Hello St. Martha Families and Friends of Jesus,

If you attended the school Mass this past Wednesday, you heard Fr. Richard and our seminarian David Michael Moses present a fast-paced song about the Fruits of the Spirit. The kids and adults really seemed to enjoy it. If you were not able to be at Mass, here is the link to the fun song Fr. Richard and David Michael taught the school on Wednesday. I wanted to pass it on so you could share it as a family.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymNuBZXCK20

**THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

Oh the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT’S not a lemon.
Oh, the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT’S not a lemon.
If you want to be a lemon, you might as well hear it;
you can’t be a FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT!

**CHORUS:** ‘Cause the fruit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control…
Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

I hope you have been able to view grades on the RenWeb Parent Portal. Keep in mind that teachers may only enter new grades once per week. Some teachers may enter the grades more often. I do leave that option up to them, but at least one new grade needs to be entered per week. Report card time is soon approaching, and we will not input new grades the last week before the reporting period ends. We will do this so that we can make sure grades are entered completely for the grading period. After report cards are issued, the grade book will once again be active.

I hope many of you attended the parish Fall Festival and Market this past Saturday. I know I saw many of the school families either there as participants and/or as volunteers. What gorgeous weather! It was a great day to be outside and see everyone out of uniform and together as a family. The food certainly was delicious, and the kids’ games were popular for all ages. There were tremendous entries for the cake decorating and cake walk. We will list the winning names here in the newsletter. It is wonderful to see our families involved at the parish and school level. Thank you so much for sharing your time and talents with this spirit filled parish.

The Think Pink Day to bring awareness to the support of cancer treatment research was a great success. Donations from all classes totaled $2,048.42. Half of the funds raised will go directly to M D Anderson Cancer Research Center, and half of the funds go into the Kathy Ensley Memorial Tuition Assistance Fund here at SMCS. The third place class was Mrs. Kaden’s second grade with $158, the second place class was Mrs. Mason’s fifth grade with $180.90, and the winning class this year was Mrs. Conlan’s seventh grade class with $389! There was a student who gave her special glitter dollar from the tooth fairy and a seventh grader who gave a large donation from his very own savings. Those are great examples of hearing Christ’s message and sharing those fruits of the spirit.

Blessings to you all!

Mrs. Tina Lewis
Principal
THANK YOU to all our Crusader families who participated in the St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk/Run on October 1. The Friends of the Poor® Walk/run is a national program that provides funding for local Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Conferences such as our St. Martha parish conference. Funds raised from the local walk allow the St. Martha conference to provide emergency assistance to those in need, regardless of race, origin, religion, or gender.

Our SMCS families gathered with fellow parishioners on a beautiful Saturday morning to give their time and support for our community’s brothers and sisters in Christ in need who are helped by this very important parish and national ministry. We are proud of our Crusader families who continue to answer the call from Pope Francis to be witnesses to mercy and to “find the joy rediscovering and rendering fruitful God’s mercy, with which we are all called to give comfort to every man and every woman of our time.”

Wow – our Crusader families are awesome! Year after year our SMCS students and families fill our parish fall festival and market with their presence not only enjoying the wonderful community event, but BY HELPING MAKE IT HAPPEN! In every area of the festival again this year, there were Crusader students, parents, alumni and siblings cheerfully volunteering their time to make it possible for so many great events to be offered for the enjoyment of our St. Martha and Kingwood community.

THANK YOU to all our Crusader families past and present who show such tremendous support for our parish festival and many other ministries.

We are a huge part of our SMCS parish community, and our fellow parishioners continue to show their appreciation and support for our school because they are impressed by the spirituality and commitment of our SMCS families!

Way to go, Crusaders!!
Congratulations to our new SMCS National Jr. Beta Club officers and new members who were inducted in a special ceremony on Tuesday, October 11. Our officers from last year passed the flame of leadership on to the new officers, entrusting them with the responsibility of leading our club members to succeed academically, lead others, serve others and demonstrate honest, ethical and moral good character in all that they do.

2016-2017 SMCS National Jr. Beta Club Officers

President  Parker Manning
Vice-President  Ana Sofia Aragon
Secretary  MacKenzie Kelley
Historian  Katherine Speyerer
Chaplain  Alex Varela

National Beta Club Inductees

Julia Abreu Price  Kasen Ferguson  Luke Leger
Diego Aragon  Mackenzie Furman  Anthony Maraffa
Macy Barinmaker  Audrey Gillespie  Joe Mundell
Blake Bezner  Addison Guillemette  Elna Nguyen
Allie Blue  Sophia Hays  Conor O'Hara
Beverly Chang  Paige Howard  Kaylee Picard
Sarah Claassen  Cayden Hyatt  Lynette Pinto
Bella Coenen  Charlie Jardine  Avery Richter
Lily Coenen  Evan Jimerson  Miranda Rinaldi
Hayden Coogan  Natalia Kaprazack  Valeria Rondon Fuguet
Andrew Dennis  Matt King  Sophia Saenz
Joe Diamond  Jacquelyn Kirk  Anna Saucedo
Albert Dion  K.K. Kirsch  J.R. Simmons
Cecilia Dion  Hailey Landry  Alissa Stevanato
Daniel Farace  Xavier Laroche  Paula Villalobos
Matthew Farace  Caden Laskowski  Mackenzie Young

Returning Members

Chloe Adu-Gyamfi  Lucita Galvez  David Payne
Allissa Altman  Grace Guillory  Isabella Pinto
Ana Sofia Aragon  Reese Huchingson  Hadleigh Reiss
Elsa Awani  Quinn Keeler  Billy Schmidt
Mary Katherine Bena  MacKenzie Kelley  Cristian Selva
Alex Benedict  Grace Kelly  Gabriela Selva
Jakob Brammer  Clayton Landry  Sydney Schoel
Sienna Bryan  Genevieve LeBeouf  Sophia Simmons
Emily Chaires  Leah Lucas  Landen Smith
Carson Chesnut  Parker Manning  Katherine Speyerer
Ashley Cox  Rebecca Manosalva  Matt Stevens
Alexis Cox  Ricky Martinez  Alejandro Tristan
Hayden Diamond  Claire McTaggart  Grace Vidal
Chloe Ditges  Catherine Miller  Alex Varela
Porter Dodge  Ryan Nguyen  Lily Watkins
Moira Dodge  Charlie Norman  Catalina Zapata
Elizabeth Drake  Gabby Norman  Claire Zeinieh
SMCS students and families joined fellow parishioners and other community members at a silent gathering at Kingwood Town Center on Respect Life Sunday, October 2. Our SMCS Beta students traditionally participate in this annual event in which members of our community share their belief that every life is sacred and should be respected and protected from conception until natural death.

Thank you to our Beta students representing our school at the event and to all who gave their time and commitment to stand up for life! We know by the responses we received that your participation has an impact on those who witness your stand.

From each tiny child waiting to be born, to individuals nearing death, all are precious and deserve our care and protection. Women and men suffering after abortion, individuals tempted to end their lives, couples longing to conceive a child, people pushed to the margins of society by a “throwaway culture,” expectant mothers facing challenging pregnancies, and every other person—each “has a place in God’s heart from all eternity” (Amoris Laetitia, 168).

Did you know the PLUS Hospitality committee hosts a Doughnuts at Drop Off once a month?

Come on out and enjoy doughnuts and coffee with other parents. Make new friends while you’re there or bring a friend with you. It’s a great way to stay connected, and while you’re at it, find out about exciting new ways to volunteer at our school.

Our next Doughnuts at Drop off is scheduled for November 10, 7:30 – 9:00 a.m., in the Family Life Center. If you have any questions about Doughnuts at Drop Off, please email Christy Villarreal at villarrealc@stmarthacs.org .
"Flowers may bloom late, but either way they are beautiful! The same goes for people—just remember that..."

MacKenzie

St. Martha Parish Festival & Market

Cake Decorating Contest Winners

Category: Grades 1-2
1st Alexandra Garrido
2nd Leah Hopke
3rd Julia Tristan

Category: Grades 3-5
1st Virgina Bridges
2nd Sophia Tower
3rd SMCC CCE student

Category: Grades 6-8
1st Elsa Awani
2nd Claire McTaggart
3rd SMCC CCE student

Category: Pre-K/K
1st Wyatt Loper
2nd Bella Garcia
3rd Carter Wellham

Crusader Soccer on Think Pink Day

"Proud Crusaders!"
Happy Fall! Mrs. Carlson's Pre-K 4 class is in full swing. Our thematic units have included the rules of school, apples, and fall. We are currently working on fire safety. We took a picture of all students in their fire chief hats and badges. We have also covered letters Aa, Cc, and Dd. We begin Ee this week. We know how to spell, write, and identify numbers 0, 1, 2, and 3. Most of us know all of our colors, but we have focused on and learned to spell the colors black and blue (going in alphabetical order). Our shape for September was the circle, and for October we are studying the diamond.

We have four tables (red, green, yellow, and blue) with five children at each table. Students are encouraged to have some ownership of their group and have pride in their team, so they each were asked to create team names. The green table chose the Green Trees, the blue table chose the Blue Moons, the yellow table is now the Yellow Stars, and the red table students are proudly the Red Hot Wheels. We took pictures of students at each table coloring the sign for their team!

September has been a month full of learning and investigating. Through our science investigation about apples, we learned that God's special gift inside each apple is a star! We learned about the different colors and sizes of apples, that apples float in water, and that some taste sweeter than others. We read Ten Apples Up On Top by Dr. Seuss, and we even had ten apples up on top of each student.

Our class has been learning the letters A, C, E, and F, plus the numbers 0 and 1, the color red, and the circle shape. As part of our "All About Me" theme, the students made posters about themselves, decorated a poster cut out to look like them, and presented the posters during class - they did an excellent job! We said goodbye to summer and hello to fall during September too!

Our might, tiny, Crusaders, have been busy learning!
In Ms. Prisco’s Pre-K 4 Class the students are involved in many learning opportunities. They continue to work on creating one-to-one correspondence sets, forming ABAB patterns using manipulatives, learning initial letter sounds, recognizing upper/lowercase letters, and writing our first names. Our themes for the month of October include: Columbus Day, Fall, Fire Safety, and Pumpkins. The color of the month is orange, and the shape is the square.

Pre-K: Castillo

The mighty, tiny Crusaders of Room 102A had a very busy September getting introduced to the letters A, B, C, E, and F, plus the color r-e-d and the numbers 0 and 1. We met a new friend, Cindy Circle, and we learned many places to find circles around our school. As Houston tries to break free of the summer temperatures, we continue to learn about the season of autumn/fall. We are learning the colors of fall leaves and about fall fruits and veggies. October will present new introductions of the letters H, I, K, and P, plus the colors o-r-a-n-g-e and b-l-a-c-k and numbers 2 and 3. Sammy Square will help us learn the four sides of a square—corners too!

Pre-K: Jaspe

Individually or together, we strengthen our minds and our three finger grasp!
First Grade

In first grade, we are "fall-ing" into our routines. In science, we are studying how light travels. We are also preparing for the election process in social studies. Nouns are being identified in English. Addition has now rolled into subtraction. Keep practicing those math facts to twelve, and keep the Mathletics certificates coming! Reading Counts has taken off, too. We also enjoyed a puppet show given by our Drama Club!

Yes, we are busy bees!!

Second Grade

Our 2nd grade Crusaders have been extremely busy constructing our knowledge towers!

In math we are currently working on place value and expanded form of two-digit numbers. We are learning and applying the four main steps to solving word problems in math as well.

Our Crusaders are extremely excited about our new science program and can’t wait to conduct an investigation to find out what an “oobleck” is! In addition, we are learning about the many parts of speech, how to use text to locate important information, and becoming more aware of our Catholic Identity as we discuss and illustrate daily scripture in our morning journals.

Now that the weather is more fall-like, we have been enjoying the outdoor classroom by sharing our “just right” books with our friends. It is great fun to share our favorite genres with each other! We look forward to all God’s gifts and surprises that are in store for us this school year as second graders!

Third Grade

The third graders have been working hard and having a lot of fun! We have been practicing our addition and subtraction facts while playing math games to review them. The students are now beginning multiplication facts. Math games and bingo will help the students learn and know their facts. In science, we have been learning all about plants and have started our sweet potato experiment. Our students are enjoying being scientists and observing the changes in their sweet potatoes.
Fourth Grade

Fourth graders have been very busy. In Mrs. Daigre’s class, the students have been reading the book, *Frindle*. They have written about the characters and the plot. In Mrs. Rubiano’s homeroom, the students put on a play from their reading book, *The Baker’s Neighbor*. Many of the students showed great dramatic talent. Students are still reviewing addition and subtraction concepts, but are learning how to write an expression term for these concepts. In science, students are learning about the external and internal structures of animals and how they survive in their environment.

Fifth Grade

The fifth graders are learning about different body systems in science and the 50 states and capitals in social studies. Reading is getting very interesting as students are enjoying their first novel for the year - *Where the Red Fern Grows*. The current focus in math is adding and subtracting decimals, and in honor of October being the month of Mary, students researched and reported in class on different titles for Mary. For a little extra reminder to pray the rosary, the fifth graders made praying hands that decorate the classrooms.

Drama Club

The SMCS Drama Club has enjoyed presenting puppet shows to various classes, teaching lessons about honesty, forgiveness, confession, and vocations!
Development Updates

Crusade for Excellence Fund

Check out our extended 2016-2017 school year incentives below!

Our school goal is to reach 100% commitment through a pledge and contribution!!

Donations can now be made online at:

http://bidpal.net/crusadeforexcellence

If SMCS reaches 100% commitment by May 1, 2017, the entire student body will receive a FREE DRESS DAY on May 18, 2017.

In addition:

- Every family that donates $25 on or before Giving Tuesday, November 29, earns a free shoe/sock day for each student in the family.
- Every family that donates $100 on or before Giving Tuesday earns five free shoe/sock days for each student in the family.

Since contributions will be made per family, all students in the family will receive credit for their class, grade, and school participation. Pledges may be paid through June 30, 2017.

Participation By Homeroom