

St. Rita of Cascia School

"The Peacemaker"



April, 2017

Dear St. Rita Family,

With Palm Sunday on April 9th, we begin Holy Week. As Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem, he was welcomed with great celebration. On Holy Thursday, we remember how Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his apostles and at that meal He offered the first Eucharist. Shortly after that special meal, He was arrested and placed on trial. On Good Friday, we remember how Jesus suffered and died on the cross out of His great love for all of us. Three days later, we celebrate His triumph over death when Jesus rose from the dead. See the parish bulletin and website for the schedule of Holy Week special services.

Our school masses have had a greater number of adult members in attendance from parents, grandparents, parish members and visitors. At the end of mass, I am frequently stopped by visitors to comment on how much they enjoy the Children's School Mass. They are impressed with the reverence and participation of the students in the pews and in the choir.

Please come on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 when you have the time and join us in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Yours in Christ,
Bette Faxon



Report Card – End of 3rd Quarter

Please access your report card information online. When you look at the card, it is important that you check that you have viewed the card. I ask the teachers to let me know if parents have not completed that step. Grade book will be opened for the fourth quarter by the end of the week.

Get in the Game : Read!

We are proud to announce that 100% of our students completed their January and February reading goals. Let's go for three in a row. Please turn in the reading slips to the teachers.

St. Rita Readers
SCORE!



Reading independently helps students to improve fluency (how easily they read the printed text), and comprehension (how well they understand the meaning behind the words.) Keep up the good work.

Summer reading lists will be given out to help students continue to read over the long break of summer to see that they continue to make progress and keep up their skills.

SMARTBOARD TECHNOLOGY EXPANSION:

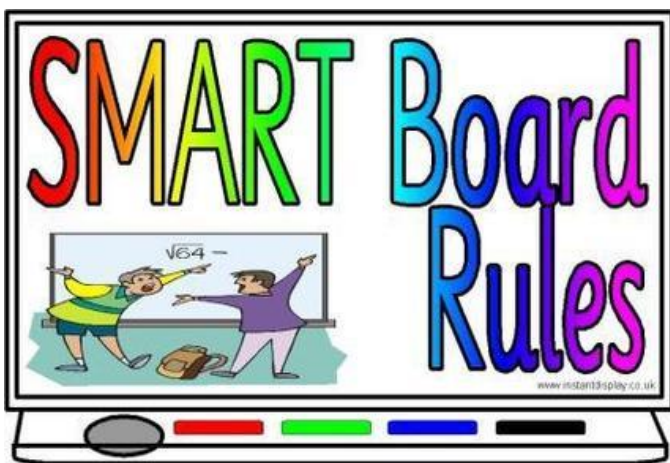
Due to the generous outpouring from the Fund -A -Need at the Green and Gold Dinner, we have purchased a Smartboard for the Preschool Room. We hope to have it installed before the end of the year. This completes every room from Preschool-Grade 8.

Through the innovative Technology use, children are more engaged in the learning process. With the internet capabilities, it allows teachers to access the most current information in all areas of the curriculum.

We can project the stories from the reading program. The children can participate more fully in the lessons.

In the areas of Math and Science, teachers can have students work individually or in pairs on math strategies such as graphing, fractions, and computation. Science demonstrations for labs are enhanced by seeing a real model on the screen. Teachers can enlarge images such as cells in science or maps in geography.

At St. Rita, our teachers work continuously to find new ways to support all of our learners.



Education Commission News

The following parents are members of the St. Rita Education Commission 2016-17:

**Roisin Daly, Cindy Gaspardo,
Monnette Geronimo, Maria Martinez,
Joe Rentz, and Jennifer Sayasane.**

Guided by the directives of the Rockford Diocese, the Commission is an advisory council who give support to the pastor and principal. The commission will look at areas of Catholic Identity, Recruitment and Development, Budget and Finance, and Publicity to support our current school program and vision for the future.

Our current members bring experience from the fields of education (elementary, secondary and college) and business which help to look at our needs of the total school program from various backgrounds. The parents also have children who are currently enrolled and also graduates who have transitioned to the area Catholic high schools.

If you are interested in joining our efforts for the advancement of St. Rita of Cascia School please contact Mrs. Faxon.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 6th at 6:30 in the school library.

YEAR IS WINDING DOWN!



CRUSADER SPORTS AWARDS NIGHT

Date to be scheduled after Easter

We celebrate the year of growth and success for our student-athletes from grades 5-8 for all sports.

**Thank you to all of our
CRUSADER COACHES!**

All of our coaches for every sport give a tremendous amount of time during their season for practices and games. We are very grateful to our volunteers. They provide the opportunity for St. Rita students to develop new skills, learn to work as a team and celebrate all successes. A first basket or goal for an individual is as great as a team win.



TRACK:

We have many students in our track program. It is the work of the coach to teach the skills but it is challenging to supervise the high numbers of students when they are not working with them, at the end of practice for pick up or during meets when the students do not have an event.

I will be sending home a note to parents of Track team members to volunteer time to help at practices and meets.

With basketball or volleyball you may have two coaches to 8-12 players. We have over 50 students on track. Please see the note to go home on Friday, March 31st.



TWO UPCOMING DATES:

St. Rita grades 5-8 S.T.E.M. Day April 13th
"The Egg Drop Challenge"

Students will work in multi age groups from grade 5-8 to use their engineering skills to design a safe way to protect an egg from becoming scrambled on the sidewalk after being dropped from a high elevation by our staff.

St. Rita S.T.E.M. DAY May 19th
Preschool – Grade 8

Our teachers have been planning a day to include projects for students to work together, and to have demonstrations in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

More information will be coming home. It is important that students have real life and hands on experiences in academic learning. The teachers provide many opportunities throughout the curriculum for experiences in these areas. STEM day will give us an opportunity to see how other classes are applying those skills.

**LITTLE CRUSADERS LEARNING CLUB:
3-5 year olds – Friday afternoons**

3rd session starts April 28th with a fun theme for the end of the year

"Water, Water Everywhere!"

Call school office to register.....



**SIGN UP FOR OUR FULL DAY PRESCHOOL
PROGRAM FOR THE FALL TOO!**

Save the date: Sunday, April 30th

Día del Niños Children's Day



Celebration!

Sunday, April 30th from 11-3 will be a great way to kick off our May celebrations with the whole family and our St. Rita Parish community. Please see the information notes in today's envelope.

Our Mother and Son Night was Great Fun!

Everyone had a fun night with games, fun snacks and desserts, getting out on the floor for some fun group dances, photo booth, and a new spin on Musical Chairs – Mom/Son style.

Gina and Noah Corral got in the fun with our photo booth shark hats.



The Daddy/Daughter Dance was beautiful. Our Dads were so proud to be twirling their daughters on the dance floor. What little girl doesn't love to dress up, get a special corsage and have a night out with Daddy or that special man in her life. We had grandfathers and godfathers join in the fun.



Pictured are Dave and Katie Lentz in our Magic Kingdom photo booth fit for a St. Rita Princess.

The Daddy/Daughter Dance, Mother/Son Night, and Dia del Nino are organized by Education Commission member Maria Martinez. Thank you to all of our volunteers who join the fun and work to plan these events. Mrs. Orozco, Mrs. Garcia, Mrs. Montes, Mrs. Ponce, and Mrs. Contreras. Many others joined in to help.

REGISTRATION 2017-18 Continues:

We have enjoyed Shadow Days with a number of new students who will join us this fall. Getting familiar with new classmates, the teachers and the general sense of family in our building helps new students feel welcome. Please continue to invite family, friends and co-workers to visit our school.

HOME & SCHOOL CORNER:

The Home and School have several activities planned for April:

Spring Book Fair April 5th - 7th
Special late hours on Thursday until 5:00

Assembly: Marmion Drill Team,
Wed., April 12th at 2:00 in the gym. Come join us!

McTeacher Night: April 26
5:00-8:00 pm
Orchard Road in North Aurora
Come to McDonald's for dinner and see our teachers work at the counter and drive thru window serving our St. Rita families. You may see Fr. Manny too!

Assembly: School House Rock LIVE!
Wed., May 3rd at 1:45
All are welcome to join us!

**GOD BLESS OUR
HOME AND SCHOOL OFFICERS!**



CALENDAR NOTES:

Holy Thursday: April 13th

**11:30 dismissal
No bus service home
All are Car Riders
NO EXTENDED DAY**

Good Friday: No School
Spring Break April 17th -21st
Classes Resume: Monday, April 24th



*The faculty and staff of
St. Rita of Cascia School
wish you a Blessed Easter.*

