

*St. Rita of Cascia School*

*"The Peacemaker"*

*May 2017*



Dear St. Rita Family,

Monday, is the first day of May, let the celebrations begin! It is hard to believe that our school year is coming to close in a little over a month. People always ask how it feels to have the year winding down. However, little do they know there are many busy days ahead. Teachers need the summer to recover from MAY. During this month, we have many activities to mark our successful conclusion of another year. The students are anxious to begin the countdown to summer. However, there are still many skills to learn in the classroom. It is important to have a strong finish.

As Catholics, we see May as a special month devoted to our Blessed Mother. Mary stood as a role model; not just to mothers but to all people. She was a woman of strength who trusted in the Lord. Mary said the simple word "Yes" and responded to God's call to be the mother of Jesus. May we follow her example and say "Yes" to the invitation to follow the Lord wherever He leads us.

Sincerely,  
Bette Faxon

## Día del Niños Children's Day



## Celebration! Celebration!

It is here this weekend! Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 11-3 will be a great way to start our May celebrations with the whole family and our St. Rita Parish community. Children have been busy practicing for the talent show. There are so many exciting events scheduled. Please join your school community as a start to the end of year festivities. Many thanks to our committee who have worked very hard on this second year of a fun event.

### **SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK ASSEMBLY!**

Great fun song fest to learn grammar rules, history, math and more!

Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 1:45  
St. Rita Gym

All are welcome to join us!  
Thank you for supporting the  
Home & School fundraising events.  
Our assemblies are brought to us through  
these funds.



**SUMMER UNIFORM:** starts Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>  
- students may wear **KNEE LENGTH** uniform shorts. Please check the length. The children have grown quite a bit since the fall. Belts should be worn with the shorts. The green St. Rita polo shirt is worn with shorts. Please also remember to dress the children for outdoor weather conditions for recess. Our weather this year has been **VERY** unpredictable.



**Uniform Resale** will be on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30-5:00 in the school hallway by the library. The Home and School Association sponsors this sale. Donated uniform items that are in good condition are appreciated. This helps our school families to save a little money to replace outgrown uniforms.

**SCHOOLBELLES UNIFORM FITTING**

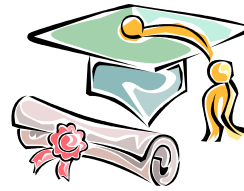
**Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 2:30-5:00**

**SAVE 20%** when you order here  
**Schoolbelles, our uniform company will be here to measure students for new uniforms. Children will be excused from class to get measured. You do not have to be here but please let us know if you will. Orders placed that day with a deposit or full payment will receive a 20% discount.**

**2017-18 UNIFORM CHANGE**

- All boys will wear **navy blue pants** for next school year.
- All pants and shorts for boys or girls will be **navy blue**. Reminder: Green polo shirts are worn with pants or shorts.

Khaki tan items will be discontinued. Since very few students choose the tan we would like to have them in the same color to be uniform.



**Graduation Traditions and Celebrations:**

There are many events and traditions to bring joyful closure for our Class of 2017 for their years at St. Rita School.

**Class Trip to Chicago, Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Cross Presentation:** Each year our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students receive a cross to wear as a reminder of their years of faith development at St. Rita of Cascia School. The Class of 2017 will be presented with their class cross after the All School Mass on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Parents are welcome to attend.

**Class Party** will be held on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 PM. The Class of 2017 will get together for dinner, yearbook signing, dancing and celebration.

**Baccalaureate Mass** – Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at the 10:15 parish mass. The Class of 2017 will celebrate their years at St. Rita at the weekend liturgy. The students will participate in the liturgy and wear their graduation gowns.

**Graduate Breakfast:** Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. The Home & School Association hosts a wonderful breakfast for the graduates, then we have one final practice and a viewing of a special Class of 2017 Memories DVD, looking over the younger days of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

**Graduation Ceremony:** Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 with a reception following in the lunchroom hosted by the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents.

**GOD BLESS OUR CLASS OF 2017!** Our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Graduating Class. Go on to high school with our love and blessings. Thank you for being such a wonderful part of our school.

## SPRING CONCERT

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> for the Spring Concert in church at 7PM.



All students in grades K-7 are expected to be in attendance. The children will wear jeans and the St. Rita spirit wear shirt for this concert. The performance is part of the fourth quarter grade. Please notify baseball, gymnastics, and soccer coaches early that your student will be busy at school.....

### **CELEBRATING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH!**

*Our second grade students are busy preparing for the special day when they make their First Communion. We ask for God's blessing on all of our St. Rita students as they welcome Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.*



## **MAY CROWNING** **Tuesday, May 23<sup>d</sup>**

Our second grade and all those who will make First Communion this year from St. Rita School will lead our annual May Crowning ceremony. After our 9:00 All School Mass we will process to the shrine of the Blessed Mother for this beautiful tradition where we will place a crown of flowers on the statue.

Reception to follow for second grade students, First Communion students and families. We celebrate God's wonderful gift of our faith traditions as we are "Gathered Together as God's Family"



*Hail Mary ... full of grace.*

May is a month devoted to Mary, our Blessed Mother. She is the model of love and kindness, gentleness and compassion. We are grateful to the mothers, step mothers, Godmothers, grandmothers, aunts and all who work in our school with our students. You lovingly raise and encourage the children and lead them to be faithful, gentle people. In gratitude for your special dedication to raising the children, the mothers and grandmothers of our students have been enrolled in a novena of masses at the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia in Philadelphia. God's blessings to all of you.

## S.T.E.M.

“Egg Drop Challenge Results” from April 13<sup>th</sup>. Our 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade engineers did a great job with designing their “Egg capsules”. Mr. Bieker and Mr. Koeberl helped with the test by launching the 15 team contenders from the school roof. 13 survived the fall safely; only 2 had a crash landing. The entire school watched with anticipation as the eggs were launched one by one. The teams took notes to discuss the results following the launch. **See photos on our St. Rita of Cascia School Facebook page.** Photos courtesy of Natalie Droeske, St. Rita class of 2011.

## MAY STEM ACTIVITIES:

“Exploring God’s Universe” will be our central focus. From PreK-8 we will look at God’s wonderful universe in the stars, sun, moon, planets, and space exploration.

May 19<sup>th</sup> - S.T.E.M. Day

We will have our multi-age teams from grades 5-8 work on rocket science. Students from the different grades have a focus on various aspects of the theme using skills from science and math. Students will analyze data to predict the best way to approach their rocketry.

Students in Preschool – Grade 5 will participate in hands on workshops exploring various themes from the science of the universe and space travel. Teachers will lead the workshops with support from our **Engineers for Kids** program leaders to add to the excitement..

McTeacher Night was great fun! Be sure to see some pictures soon on St. Rita of Cascia School Facebook.

FACEBOOK is a great way to see current happenings and get news. We hope you enjoy it.



IN-SCHOOL FIELD TRIP:

## SciTech Star Lab

Wed., May 24<sup>th</sup>

Grades P-5

Students will be Exploring the Skies of God’s Universe, learning about the stars & planets.

“TO INFINITY AND BEYOND” to quote our friend BUZZ LIGHTYEAR....

## Preparing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners every day!

St. Rita has always had exceptionally high scores in the area of Math and Science. We continue to develop new strategies to provide success for all learners. Using advanced Technology in the lab and through interactive whiteboard learning, students can connect learning through their senses of sight and sound. We strive to reach all learning styles.

## OH THOSE LAST DAYS! FUN...

Friday, May 26    Preschool and Kindergarten Picnic  
Last day for Preschool.

Mon., May 29 -    No School Memorial Day  
Ozzie’s Reading Club 1:00 Game  
Kane County Cougars Stadium

Tues., May 30    10:00 Church Kindergarten Graduation

Reception to follow for Kindergarten children and their families.  
All Kindergarten Children dismiss with their parents.

Tues. May 30    Last day for school uniform for grades 1-7

Wed, May 31    Clean Up Day for gr. 1-7

Thurs., June 1    Field Day/Picnic

Fri., June 2    Last day of school 9:30 Prayer  
Service; 10:30 Dismissal