

September 19, 2016

Dear Madonna del Sasso families,

We had a great week at Madonna del Sasso School last week because of your support and our talented faculty and staff! The book fair was a great success thanks in large part to Mrs. Nunez and our parent volunteers who organized the space and made it so inviting for all of us. Thank you to all of you who participated! Then on Friday came our wonderful Grandparents' Day, which was a tremendous testament to your love and devotion for Madonna School. From the reception in the hall to the beautiful Mass, God's love and joy truly filled the air. I am grateful to everyone who was able to spend the morning with us on Friday. Much thanks goes out to our wonderful Deacon Carl, who organized the beautiful children's liturgy, to Mrs. Borowski, who lead our amazing children's choir, to Mrs. Nunez, who chaired the lovely reception in the hall, to Mrs. Fitzgerald, who did so much behind the scenes to ensure the day was a success, and finally to our faculty, staff and students who worked diligently to make their classrooms so welcoming. It was teamwork in action. And speaking of teamwork, a big thank you goes out as well to Fr. Greg, who celebrated Mass for us and was present at school all morning. Thank you! Thank you!

I want to remind you that the Renaissance Learning STAR testing begins today and will continue through September 29, 2016 to allow time for make-up testing. Renaissance Learning STAR testing is being used throughout our diocese three times during the school year to measure student academic growth in reading and math. As testing is completed electronically, our teachers are able to get immediate results on their students' progress. A parent night information night is scheduled for October 27, 2016 at 7:00 PM to help you, our parents, understand your children's assessment scores and how to use the results effectively. Please save this important date.

I close with a reflection from the book *A Year of Mercy with Pope Francis*. The following is an excerpt from Pope Francis' General Audience on November 27, 2013:

How do we stay close to Jesus?

Through prayer, through the sacraments, and also in the exercise of charity.

Let us remember he is present in the weakest and the most needy.

As I was reading this reflection, it reminded me of Madonna del Sasso School's devotion to people served at St. Vincent de Paul. Your "exercise of charity" is heartwarming and serves as a model of mercy. God bless you!

Wishing each of you a blessed week filled with God's peace and love,

Mrs. Cynthia Fogarty, Interim Principal
Madonna del Sasso School

LUNCH PROGRAM – Sept. 22nd

If you will be ordering a lunch from Room for Dessert this week, please remember to turn your lunch order form into the office or email roomfordessert@me.com by end of day TODAY, 9/19. Thank you!

STAR ASSESSMENT

September 19th – 29th

Renaissance Learning STAR Assessments have been scheduled for grades K-8 as well as for some of our preschool students. A testing schedule for each of grades may be found in the school office. Typically the individual Renaissance Learning STAR Assessments do not take longer than 45 minutes to complete. With the exception kindergarten and first grade, each student takes one reading assessment and one math assessment. This greatly reduces the number of minutes needed for standardized testing.

A parent information evening has been scheduled for October 27, 2016 at 7:00 PM with the purpose of discussing a detailed explanation of the results of the STAR testing. In the meantime, should you have any further questions regarding Renaissance Learning you may contact me through the school office or by email at cfogarty@mdsschool.com. On behalf of our faculty and staff, I thank you for your support of the school's efforts to ensure our students are continuing to excel academically.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The school is looking for one consistent volunteer to laminate materials for the teachers. The volunteer would need to be trained and then be available each Thursday morning at about 8:30 AM to complete the teacher's laminating jobs. All volunteers are required to have their fingerprints cleared and a copy of their Shield the Vulnerable certificate on file in the school office. Please contact Lynette Fitzgerald at lfitzgerald@mdsschool.com if you are interested. Thank you!

MIXEDBAG FUNDRAISER

September 28th – October 20th

Our goal is for each student to sell five (5) items or more. Packets will go home TODAY with students. Friends and family can support our fundraiser by shopping online at www.mixedbagdesigns.com. Make sure to add our ID# 56580 at the top of our site before shopping or at checkout. Contact Diana Poudrier at 206-1033 or dianapoudrier@gmail.com if you have any questions. **Please include 5% tax in your orders. See attached tax table.**

GRANDPARENTS' & SPECIAL FRIENDS' DAY – RAFFLE WINNER

Congratulations to Nicki Yoder! Mrs. Yoder and her family won VIP Christmas Show seating. Congratulations and thank you for your continued support.

BOX TOPS

We will be participating in the Box Tops for Education (BTFE) Program again this year. What is BTFE? Basically it's FREE MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOL! Clipping Box Tops is an easy way for you to help our school. Box Tops are each worth 10¢ and they quickly add up to real cash. Just look for pink Box Tops on products, clip them, and send them to school. You can tape or glue (do NOT staple!) Box Tops on the

collection sheet that is attached to this email, or send them in a sealed envelope or bag with your child's name and grade. Get your relatives, neighbors and co-workers involved!

There are prizes for the students and classes that bring in the most BTFE! BTFE are on many products – including office supplies! For more information on the Box Tops for Education program, including a list of participating products and our school's progress, click the link on our website. Be sure to become a member to receive exclusive coupon offers and learn about extra ways for our school to earn. The first collection date is October 28th.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Each student in **Seventh and Eighth** is asked to bring a sack lunch for needy families on Thursday, Sept. 22nd. In the sack lunch, please provide a piece of fresh fruit, a bottle of water or juice, a bag of chips and a sandwich. Sandwiches can be one of the following: cheese and meat OR just meat (no condiments, lettuce, tomatoes, etc., in the sandwich), peanut butter and jelly, or just peanut butter. You may choose to provide something sweet such as cookies. Please send the food items in a paper lunch sack on Thursday morning, Sept. 22nd. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

WEBSITE – www.mdsschool.com

Please refer to our website often. It is updated weekly with new bulletins and upcoming information. Thank you!

MDS SPORTS

Our Girls Volleyball season has begun! A schedule for games will be going home soon, we hope everyone will come out and support our TEAM!

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 19th – Progress Reports
Sept. 19th – 29th - Star Assessment
Sept. 22nd – St. Vincent de Paul Sack Lunch – Seventh & Eighth grades
Sept. 23rd – Mass in the Chapel for Third & Fourth grade students (parents are welcome)
Sept. 28th – Mixed Bag Fundraiser Begins!
Sept. 30th – SF Opera/Opera a la Carte at 1:00 in the Student Activities Center (SAC)
Oct. 12th – Minimum Day, Dismissal at 12:30 (K-8)
Oct. 12th – Free Dress for your \$2.00 Grandparents' & Special Friends' Day donation - Thank you!
Oct. 20th – Report Cards
Oct. 21st – Professional Growth Day – NO SCHOOL/NO EXTENSION
Oct. 26th – Picture Retake Day
Oct. 28th – Minimum Day, Dismissal at 12:30 (K-8)
Oct. 28th – Box Tops DUE (first collection)
Oct. 31st – Halloween Carnival, Minimum Day, Dismissal at 12:30 (K-8)
Nov. 1st – 4th – Parent Conferences, Minimum Day, Dismissal at 12:30 (K-8)