

St. Andrew Parish School

School † *Church* † *Community*

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*“St. Andrew Parish School is where faith and knowledge meet.
We are called to Teach, Reflect, and Live the Gospel”.*

Parent Newsletter – February 20, 2017

Greetings St. Andrew Parish Families,

We are hoping that with this recent “warm spell” we are currently having continues. Having the sun on your face and the feeling of warmth touch the skin is refreshing after a long winter; hoping you and your family are able to enjoy the outdoors.

Recent Events / Gratitudes

After each week passes, it is almost impossible to thank every person who helps keep this ship afloat and sailing forwards. I'd like to thank the PSA for hosting the 2nd Annual Laser Tag event last Friday. Thank you to all Parents, Staff, and Students who enjoyed this fun activity. Thank you Dr. Giovanna Moses for helping to bring, coordinate, and implement such a fun activity for all to share.

I'd like to again thank the PSA and many gracious donors who have helped purchase new tables for the School. For those who have had the pleasure lifting the old, nuclear-atom bomb fallout shelter tables, you too will appreciate how this will help the School and Parish.

I'd like to triple commend the PSA for the gracious lunch they provided to the Staff on Friday as they came back to School ready to initiate and implement Best Practice in Evaluation. Fueled bodies can create wonderful things; thank you for your generosity.

I'd like to thank the hard work of the St. Andrew's Teaching Staff for their participation, hard work, and commitment to learning Best Practice in Assessment and

Evaluation. These foundations in accurately, authentically measuring what a Student actually knows measured in growth learning Skills versus Memory or Behavior.

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Within the ideologies of Content-Skills based a.k.a.: Standards Based Grading, skills are separated by target goals and standards. These standards are measured by areas such as: Advanced (Beyond Grade Level), Proficient (At Grade Level), Basic (At Grade Level but need some supports), and Minimal (No Skill Acquisition, need multiple supports). We design our lessons to enrich, remediate, and differentiate our students; no longer is the mantra “one size fits all”.

We also separate behavior from skill acquisition. Behavior can be something that influences grades, but isn't the factor that determines whether actual learning took place. Weighting grades for learning helps this. Formatives: (classwork, homework, quizzes, observation, group/cooperative circles) are examples of the “practice” for learning. These practices are “weighted” at a much lower percentage than a Summative (The Big Test). Formative Learning is ongoing, fluid, forward, backwards, sideways. This is the time we teach, reteach, teach, practice, quiz, reteach, practice, etc. Think of this time as the “practice time in basketball”: I'm practicing my dribbling, passing, shooting, running, offense, and defense so I can be successful for the Big Game. MAPS Testing is a form of Formative Learning; ongoing measure of growth and practice to help me build better skills.

Summative Learning is the measure of those skills that match that specific learning standard. Summatives are used to measure growth and skill acquired or not acquired. Summatives are not a “one and done” by design. As we learn, the continuum for learning defines learning not as a straight path, but maybe as an “etcha-sketch” gone crazy; it's all directions, not just linear. Summative Learning by design should be weighted more as it is the measure of the skills acquired towards the standards.

As Best Practice in Assessment and Evaluation continue to evolve, we must too. In education and learning, we experiment, we take chances. We learn what works, what doesn't, make modifications, and make it better. Simply relying on a John Dewey system of education does not meet the rigor and needs for today's students and in education; it hinders it.

In your student's Math classes, you will see for the 3rd Quarter and for the rest of the year, that your Teacher is experimenting like a student would be and learning Standards Based Grading and Evaluation too. We are separating Formatives from Summatives. We will be learning about Homework Best Practices, Homework Club after School, and what Skill Support at home should like. To get a better “picture” of what this means for you, your student, and St. Andrews, I will be explaining in greater detail during our “Town Hall Meeting” on Wednesday, March 15th at 6:30p.

I'd Like to thank Mrs. Heather Smith and Mrs. Laura VanderVeen for helping our little ones prepare for Sunday's Student Mass; it's always wonderful celebrating the Eucharist with the kids.

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Parish Communication

It's been an unusual past 2 weeks in regards to communication; especially when one speaks of "Social Media". To give further brief insight on the "do's & dont's" of what how we can safely share, please read the attached enclosure. I will be speaking with each School Committee to help understand the necessary changes. Shelley Koch can speak of any said changes on the Parish behalf. If anyone has any questions, please see Father Bill, Ed Clair, or myself. Thank you for attention to this safety measure.

There have been some recent, specific changes in 2nd Grade 1st Communion Procedures and Requirements. These directions went home with our 2nd Grade Families last week Tuesday and Thursday. If you have any questions about Schedules and Requests, please direct them to Miss Chambers, me, or please contact the Rectory Office / Father Bill. Thank you.

There will be a Parish Staff meeting scheduled this Thursday, 4p. Please contact your Parish Staff Representative if you need something forwarded to the Parish Staff.

This coming Friday, 2/24, the 7th Grade is scheduled for the Student Mass at 8:45a and next Wednesday, March 1st (Ash Wednesday), the 5th Grade will be hosting the Student Mass at 8:45a. Hope to see you there.

2017 Parish Summer Festival planning is underway. If you have any questions on how one can help, or what is needed, please reach out to Shelley Koch in the Parish Office. Thank you all who help make this a spectacular event!!

School Communication

Primary News (K-2)

Ms. Pearce on behalf of St. Andrew is excited to invite parents, family members, and prospective students to the Kindergarten Open House scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, to start at 6p. Activities will include an information presentation for Parents, and exploration for our new "lil" Spartans to be. Please see enclosed flyer for more info. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Pearce at spearce@standrewsparishschool.com. Thank you.

Miss Chambers in 2nd Grade is asking that all Student/Family 1st Communion Schedule Requests can either be emailed or sent in to her no later than, Wednesday, Feb. 22. If you have any questions, please email at: kchambers@standrewsparishschool.com

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Middle School News (5-8)

We kindly remind parents that our 7th graders will be hosting Mass on Friday, 2/24, our 5th Graders on Ash Wednesday, 3/1; both at 8:45a.

Homework Club supports Middle School Students from Tuesday-Thursday, 3:30p-4p. This a great way to get some more individualized attention when one needs help with skill development. There will be NO Homework Club this Thursday, 2/23 due to Staff Professional Development on that day. If you have any questions, please contact your Student's Teacher or please call Main Office. Thank you.

The 8th Grade Students will be hosting a Fundraiser on Sunday, March 5th starting at 10a at the Waterfront Restaurant. Many of the proceeds raised from this event will help our Students and Families raise monies for their DC Field Trip. Any questions, please contact Mrs. Deb Amici at: damici@standrewsparishschool.com. Thank you.

We will be hosting a "Middle School Spring Fling" Dance for 5th-8th Graders on Friday, March 10th from 6p-8p. This event is being sponsored by our 8th Grade Student Council and is actually a fundraiser for the American Lymphoma/Leukemia Society. There will be a live DJ and Dancing in the Gym. There will be concessions and food served in the cafeteria. A flyer will be coming home in this week's Student Folder. Thank you Miss Compall and Student Council for your hard work.

Special Area Content (Art, Music, Phy-Ed, Spanish)

Thank you for all of our Spartans who exercised their hearts on Friday, 2/10 at School with their participation in this year's American Heart Association Jump Rope for Heart. For those who chose to raise monies, please make sure you have all monies turned in by Friday, 2/24. Mr. Trow will then be forwarding it to the AHA for prize awards. Thank you.

Ms. Marsicano had sent home recent 2nd Semester Art Club Schedule. If you have any questions, please email Ms. Mariscano at: nmariscano@standrewsparsihschool.com. Thank you.

School Committee News

With recent timelines and terms of serving are ever changing, we currently have a vacancy need on the School Committee. This specific person was the liaison to the Athletics Committee. If you are interested, please contact Ed Clair (Committee Chair) and/or Chip Robers (Vice Chair) if you have any questions. Thank you.

Parent School Association (PSA) News

1. St. Andrew Annual Fund:

I want thank Hollie Lefel with her efforts for trying to get 100% participation with all classes for the St. Andrew's Annual Fund. Let's show our students, our families, and our Parish that we are too invested financially in our school. It's not about the amount, it's always about did we try, did we give it our best shot? Please continue to support the Annual Fund. Any questions, please contact Hollie or the Main Office directly. Thanks.

2. Box Tops for Education:

Box Tops Update - We are soooooo close to our goal of \$1000!

REMINDER - Our last date for turning in Box Tops to meet our goal for the current school year is this Friday, February 17th!

(1) Keep clipping Box Tops! Please ask family, friends and co-workers to clip and save for St. Andrews, too!

Box Tops can be turned in at school or in a bright pink box at the back of church.

(2) Enter these current Box Tops sweepstakes DAILY (takes less than one minute! Hefty Clean Start Sweepstakes - Five schools will win 5,000 Bonus Box Tops for St. Andrews (A value of \$500.00).

Enter once a day through February 19th, 2017.

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/sweepstakes/2017/hefty-clean-start>

I Love My School Sweepstakes - Five schools will win 5,000 Bonus Box Tops for St. Andrews (A value of \$500.00).

Enter once a day through March 12th, 2017.

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/sweepstakes/2017/i-love-my-school>

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(3) Keep an eye out for specially-marked packages containing Box Tops Bonus Codes. When entered online, you can win 1 Million Box Tops for St. Andrews (A value of \$100,000.00!)

Use this website to enter codes: <https://www.1millionboxtops.com>

(4) Download the Box Tops app on your Apple or Android smartphones. Scan your receipt to earn bonus Box Tops.

Any questions, please contact Heather Kucharski at DandHKucharski@hotmail.com!
Thanks for your support!

3. **School Spirit Wear:**

After speaking with Greg at MMPR, the St. Andrew Spirit Wear Online Store is open and will remain open until the end of the school year! Greg also tells me not only embroidered items but silk-screen items will be avail as well as MMPR is going above and beyond for St. Andrews. We recently opened up an opportunity to order **Adidas Polos** as well; there is much to choose from. The Spring Collection should be coming out next month. Until then, please visit the following website to directly order your Spirit Wear. Remember, monies from all sales go directly back to the School with every purchase!

<http://www.mmprinc.net/product-category/andrew16/>

4. **Lights of Love:**

The Lights of Love - Help commemorate the special people in your life by purchasing a love light in their honor. These lights are dedicated to celebrating the special people in all of our lives, especially during this Easter Season. Whether they are in your life daily or with you in spirit only. Forms to go home in Home Envelopes. Please fill out and turn in by March 22nd. Thank you Mrs. Mary Robers for your efforts on this.

5. **Trivia Night:**

Break out your thinking caps, Alex Trebek wisdom, and come join St. Andrew in Round #2 of "Trivia Night"! Come join the fun with adult laughs and spirits on Friday, March 17th in the School Cafeteria. Please see attached flyer for details.

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6. **Next Meeting:** Monday, February 27th, at 6p in the Teacher's Work Room. All are welcome.

Athletics News

"Job Well Done"! To all Coaches, Parents, Staff Members, Volunteers, Parish Members, and Students who had a great 2016-2017 Athletic Experience. Final Numbers are not out yet. With more than 80% Student Participation, we know how valuable Athletics, Sportsmanship, TeamWork, and Hard Work can lead to greater successes in life and off of the court as well. If you have to yet turn in any equipment, please contact your Coach or drop off at the Main Office. Thank you.

IT Committee News

Thank you for all who support, volunteer, and plan the Tech needs of the School to help us align ourselves to become a "21st Century" School. In doing so, we are in the middle of installing a SmartBoard and Projector in our Music Room, updating the Library Inventory Program, and trying to update our Building WI-FI ability to plan for incoming technology possibly in the near future. We will keep you updated on recent Tech events such as: "Robotics Club" and even our proposed Project Lead the Way. Our next scheduled meeting will be: Thursday, March 9th at 7a in the School Library. Anyone is welcome to attend. Thank you.

Professional Learning Community News

1. If we are in doubt of what is transpiring in your student's) classroom? I highly encourage you to visit their **Classroom Teacher's Google Home-Page or Option C** for items such as: Homework, Special Events, Quizzes, Tests, any all pertinent information to that Teacher and/or Subject Area. Any questions, please contact that Teacher directly. If you can not read, nor have any questions and further assistance after those attempts (at least 2), then contact me to help out as much as I can. Thanks.

2. **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Fun and Exploration:**

UW Rock County will be hosting a Middle School (6-8) STEM Exploration day on Feb. 25, Hyatt Hall at the UW-Rock County Campus in Janesville. Please see attached flyer for more details. Thank you Mrs. Quartucci for bringing this forward.

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3. **Aram Library Happenings for February and March:**

Please visit the Aram Library Website at: aramkids@aramlibrary.org

4. **PM-After School Pick Up**

Just a gentle reminder for parents, grandparents, and guardians, please make sure we are picking our students up from the School/Parish Parking Lot not the Rectory area and please try to have your Visor Sign displayed so we can transition students more safely and quickly. Thank you.

5. **Leadership / Volunteer Opportunities**

We appreciate all of those who volunteer, chaperone, coach, and do amazing things for our students. If one is interested, one must have completed the "SafeGuarding" training from the Archdiocese. If you are interested, please contact Shelly Koch at 262-728-5922 for more info. Thanks.

6. **Certified/Substitute Teaching:**

If you know someone who is **certified to teach or substitute teach** with a current Wisconsin DPI License, and who may be interested in substitute teaching here at St. Andrew, please forward their name and contact information. Thank you.

7. **Noon Recess Supervision Lottery Winners for the Week of 2/20-2/24:**

Ms. Lisa Woolridge

Message from Archbishop Listecki

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the past few weekends we have heard the Gospel call to be peacemakers (Mt. 5:9) and Isaiah's exhortation to shelter the oppressed and the homeless (Is. 58:7). We try to fulfill that in our own lives and in our Catholic institutions. In light of the Gospel, we also evaluate our society and our government. In the current political climate, we seem to be shouting at one another, which means no one can be listening to one another.

Our government needs to defend and promote the common good, which requires peace, that is, the stability and security of a just order. Government leaders have the difficult task of balancing many different things, including the rights of immigrants, particularly, the rights of refugees, and the protection and the security of the country.

The Church proclaims the non-negotiable right of a person to migrate: "Every human being has the right to freedom of movement and of residence within the confines of his own State. When there are just reasons in favor of it, he must be permitted to emigrate to other countries and take up residence there. The fact that he is a citizen of a particular State does not deprive him of membership in the human family, nor of citizenship in that universal society, the common, world-wide fellowship of men" (St. John XXIII, Pacem in Terris, 25).

Many Catholics around the world are concerned with the executive order of President Trump that halted refugee resettlement for 120 days; banned individuals from seven countries that were deemed troublesome by the prior administration for 90 days; and decreased the number of U.S. refugee resettlements in 2017 from 110,000 to 50,000. Recognizing the President, as Commander in Chief, has a duty to protect the security of the

country, I would invite the President to prayerfully reconsider any attempt at a permanent refugee ban.

The Church has successfully settled refugees for decades, including through our own Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. In doing so, we uphold the dignity of those

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who flee persecution and violence. The indiscriminate halting of this emigration violates the rights of those refugees who are attempting to protect their lives and the lives of their families.

Regarding the issue of immigration, Saint John Paul II wrote: "The Church considers the problem of illegal migrants from the standpoint of Christ, who died to gather together the dispersed children of God, to rehabilitate the marginalized and to bring close those who are distant, in order to integrate all within a communion that is not based on ethnic, cultural or social membership, but on the common desire to accept God's word and to seek justice" (World Migration Day, 1996).

Our efforts must be in unifying families and helping immigrants in the long process of integration into our society. I would also respectfully ask the President whether the construction of a wall on the U.S. and Mexican border is the most appropriate way to achieve the security sought by a democratic society.

The Catholic Church will continue to work with the President and his administration to ensure our nation preserves both time-honored values and its security.

To help all of us pray and reflect upon these issues, I have asked Father David Reith, Vicar for Catholic Charities and Father Javier Bustos, Vicar for Hispanic Ministry to put together the following points of reflection for use individually or with members of your parish.

Through the intercession of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the patron saint of immigrants and St. Alban, the patron saint of refugees, may God's blessings be upon you.

With assurance of prayers, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki
Archbishop of Milwaukee*

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Dr. Cepelka (Arch Superintendent of Schools) News

To Teach As Jesus Did: Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Lent in Our Catholic Schools

Soon the beautiful season of Lent, the Church's annual opportunity for retreat, repentance, and renewal, will be upon us. Soon we'll begin the journey of 40 days of "regular time" during which we're called to reflect on our lives and develop new ways of thinking and acting that are consistent with the Gospel. In short, as we will hear on Ash Wednesday, we'll soon be entering the time for us all to turn back to God.

I urge all school communities to plan carefully for Lent 2017. Each school is challenged to consider a school-wide theme, based on Scripture, and to implement specific practices based on the three primary Lenten themes of prayer, almsgiving, and fasting.

Examples of each may include:

Prayer: daily opportunities for silence, prayer, and reflection; a focus on the Sunday readings; Stations of the Cross; the Sacrament of Reconciliation; Scripture study; spiritual reading.

Almsgiving: service projects that immerse us in a culture not our own; outreach to the disabled, the grieving, and those who struggle; visits to the sick and the elderly.

Fasting: forms of self-denial that call us to remember how abundantly we've been blessed; abstaining from words, thoughts, or actions that may hurt others and counteract peace.

For our archdiocesan Catholic school Lenten reflections this year, sent each morning to all principals and ideally also forwarded to teachers and staff, I've chosen to use the theme of this year's Catholic Stewardship Appeal, "We Are One," and call us each day to remember and

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reach out to groups in our Catholic school communities—and beyond—who are in special need of our prayer, our attention, and our love.

I wish each of you a most blessed and fruitful Lenten season.

Kathleen A. Cepelka, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Principally Speaking

We are asked to reflect, pray, forgive, celebrate, pray everyday. When my son asks me: "Dad, how was your day?", I often try to be positive and optimistic and tell him at least one positive thing that happened in my day as I ask it of him. Although, my day can become hectic, I try to go back to reflect, pray, forgive, celebrate, and pray some more.

The message in yesterday's Eucharist was divinely timing. Father Bill spoke and reminded us what God and Jesus want us to do: Be merciful and to be loving. These are the basic tenets of being human.

The old adage: "Do unto others as they do unto me" or "An eye for an eye" speak of justice or social justice as being vengeful and perhaps sadistic. As I am a student of philosophy and theological art/history, I learn and continue to learn from many cultures. Places I have been, people I have experienced in my life both (good/bad) inform and enlighten me of our great diversity on this planet.

Mahatma Ghandi was a great teacher of passive aggressiveness: violence begets violence. "An eye for an eye will make the world go blind" is one of his famous sayings. Father Bill echoed this in his homily. We need to practice peace. We need to practice love. And for our kid's sake, we need to practice compassion.

With recent World, National, and St. Andrews Social Media drama, one can easily say we need to practice it as a Parish Family too. To give in to the Jerry Springer half-speak, gossip, hearsay is 2nd hand opinion and generalizations. To hide behind a keyboard or electronic device, ranting, raving biases, and then pressing “enter” nullifies what Father’s homily and our recent Eucharistic message is about.

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If we truly want our Parish Family to grow, we need to nurture it. Help us weed out the negativity. Stop the “eye for an eye” mentality. Simply ask that person to stop. Or, simply ignore it. When we give in (watering the weeds) to negative behavior, we are rewarding that negative behavior with our support.

Before we repeat someone’s “eye for an eye”, let’s ask ourselves: is this a Fact? Opinion? Or a Generalization? Or I would ask: WWJD? (What would Jesus Do?)

Thank you all continue to support St. Andrew’s Parish School Learning Community (Church, Parish, School, and Family). Have a blessed week everyone.

Very Respectfully,

Randy