

Shamrock Newsletter

Fall is Here!



IMPORTANT DATES:

Sept. 22nd – Sept. 30th IOWA TESTING Grades 2-8

Sunday, Oct. 2nd School Mass 10:30am/ **Full Uniform**

Tuesday, Oct. 4th Blessing of the Animals 2:15pm/ Father Cleary Park



Thursday, Oct. 6th 1st Communion Parent Meeting 7-8:15pm

Friday, Oct. 7th Our Lady of the Rosary Mass – 11am – **Full Uniform**

Monday, Oct. 10th No School – Columbus Day

Wednesday, Oct. 19th Picture Re-Take Day and 8th grade graduation pictures

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22nd HARVEST MOON PARTY



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear St. Apollinaris Catholic School Families,

Lord,

We delight in ALL children.
They come to us as tiny, ones wrapped in a warm blanket.
Soon they are smiling, laughing, babbling.....
crawling, walking, and *then* running.
Children are blessings of joy.
Lord, thank You for our children.
We ask You to protect, provide, and guide
our children.
In Jesus' Name we pray,
Amen

I thoroughly enjoyed seeing all of you at Back to School Night last week. It is such a blessing to come together as a school community and celebrate the children, families, faculty and staff. Thank you for being an essential part of our St. Apollinaris Catholic School family.

Yesterday we began our IOWA skills tests. These standardized tests provide a service to our school. We give them in the fall, to grades 2 – 8, so that we can shape our curriculum at the beginning of the year to meet the needs of the students. Please remember, upon receiving the scores at your November conference, these results are a “snapshot” of your child during that one particular week. The pretests are given yesterday and today. The actual tests are given from 8:20am – 10am, from

September 26 – 30. Especially this week, please bring your children to school no later than 8:15am. Makeups are extremely difficult to reschedule.

Grades 6 – 8 thank you for your overwhelming informative feedback regarding homework. Here is the results of your feedback:

Two parents voiced that there was not enough homework scheduled.

Eight parents felt that the amount of homework was just right!

The remainder of the surveyed parents felt that the homework level was between too much and unmanageable.

Narrative feedback stated:

Concern:

- **There are too many tests on the same day**
The middle school teachers now have a calendar, which they post the tests or larger assignments on a specific due date. This avoids days being over scheduled for the students and teacher coordination on student assignments.
- **The amount of homework given takes at least 3 – 4 hours to complete (with the student being completely focused)**
In the majority of classes, most students will be able to begin their homework at the end of the class. We hope that you have more family time and extra-curricular time.
- **Sometimes there are 3 – 4 tests a week.**
There are still going to be some weeks with 3 – 4 tests.
- **The classes do not gradually increase in homework demand**
We are analyzing the teacher survey results, so that we can develop a more consistent increase of homework as the grade level increases.

- **Homework is not always posted on School Speak by 3pm.**
School Speak is a backup system for the parents and students to be checked nightly. It is when you pick up your student at 3pm, that you should check his or her agenda to make sure homework is written down. It is always on the board in the classroom, feel free to check. Students who struggle with writing in their agenda should have the teacher sign the agenda to confirm that all work is written down
- **The annotating of the books, in addition to the multiple books is overwhelming and not beneficial to the student.**
In articulation with Justin-Siena we have discovered they place a large importance on annotation and expect the students to know how to annotate with ease. The students should all have an Accelerated Reader book and the novel they are reading in the class.
- **The backpacks weigh too much!**
The math and history and books are all online. This will avoid some of the heavy books having to weigh down your students backpack.

The option of a rolling back is possible with a note from your pediatrician.

We appreciate your feedback.

Blessings, Connie Howard

SCHOOL NEWS:



In **only 4 weeks** we'll be enjoying a great night of **friendship, shopping, great food, wine** and community-building.

Do you have your tickets?!?

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and your attendance last year is helping to keep your children cool in class during the warm days of September. Imagine what we can accomplish this year to further enrich our children's St A's experience.

The Harvest Party Team that brought you last year's fabulous gala is finalizing the details for this incredible evening.

Tickets ONLY available online <https://stapolls.ejoinme.org/registration>

Our superb faculty and staff would like to join the celebration. **You will have an opportunity to make a donation towards a teacher or staff member ticket when you purchase your own tickets online.**

Thank you for supporting St. A's!

Labels for Education has ended their program, so there is no need to collect and submit them any longer. Thank you!



Now that we are back to school, it is time to start turning in your Box Tops for Education. Now there is an app that can help you earn even more for our school. See the flyer below or for more information go to www.boxtops4education.com.



NEW BOX TOPS BONUS APP

Earn even more cash to help your school get what it needs through the Box Tops for Education® Bonus App. Turn your everyday receipts into cash for your school. It's free and as easy as 1-2-3. Here's how it works.



You can earn Bonus Box Tops in the Box Tops Bonus App in combination with the on-pack Box Tops clip and any other coupon, discount, store program or promotion.

DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY!



SCRIP NEWS



LOST and FOUND: Does this name belong to you? If so, please let me know so I may credit your family account. [Nancy Beasley](#)

If you have a family or friend who is purchasing scrip on your behalf through eScrip, Shopwithscrip.com, Benefit Mobile, Lucky, Raleys or Nob Hill, please email me their names so your account is credited.

New Retailers: **VISA** “5 Back Visa” \$50’s or \$100’s @ 1.25% ...Stocked now in the **Office.** Use your “Five Back” Visa gift card anywhere Visa debit is accepted, and when you shop at select stores, you can get up to 5% of your purchase price added back to your card. Check out www.fivebackgift.com for all the details.

Big 5 \$25 @ 8% stocked daily

[Scrip 101 – How can you maximize your rebates and meet your goal?](#)



Shopwithscrip.com allows you to purchase giftcards, reload existing cards that were purchased through St. Apollinaris and download scrip to your home computer. Very convenient and perfect for those unexpected purchases! **ID# E11F627C9L85**

- ***PrestoPay:*** PrestoPay is a payment system that offers you the convenience of shopping and paying for your scrip from the comfort of your home. PrestoPay uses the same electronic payment transfer used by direct deposit systems. Simply visit the secure PrestoPay area at shopwithscrip.com and enter your checking account information. After verifying the checking information, they will send you a secure approval code that you will need to share with your scrip coordinator. The code will then be entered into your account, and shortly thereafter, you will be able to begin using PrestoPay. A \$0.15 cent convenience fee will apply.
- ***Reload:*** You may reload most scrip cards when using PrestoPay. Check shopwithscrip.com for participating retailers.
- ***ScripNow:*** Download scrip right to your home computer. For instant downloads, pay with Prestopay. You may also drop a check in the office, however, your order will be delayed until payment is received.
- ***My Scrip Wallet:*** Put fundraising at your fingertips™! MyScripWallet™ is ShopWithScrip’s mobile website, offering the widest selection of electronically delivered products and the highest rebates available anywhere. You can order electronic gift cards, reload physical cards, and in many cases redeem them right from your phone! And it’s fully integrated with ShopWithScrip.com, so you only need one login and you can use your [PrestoPay](#) account in both places. MyScripWallet lets you shop on-the-go, earning rebates on every purchase.
**** ***Please note that My Scrip Wallet is not the same program as Benefit Mobile.***



Benefit-Mobile.com is a great new app that you may add to your phone. Here you may buy, manage and redeem your digital gift cards instantly. There are over 80 Participating retailers like Target, Amazon and Whole Foods. It's super easy!

How do I participate?

1. Download the Benefit mobile app from the iTunes store or Google play Store
2. Search for our school
3. Shop at any of the participating retailers and use the app at check out.
4. Use credit cards or do an automatic checking account deduction for purchases.
***** Please note that if you use your credit card as means of payment, your contribution will be less than if you pay by checking account deduction.**
5. The school will receive a monthly report on your contributions.



Scrip Total Updates: *Your 1st Qtr. Updates (May 2016-July 2016 sales) have been posted to your Schoolspeak account. Please contact me with any questions you might have.*

Angela McWilliams
 Scrip Coordinator
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From the Activities Desk...

Spirit Days Are On Their Way!



Our students love spirit days! Please see below for fall semester dates and themes and note that non-uniform dress regulations are in effect. You can reference to the school handbook for more information on appropriate attire.

Tuesday, September 27th – Fashion Disaster Day

Mix it up! Wear your craziest fashion disaster! Stripes with polka dots with plaid and velvet. The sillier the better!

Tuesday, October 25th - Breast Cancer Awareness – put on your pink from head to toe.

Tuesday , November 29th – Crazy Hair Day

Wear it up, wear it down, add some color. Have some fun!

Friday, December 9th - Red and Green Christmas Colors Celebration

Wear your favorite crazy Christmas sweater or red and green colors .

Math+: An Advanced Learning Opportunity through RedwoodPrep

Gain an edge – with skills that matter

This is Mr. Garry Carpenter, the Mathematics Chair at Justin-Siena High School. I will be teaching an Advanced Mathematics class, **Math+**, this Fall for boys and girls in the 6th to 8th grades. This Fall's course focuses on Geometry.

I strongly believe in Math+ and would encourage your family to participate. Each Math+ course explores 1 major idea included in Stanford University's introductory math sequence. This is world-class content tailored to younger students. I continue to be impressed by how students get excited and passionate about math during Math+. We want students to be excited about math – and Math+ does a great job doing just that.

This season's course will be taught at Justin-Siena High School on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 pm starting on Wednesday, October 5th for six weeks. The program will cost \$200. Families can sign-up at www.RedwoodPrep.com.

This Fall, the Math+ program will be focused on advanced Geometry. Geometry has critical real-world applications ranging from standardized tests to engineering disciplines. But geometry also relates to important modern challenges including how to create 3-dimensional pictures on 2-dimensional screens such as computers and televisions.

Over the six weeks, we will learn and explore this critical concept. The course will start by deepening students' understanding of Geometry's basics. Students will learn how to derive area and volume formulas for all the basic shapes including squares, rectangles, triangles and cones among others. With this knowledge in place, we will explore more advanced concepts including non-Euclidean, modern geometry, which helps computers generate 3-dimensional pictures on a 2-dimensional screen.

Most interested students can succeed in Math+. I find that students with a gift for math or a real desire to participate can succeed and learn a lot. Students interested in advanced math classes, high performance on standardized exams or general math ability will particularly benefit.

If you have any questions, please reach out. I hope to work with you and your family on this exciting program.

Best,

Mr. Garry Carpenter

Mr. Garry Carpenter
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ATHLETIC NEWS:

Basketball registration is open for all interested 5th- 8th grade students. Registration forms are in the school office. Practice is happening this week for 7th and 8th grade teams (team coaches will be sending out more information) so get those forms turned in today!

**In Volleyball News....**

The **5th grade** girls lost our first games by a small margin, 20-25 and 23-25 to an evenly matched St. John's Lutheran. Service runs by Ava Capaz and Gianna Giorsetto helped keep both games close. The second match also ended in a loss (12-25, 16-25) to St. Helena Montessori, but with every game, the girls continue to learn the game and improve their fundamentals. The team looks forward to playing their only home matches of the season this weekend (9 am & 10:30 am). Come out and cheer us on!

The **6th grade** girls' volleyball team had a very exciting home court match Saturday, defeating St. Rose in two games 25-19 and 25-21.

In this outstanding performance, every girl on the team scored at least one point from her serve and contributed to a stellar defense. The girls continue to compete this year with a superb team effort and demonstrated sportsmanship. A special thanks to our classmates and Mrs. Fiddler who came out to cheer them on!

We had a small but determined group of **7th grade** girls at our two home matches this weekend. We started our first match against Blue Oak by losing our first game. The girls rallied together and worked through a whole lot of illness on the team to win the 2nd and 3rd games for the match win! It wasn't easy but the girls worked together and displayed great sportsmanship. **Kate Kerr** and Game Captain **Mia Peterson** had runs of amazing serves and **Matilda Bourke** and **Lauren Dunlap** supported the team with awesome digs and tough ball returns. **Meagan O'Malley** had a spike that the other team couldn't even touch! The second game was against St. Rose. Our teams had some big rallies and both teams kept the pressure going through the first two games. Tied at one game each, the match came down to another 3rd game. The girls gave their all, but came up a little bit short in the end. Game Captain **Gretchen Wahle** was paramount to keeping the spirits of our team high; she kept supporting our team through all of the highs and lows! **Kate Kerr** was a rock throughout the entire game against St. Rose both on the court and in her serves. **Erin Meader** came back with some awesome serves, **Matilda Bourke**, **Mia Peterson**, and **Lauren Dunlap** each had sideouts which helped keep the pressure on.

The **8th grade** girls lost their two matches over the weekend to two good teams, St. John's Healdsburg and St. Helena Montessori. Both matches went to three sets but at the end, our opponents made fewer

errors and took the win.

The St. A's girls played steady defense, both sets against both teams but were blindsided by a very hard server from St. Johns Healdsburg who nailed 13 points in a row to win set 3.

This weekend we face them again and we are confident that we will win. Go Shamrocks!!

This weekend's games:

5th grade girls – 9:00am & 10:30am at St. A's

6th grade girls – 9:00am & 9:45am at St. Helena Montessori

7th grade girls - 12:45pm & 2:15pm – St. John's Healdsburg

8th grade girls – 9:00am & 9:45am – St. John's Healdsburg