From the Principal

This week definitely has been a bit slower than the excitement of Catholic Schools Week last week. Nevertheless, it has been full of learning and fun! Our students are advancing in their skills and it is exciting to see the progression of their knowledge through classroom visits and assessment reviews.

We’ve made a few changes in the middle school and I wanted to let you know that I am now teaching a math class to eighth graders from 7:55-8:45 each morning. During this instructional time, I will not be available to parents for conferences or impromptu meetings. My door is, of course, open any other time, unless I am already in another meeting. I am excited to be back in the classroom in addition to my administrative duties.

Below is an update on our World’s Finest Chocolate Bar Sales, however, I would like to request two things. The first is to consider selling chocolate bars after one of the Masses next weekend, Feb. 18th & Feb. 19th, the parishioners enjoy supporting the school and our chocolate is an added bonus! The second is, to return any unopened boxes that you are unable to sell. This will allow us to try to sell them at Masses and/or to others who are selling multiple boxes.

I received an article from a parent about the current trends in drug use among our young people. As our eighth graders travel through their next step in their academic lives, they will not be shielded in the same manner because they gain more independence. I encourage all parents with older children, even beyond our school to read this article. I’ve provided the link for your convenience: [https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/when-lion-kills-your-child-louis-m-profeta-md](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/when-lion-kills-your-child-louis-m-profeta-md). Please pray for our children as they try to follow the narrow path of truth in this world of temptations and peer pressure.

Chocolate Bar Sales

Our Chocolate Bar Sale is going great! Each child was given 1 box to sell, which contains 60 bars. We will be awarding several exciting prizes for boxes sold, including gift cards and a five pound chocolate bar for the most boxes sold! This fundraiser will run through Tuesday, February, 21st. Should you choose not to participate in this fundraiser, please return the unopened box of chocolate bars to your child’s homeroom teacher. Opened boxes cannot be returned and all bars must be sold. Additionally, we will be selling chocolate bars after Masses next weekend, February 18th & 19th. Parents can earn one fair share hour for each Mass that they help to sell the bars at. Please note, boxes sold at Masses will be “school boxes only” not your family boxes, therefore, your child/ren will not qualify for prizes for school boxes sold at the Masses. **We really NEED your help to sell at the 2/18 & 2/19 Masses!!! Please use the Sign Up Genius link below to earn hours toward your 3rd quarter!** [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0449acab2ba7fc1-chocolate](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0449acab2ba7fc1-chocolate). Once again, be sure to return any unwanted, unopened boxes to the office as soon as possible so that they can be redistributed to sell at Masses or to those individual families who can sell them!
A Note from the Nurse
We want to make you all aware that the flu (Type A) is in our area and in our school. Some of the symptoms are fever or feverish chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches or pains, headache, fatigue or feeling very tired, some may have vomiting and diarrhea especially in younger children. Frequent hand washing with soap and water is recommended and avoid touching the face. Stay away from anyone who is sick. Keep your child home if he/she is sick to prevent spreading of the flu to others. Make sure your child is well hydrated and is given plenty of liquids.

Lunch Duty – Volunteers Needed in February:
Below is the Sign Up Genius link for February lunch duty. Please note: All adults must have completed “Safe Haven” training and a background check before volunteering for lunch duty.

http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0449ACAB2BA7FC1 - February

Spring Salute to Broadway:
Saint Michael Catholic School’s Music Department is happy to announce our “Spring Salute to Broadway”! This event will take place on Thursday, March 30th, at 7pm in Duffy Center. Songs from the following Broadway shows will be featured: Aladdin, Annie, Beatlemania, Beauty and the Beast, Broadway Tribute to the Beatles. The King and I, Oliver, Sleeping Beauty, and The Sound of Music.

We are looking for anyone who is interested in making simple scenery and/or props. It would be greatly appreciated! Also, we will need a few parents to help on the stage with scenery on the night of the program. If you think you are able to help please email Mrs. Carpenter at mcarpenter@saintmichaelsc.com. Thank you so much!

Music Department
Thank you to those who have already donated instruments to our Music Department. However, we are still in need of new or gently used instruments of all types. If you or someone you know has an instrument that is no longer being used, please consider donating it to our Music Department. Thank you!
Marie Carpenter - Music Teacher

Any questions, please email me at the following email address: mcarpenter@saintmichaelsc.com.

Father’s Club:
The next meeting of the SMCS Fathers’ Club will take place on Friday, February 17th at 6:30 PM in PAC Hall. The group will be meeting about the upcoming Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, and the arrangement of various tasks around school.
St. Apollonia and the Martyrs of Alexandria

A holy woman named Apollonia lived in Alexandria, Egypt, in the third century. Christians were being persecuted there during the reign of Emperor Philip. Apollonia had spent her whole life serving God. Now that she was growing old, she was not about to take time to rest. She bravely risked her life to comfort suffering Christians in prison.

“Remember that your trials will not last long,” she would say. “But the joys of heaven will last forever.”

It was just a matter of time until Apollonia, too, was captured. When the judge asked her name, she courageously said, “I am a Christian, and I love and serve the true God.”

Angry people tortured Apollonia, trying to force her to give up her faith. First, all her teeth were smashed and then knocked out. Because of this, St. Apollonia is the patron of dentists. But even this painful ordeal did not shake the woman’s faith. Apollonia was then told that if she did not deny Jesus, she would be thrown into a raging fire. The woman would not let her fear overcome her. She chose to die by fire rather than abandon her faith in Jesus. When the pagans saw how heroic she was, many were converted to faith in Jesus. Apollonia died around the year 249.

St. Apollonia and the other martyrs were willing to give up their lives for Jesus. What are we willing to do for him? Do we love Jesus enough to accept a little inconvenience without complaining?

Special Celebrations!!

The Saint Michael Marriage Enrichment Ministry would like to announce that World Marriage Day is Sunday, Feb 12th. Pope Francis explained that Christian marriage and family life is a real vocation, as is, the priesthood and religious life.

On Feb 12th, there will be a special mass at 1:30 pm celebrating Marriage as a vocation, AND that special call to religious life—the Diaconate. On that day, our very own Andy Thomas will be serving his 1st Mass as Deacon.

In joyous celebration of World Marriage Day and Andy Thomas’ ordination, there will be a Reception following the 1:30pm Mass in Duffy Center. ALL are welcome, but please be sure to sign up in the Narthex.

Thank you and we hope to see you on the 12th!

Want to submit something for the weekly publication of the Gator Bites?
Email Nancy Esposito nesposito@saintmichaelsc.com and cc Ms. Walters at pwalters@saintmichaelsc.com
All submissions are subject to approval.
Middle School Social Justice Lesson

A flyer was sent home in this week’s Tuesday Envelope to all middle school students who may be interested in attending “The Compassion Experience” which will be held at Ocean View Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach on Saturday, February 18th at 12:25pm.

Parents, this is a fabulous opportunity for your child to step into homes in other countries, learn about the need there, learn the truths about poverty, and discover ways to help the children of the world. American children have little understanding of what REAL need is and this will surely open their eyes! The Catholic Church is rich in its teaching about Social Justice and this is a great chance for your child to experience what that means! We have 20 tickets reserved and they will be distributed on a first come, first served basis when the required paperwork (sent home in Tuesday envelope) is returned. The final deadline for the paperwork is Thursday, February 16th.

If you have any questions regarding this trip please contact Grace Morlan at genrwm1@comcast.com or 816-896-8366.

Gator Shop ~ Gently Used Uniforms

The Saint Michael Gator Shop is in need of hangers with clips for skirts, skorts, shorts and pants. When going through your closet if you have any of these hangers you want to get rid of please consider donating them to the school.

Athletic Department News!!!

The boys and girls basketball regular season has come to an end. The boys team finished the season with an 11-7 record and a third place finish in the league. The girls team finished the season with a record of 10-7 and a second place finish in the league. Both teams will play at home on Tuesday, February 21st in the league tournament in a semi final match up. Girls team will play at 5pm and boys will play at 6pm. The boys and girls basketball teams would like to thank all the cheerleaders for their hard work throughout the season. A special thanks goes to all the parents for their commitment to gator athletics. The coaches and parents would like to give a big thank you to the Knights of Columbus for all the help that they have given the teams throughout the 2016-2017 season.
SMCS Fathers’ Club
Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Saturday, March 25, 2017
9:30 AM - 12 PM
SMCS Duffy Center

Cost:
Children under 2: Free
Children (Ages 2-14): $8.00
Adults: $15.00

Featuring:
- Buffet Breakfast
  - Omelet Station
  - Fresh Fruit
  - Pastries/Donuts/Bagels
  - Eggs/Bacon/Sausage/Pancakes/Home Fries
- Photograph with the Easter Bunny – Free gift per child
- Crafts and Coloring

- Reservations available through advanced sale only until Monday, March 20, 2017. Tickets won’t be sold the day of the breakfast. Don’t miss out as this event will sell out!
- Reservations can be made by submitting the form below with payment (cash/check made payable to Saint Michael Catholic School) or CC can be used in the main office.

Family Name ____________________________________________ (Reservations will be held at the door)

Reservations ______ # Children under 2 (Free) ______ # Children (Ages 2-14)
_______ # Adults

Amount Enclosed _______________