculty. For questions please email [Gracie Carr](#).

## Advancement News

Save the Date for Grandparents' Day!

Friday, November 18. [Click here for more information](#). Invitations will be mailed to our grandparents in October. Click [here](#) to fill out our Grandparent Contact Information Update form to be sure that your grandparent receives an invitation.



Give to SMA

## Alumnae News

SMA Middle School alumna **Dr. Lisa Damour** reconnected with **Joy Gerity '58**, her Middle School principal, and **Sister Regina Drey**, one of her teachers, when she spoke in Denver about her bestselling book *Untangled: Guiding Teenage Girls Through the Seven Transitions into Adulthood*.

Enjoy some of her advice to parents from her [New York Times column and CBS News appearances](#).



## Athletic News

**Wins for High School and Middle School Field Hockey!**

Congratulations to our High School Varsity Field Hockey for their dominating 4-1 over Arapahoe on Tuesday night. The

Congratulations to our High School varsity Field Hockey for their dominating 4-1 over Arapahoe on Tuesday night. The Wildcats were quick to the ball and fought to capitalize on their many shots against the Warriors. Goals were scored by 11th grader and captain, **Reagan Rychucky** (1), 10th grader, **Lily Loftus** (2), and 9th grader **Hailey Rhine** (1). A special thank you to **Sr. Vicki** for her presence and support during the match!

Way to go SMA Middle School Field Hockey for their strong 1-0 win against Denver Field Hockey Club. The Wildcats worked well staying spread out and committing to strong give-and-go passes. With the help of a tenacious defense and smart passing through the midfield, 7th grader, **Kate Seneshen** found a break-away to the circle, pulled around the goalie and slammed the backboard for the only goal of the game.

### Upcoming Home Games:

Friday, September 30  
Field Hockey v. Cheyenne Mountain  
4:30 PM and 5:45 PM

Monday, October 3  
Volleyball v. Front Range Christian  
5 PM and 6 PM



**Go Wildcats!**



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