



Parents,
Guardians,
&
Students

March was a month filled with laughter, companionship, and coming together as a community to support St. Mary's School as we celebrated our Auction4Education. Through these experiences, we are reminded of the joy given to us when Jesus is present in our lives and the importance relationships have in living out our mission to build the Kingdom of God here on earth.

During this Lenten season, students have focused on the importance of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We have quieted our hearts, minds, and bodies to hear God's messages in our daily lives. Now, through the Easter season, we are invited to new life through the death and resurrection of Jesus. I pray that the blessings of the risen Christ fill you with grace and joy in this Easter season.

Luau for Learning is a Hula Huge Success!



Auction4Education Committee Chairs:
Front Row(L to R): Shari Rieland, Jodi Maus, Amanda Fuechtmann, Jen Rademacher, Marie Haskamp
Back Row(L to R): Brenda Klaphake, Shawn Duevel, Dave Hemmesch, Sara Decker, Sara Christenson, Tony Klasen, Justin Frieler (missing: Nikki Middendorf, Meghan Brown, Katie Hinnenkamp)

SMS families, friends, and community members enjoyed a fun-filled evening at the Auction4Education on March 4th. Celebrating the 21st year of the auction, committee chairs hosted a Hawaiian Luau with lots of tropical decorations, food, and fun attire. It was a joyful night of sing-alongs, food and drinks, and bidding to win items on the online and live auctions.

This year, the generosity of local businesses, SMS families, and the entire community helped us raise over \$154,400 (after expenses) for the school! This money will be used to help pay for the school's day-to-day operating expenses.

SMS could not have hosted this important event without the commitment and support of our hardworking committee chairs and committee members; thank you to all the SMS parents for contributing your time, talent, and treasure to make this event a roaring success again this year. Thank you also to all our friends and community members for your contributions as well; whether you donated auction items or money, bought raffle tickets or auction items, or attended the Luau event, your support is very appreciated!



6th Graders enjoy camp at Long Lake

SMS 6th graders attended their class trip at Long Lake Conservation Camp in February; this is the **28th** year the 6th graders have gone on this exciting adventure! Along with students from Sacred Heart School in Freeport, the 6th graders from SMS enjoyed learning about ways to care for the earth, outdoor survival skills-including building a wilderness shelter and meal, snowshoeing, skiing, and even KP duty ;)



Third Graders continue their friendship with students at Global Orphanage through Simply Love International

The 3rd grade class at SMS has been communicating by video with students living at the Global Orphanage in Tanzania again this school year. This relationship teaches our students about a different culture across the globe and makes them aware of the many needs there are in other places in the world. Supporting these friends with our Lenten Coin donations helps us to see that even KIDS from SMS can make a BIG DIFFERENCE in the world!

The SMS students are so excited to receive new videos from their videopals and enjoy making videos for them to watch too. This connection was initiated with Erin (Meyer) Cannon, SMS Graduate, from the non-profit Simply Love International. Simply Love was founded on the idea of building sustainability for families through education, community development, & simply loving the children & orphans near and far. Check out Simply Love's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/simplyloveinternational>.



UPCOMING EVENTS

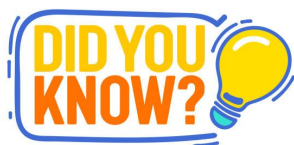
- Speech Festival: April 14th, 2:00pm, SMS Gym
- First Communion: 5:00 mass on April 22, 12:30 Spanish mass on April 23, 10:00 mass on April 30th and May 7th; celebration for SMS students at the May 19th all-school mass
- Bishop's Mass with SMS: Friday, May 12th, 8:30am
- Last Day of School: Friday, May 26th



St. Mary's School and Little Saints Preschool are so blessed to have caring, attentive, and dynamic staff members at our School. It truly takes a BIG HEART to inspire these wonderful students to use their hearts, hands, and voices to be lifelong learners, care for themselves and others, and live out their faith. Teachers and staff members change the lives of students every day, and their work and impact extends far beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

JOIN OUR TEAM

SMS is actively searching for two licensed teachers to join our amazing staff for the 2023-2024 school year. Do you know someone who's graduating this spring or wants to make a change in their career path? Please spread the word!



We are still accepting students for preschool and elementary grades for the 2023-2024 school year. Please contact us at 320-256-4257 or sms@smsmn.org for registration information, or check out our website at <https://www.smsmelrosemn.org/prospective-sms-families>.

SMS\$4Kids Incentive: SMS families participated in a SMS\$4Kids incentive challenge during the 2nd quarter of the school year to raise awareness and increase use of this beneficial program that doesn't cost any extra money for purchasers. This school year, families raised over \$3,300.00 during the incentive for SMS! These funds will be used to purchase new inside recess equipment.

Contact the school office at 320-256-4257 or jellering@smsmn.org, or check out the website at <https://www.smsmelrosemn.org/sms-sms4kids> for more information.

