

## 2018-2019 Monthly Newsletter - January

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! 2018 saw many positive steps for our school through the season of Advent as we prepared for Christmas. All members of our school gave beautiful rendition of Living Creche followed by PreK's reading and pageant of the Nativity. Kudos to our students, staff and parents who lent a hand in each of our programs.

As we look into 2019, we begin with our First Friday Liturgy on January 4<sup>th</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be leading this mass and their collection will be for the Voorhees Animal Orphanage. This shelter is dedicated to providing shelter, food and medical care to stray and unwanted animals until their forever families can be found. If you are available Friday at 9 AM, we invite you to come celebrate the mass with all of us.

A little later on, we will be finishing our second marking period with Mid-Term Assessments. All students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking the cumulative Mid-Terms (one a day) starting on Friday January 11. This is a way of assessing student learning from the beginning of the year. Marking Period will end on Friday January 25.

Once Mid-Terms have concluded, we will be participating in the GSS Day of Service where the entire student body will be participating in many different aspects of service above ourselves. After serving, we will celebrate our school with Catholic School's Week Mass and Open House to finish out January. Please be on the lookout for the fun and exciting events we have planned.

Three things to note, though as we return:

1. Please make sure that all children are coming to school with jackets. With the colder temperatures and wind chills, it will be important to keep all our children warm as they go outside for recess. Adjustments are made in case weather prohibits students from going outside, but please make sure students come with jackets (and gloves and hats when needed).
2. As many have different gifts from the Christmas holiday, birthdays or other reasons, please keep in mind our technology policy found on page 7 of the handbook. Cell phones, watches that do more than tell the time and the like must be handed in to the office upon entry to the school and can be picked up at dismissal. We want to make sure we have an environment that is distraction-free and temptation-free so all students can have the necessary focus on the academic process.
3. Virtus training is happening at Good Shepherd on Thursday January 17, 2019. This training is good for 5 years and is one of the pieces needed for volunteering and repeat chaperoning. There are only 20 spaces remaining so please register for the session as quickly as possible. There are no walk-up registrations allowed. Please consult the [Parent Volunteer Center](#) on the school's website for the details.

I hope that everyone has a healthy and prosperous New Year. Thank you for your commitment to Good Shepherd.

May God richly bless you and your family,



Ray Bonnette, Principal

## Academic and Activity Calendar:

- Friday January 4 – 9:00 AM First Friday Mass at St. John’s Church (all are welcome and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade is leading the Liturgy) then a 12 Noon **Early Dismissal**. There is no lunch period - PM Eagle’s NEST will be available from dismissal until 6:00 PM
- Thursday January 10 – Class Picture Day – All students are to be dress in **Winter Uniform**
- Friday January 11 to Thursday January 17 – Mid Term examinations
- Friday January 18 – GSS Day of Service
- Monday January 21 – MLK Day – School Closed
- Friday January 25 – End of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period
- Sunday January 27 – Catholic School’s Week Mass 11 AM and Open House Noon – 2pm
- Monday January 28 to Friday February 1 – Catholic School’s Week – event information to come.
- Friday February 1 – Noon Dismissal (\*correction to calendar: no 9 am Liturgy). There is no lunch period - PM Eagle’s NEST will be available from dismissal until 6:00 PM

## FACTS SIS (formally RenWeb)

Parents who are not signed up to see grades (K-8<sup>th</sup>) are encouraged to do so. Please go to <https://logins2.renweb.com/logins/ParentsWeb-Login.aspx> to sign up for an account by clicking “Create New ParentsWeb Account” our district code is DCAM-NJ. Your email address that receives the Wednesday Communication emails should be used. You will receive an email to set up a password where you can log in to see all grades. After logging in, please click “Student Information” and “Student Home” to see all grades from each subject. Grades 3-8<sup>th</sup> will see numeric grades. If you click the numeric grade, it will take you to all assignments that make up the grade. Grades K-2<sup>nd</sup> you will need to click the specific class to see the letter grades of the assignments. If you have any questions regarding this system or you cannot get on, please contact Mrs. Bowker at [ebowker@goodshepherdcollingswood.org](mailto:ebowker@goodshepherdcollingswood.org) or 856-858-1562.

## School Closure due to Weather or other Emergencies

If we need to close Good Shepherd for weather-related emergencies, we will be getting that information out to the school community as quickly as possible. We will strive to get that information to everyone by 5:30 AM the morning before school. Sometimes we will not be able to do that, but we will keep the safety of all students/families as well as the staff in mind when making weather-related decisions. Our name will be on CBS3/KYW News Radio (#995), 6ABC and NBC10 News Stations. We will post the information on our website and social media sites. Lastly, you will receive an email sent to the email addresses we have on file indicating what the status is for school on the given day.

## **Teacher websites**

Please check your child's teacher page found on our website to see the upcoming information that your child will be learning in the coming week. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the direct link. To alleviate checking four different sites, the Middle School teachers are now combined onto one page. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) page. You may need to scroll to see each class. All information should be current by the first school day of the week. On the websites, our Teachers should be providing informational blurbs about what the students are learning about in the coming week.

## **"Eagle Eye"**

For the past two months, we have had a new section in St. Teresa of Calcutta's bulletin called the Eagle Eye. This showcases a class each week on a rotating basis. If you are unable to see the bulletin, we have the inserts at the bottom of our school's homepage [www.goodshepherdcollingswood.org](http://www.goodshepherdcollingswood.org). Please check it out!

## **Annual Fund**

Mrs. Gallagher has sent out our Annual Fund letter and pledge cards a few weeks. As this is a major fundraising event that happens periodically throughout the year, if you receive them, please pass these cards on to relatives and friends of Good Shepherd School. As tuition and other school costs are already a family investment, having others help with this Fund is an excellent way to "pay it forward" to our students. All monies raised are used to help our students directly. If you are able to make a tax-deductible donation as well, we would be very appreciative.

## **Parent Volunteers**

Thank you to those individuals who have been able to go through our volunteer process and are cleared from the Diocese. If you are interested in volunteering (room parent, chaperone, assistant coach, chaperone) please visit our Parent Volunteer Center ([CLICK HERE](#)) to find out the process. Thank you in advance for going through this process to provide opportunities for our students. If you are interested in getting involved in the Parent's Association, please email [GSSParAssoc@goodshepherdcollingswood.org](mailto:GSSParAssoc@goodshepherdcollingswood.org).

## **Athletics**

If your child is interested in trying out/playing a sport for the school, please visit the Athletic Clearance ([CLICK HERE](#)) page well in advance of the start of the sport so all medical clearances can be approved *before* the start of the season. The spring season will be here before you know it, so please make sure everything is handed in early. If you have any questions about paperwork, please contact the office.

## **Social Media**

Please follow our Facebook and/or Twitter Pages to keep current with school activities, events and announcements. Let the GSS light shine on the web so that our family, friends and others in the community will know what we are about. Hide it under a bushel? No! We're going to let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine! Please like, share and retweet.

- Facebook → <https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdCollingswood.org/>
- Twitter → <https://twitter.com/GSSCollingswood?lang=en>