



March 10, 2019

Dear Parents,

After the beginning of this week and with more snow in the forecast I am ready for Spring. With this stormy start we have experienced in March we can only hope it will end on a calm note, like a lamb!

Although the nation is in the midst of March Madness, our basketball teams have just completed their season. I congratulate all our teams who brought honor to our school every time they set foot on a basketball court and for all their accomplishments. This past weekend many of our teams took home trophies, as seen in the picture above, for taking a place in the MCCBL championship games. The SVMS spirit was very present and alive at all the games. Thank you to all who came out to support our home teams. It was awesome! Thank you to our coaches, concession workers, hall monitors, and parents who gave endless hours during the season. Without you, our children would not have the wonderful program that you have created and help sustain each year. This evening, March 10<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8pm, SVMS will celebrate their outstanding basketball season. With seven Morris County Catholic Basketball League championship teams among us, this has been one of the most successful years in the long and storied history of SVMS. The athletic committee will be hosting a "Girls Coaches vs. Boys Coaches" game. Please come and encourage and cheer for your coaches, just as they encouraged you throughout the season. This is open to the entire SVMS family. Go Eagles!!!

Last week the up stair halls at SVMS were extremely quiet during the morning hours as the students in grades 2-8 took the Iowa standardized tests. Their minds were focused as they concentrated with each question for each test. It was totally different for our kindergarten classes downstairs who had a really fun Read Across America Week! They read *The Cat in the Hat* and showed off their favorite hats on Monday. They listened to *Fox in Socks* and laughed at all the crazy socks they wore to school on Tuesday. Estimating, sorting, counting and graphing rainbow goldfish crackers was the theme for *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish* on Thursday, which included the eating of the rainbow goldfish! On Friday they began their day with hearing the story of the *Sleep Book* followed by a pajama parade around their classrooms. It all ended on Friday afternoon with watching *Horton Hears a Who* with plenty of popcorn!

Next week we are back to a regular schedule. It begins on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> with a student council tag day. All donations collected are going towards a fundraiser for building homes in Guatemala. Wear blue and gold!

During this Lenten season, our students are encouraged to share in Jesus's journey by sacrificing in the form of abstinence, alms giving and prayer. Sr. Noreen spoke in morning prayer on Ash Wednesday about how it takes discipline to sacrifice for self and others. Much of this sacrifice is in the form of delayed gratification. Students are encouraged not to give their "extra" coins to the Rice Bowl, but to give what they would have spent on themselves; and instead of watching television or playing a video game, they are encouraged to spend that time in prayer. Our Lenten journey should strengthen us by bringing us closer to God through sacrifice and prayer so that we can fully participate in the joy of the Resurrection. The students in grades K-8 received ashes during the all school liturgy on Ash Wednesday.

It is almost here! Return to Monte Carlo Night, our annual fundraiser, will be held at Saint Vincent Martyr School on Saturday evening, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our gym will be transformed and alive with Black Jack, Roulette, Craps, Silent Auction, and Pick-a-Prize. You do not want to miss this exciting evening while you help raise funds for our school and enjoy delicious food, great company and tasty cocktails. Did you RSVP? Have you signed up to help? There are only two weeks before the Return to Monte Carlo Night comes alive at SVMS! Thank you to all the volunteers who have been working so hard to make this a memorable occasion. Remember you have to be in it to win it!

Of course, the month of March would not be complete without a celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Be sure to wear green next Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> for Sr. Noreen. This is a free tag day. Along with the wearing of the green all students will begin the day with an "Irish" welcome at morning prayer. A short dance presentation by the students who are learning Irish Dance from Mrs. Fahey during their enrichment sessions will be held right after morning prayer on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Have a great week. May your Lenten season bring you closer to God as we journey towards Easter!

Sincerely,  
Anne Marie Gisoldi  
Vice Principal