

Principal's Corner December 2019

November and December are quite busy months at our school as we reflect on the many things to be thankful for and prepare for Christmas.

Thank you for your generous support of St. Mary's Toys for Appalachia drive! Our school has a long-standing tradition of providing toys to families in Grahn, KY, who would otherwise have no presents for Christmas. The Grahn Community Center operates with volunteers only and helps to serve over 100 families each season in this Appalachian region. It was great to see how many new and nearly new toys, as well as monetary donations have been made.

In preparation for Christmas, our students participate in the annual Christmas concert during the last week of school. It is always a delight to see them and our parents enjoying this special event. Thanks to Mr. Gorski who is organizing this special event.

This fall Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin renovated all of its classrooms with contemporary, flexible, and comfortable desks and chairs for students and teachers. As part of the purchasing negotiations for their new furniture, our friends at NDCL worked out an amazing deal to provide new students desks for St. Mary's Junior High school classrooms at absolutely no cost to us. We have received 75 new desks- valued at \$335 each- to modernize our classrooms. The total value of NDCL's gift to us is \$25,125!

NDCL Principal Joseph A. Waler explains "NDCL's mission calls us to be leaders who transform the world, so it made sense for us to go beyond transforming our own classrooms. We're happy to share God's blessings by providing modern classroom furniture for the students and teachers of St. Mary's School."

I am amazed that NDCL's leaders thought to include our school in their own classroom renovation project. All of us at St. Mary's School are grateful to NDCL for helping to strengthen our shared ministry of Catholic education with this totally unexpected and much appreciated gift.

We are expecting the new desks to be delivered shortly before Christmas break and they will be set up in the Junior High classrooms during winter break.



Additionally, we consulted with the intervention team of Julie Billiard School to move forward with a sensory path in the lower hallway and partially convert our resource room into a sensory room. The grant from the Ohio Catholic Credit Union will be used for this project. Our goal is to have this accomplished before Catholic Schools week at the end of January 2020.



Special thanks also to our parents and parish community for all your support and help to our school. We are blessed by your generosity and commitment to make St. Mary's a special place for our students.

May Christ's peace and hope be with your family.

Merry Christmas! Frohe Weihnachten!

Mrs. Friederike Wintersteller - Principal