



THE MUSTANG *messenger*



Where Faith and Knowledge Meet
www.stmichaelsharonville.org

Dear St. Michael Families and Friends,

February 8, 2018

Happy February! I hope everyone enjoyed their snow day yesterday. This winter is making up for the past couple that have been so mild.

Many students and faculty have been hit with many illnesses lately: strep throat, viruses, and the flu. It is important that they take time at home to get better. Please remember our policy states that children need to be fever free for 24 hours without the help of medication before returning to school. Sending children to school who have fevers or don't feel well keeps the illness at school and doesn't allow our children to heal properly. We appreciate your attention in keeping our students (and staff) as healthy as possible during this cold and flu season. We have certainly been going through the Kleenex and the Clorox wipes!

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of our Lenten Season. Since this falls on Valentine's Day, we will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 13th. The students may come to school wearing pink, red or St. Mike's spirit wear. This will also be our February Penny Power day (since it was snowed out yesterday).

We are now enrolling for the 2018-2019 school year. If you have not sent in your registration form for next school year, please do so. We have had many new families already register for next year and are looking forward to welcoming them into our community. If you have a neighbor or friend looking for a school, please encourage them to consider St. Michael.

In an effort to get to know the wonderful parents here at St. Michael Parish School, I will be hosting a *Coffee With Mrs. Murphy* on Tuesday, February 20th from 9:30-10:30 in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Finally, our Second Trimester ends next Thursday. Please remember there is no school on February 16th and 19th.

Thank you for all that you do!

Have a wonderful week!

Carolyn Murphy

Principal

School News

From the Library

EBOOKS ARE HERE!

Reading and researching from home just got easier! *Browse the school's eBook collection anytime, anywhere*

St. Michael School Library is proud to announce that Follett eBooks have been added to our school's library collection and are ready for students to use.

There are three ways to access our eBook collection:

1. From within Follett Destiny®, our library catalog:
 - To access our catalog either go to <https://acld.follettdestiny.com> and click on St. Michael School, **OR**
 - Go to the school website, go to **Academics** on the top menu bar, click on **Library**, and scroll down to the **Catalog**.
2. By visiting Destinydiscover.com and searching for our school.
3. From your tablet or device, using the FREE [Destiny Discover app](#).

Follett eBooks are a great addition to the library.

Students can use them for casual reading or they can take advantage of more advanced features to capture and save notes, bookmark sections and highlight text when they are working on projects for the classroom. eBooks are a great option for vacations, school holidays and over the summer break.

Students will need their username and password to access our library materials. These are the same usernames and passwords that students use for Accelerated Reader. Many students will know their logins, but if not, contact Mrs. Ablett at fablett@stmichaelsharonville.org for assistance.

PTO News

The Book Fair will be held February 20-23, and we could use a few more volunteers. Here are the shifts where we could still use some help:

- Tuesday, February 20—7:30-10:00 a.m. Set-Up (2 people)
- Wednesday, February 21—3:00-7:30 p.m. (1-2 people - this shift could be split up)
- Thursday, February 22—9:15-10:30 a.m. (1 person)
- Thursday, February 22—10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (2 people)
- Thursday, February 22—12:30-2:30 p.m. (1 person)
- Friday, February 23rd—11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Teardown (3 people)

Important Dates to Remember

Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday—School Mass at 8:15 a.m.

(Masses also at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.)

Feb. 15 - End of Second Trimester

Feb. 16 - No School—Teacher In-Service Day

Feb. 19 - No School—Presidents' Day

Feb. 20-23 - Book Fair

Feb. 20-23 - Right-to-Read Week

Feb. 23 - Report Cards Distributed

Mustangs Serve News

7th Annual Banana Bake Sale: February 10/11

Going Bananas for Orphans in India

By Wendy Sauer

Mustangs Serve, the family-friendly outreach team at St. Michael Parish School, is teaming up again with [Back2Back Ministries](#) to buy bananas for the kids in the Back2Back Orphanages in India. At our Banana Bake Sale last February, we raised \$1,219, which was enough money to purchase a 118-day supply of bananas and feed 600 children!

Back2Back Ministries, India now serves...

- **Their Campus: 33 kids.** They are also preparing to break ground for the construction of a primary (K-5th) school to be built on their campus that when completed, will serve the children of 50-75 more families in rural villages.
- **Christ for All Feeding Center:** they provide a hot, nutritious meal 6 nights a week along with tutoring and Bible teaching.
- **Little Tom School:** a Muslim community.
- **4 "Strong Families":** they live in the slums and their program helps keep families together.
- **7 girls in a new all-female children's home.**

God is on the move and I love that these kids continue to feel God's touch and our love all the way from Cincinnati! Fruit (bananas, mangoes in their season, apples) are great for energy which is especially important in helping them with the 10+ hours of school/study required by the education system there.

I wanted to share a note that I recently received from Casey Foreman, director of Back2Back, India. "Wendy, one of the most challenging things about serving in a ministry with partners as longstanding and generous as you, is the struggle to find words to show just how important the partner is to the work, and the encouragement that comes from their support.

"Vandanalu" is the Telugu language word to express "thank you" and so let me start with that; Vandanalu, Wendy!"

Be sure to visit the Banana Bake Sale before and after all Masses the weekend of February 10/11 in the Gathering Space.

We will have everything from banana cookies, banana muffins, banana bread, banana cake, to banana everything All proceeds from the bake sale will go toward purchasing bananas for the orphans. \$30 can provide bananas to 250 children for a week!

Do you like to bake? If you would like to provide items for the bake sale, we need lots of yummy banana baked treats!

- We will be selling banana bread by the loaf. If you make a loaf of banana bread, please leave it whole and put it in a Ziploc bag. These loaves are popular and tend to sell out well before the 11:30 mass, so we would love more donations of whole loaves of bread!
- We are also selling any banana type of bake sale item that does not need to be refrigerated. This can be anything from cookies, muffins, bread, cake, or anything that you can think of! Please package these items two per Ziploc baggie. We will also be selling whole banana cakes or bars. Please bake your cake/bars in a disposable/non-returnable cake pan.

Please either drop off your baked goods to our table in the Gathering Space that weekend before or after Mass or deliver them to my house on Friday, February 9th or Saturday, February 10th. My address is 4083 Peachey Ct., Sharonville (the Waterford subdivision). **These items freeze well**, so you can also bake now, stick them in your freezer, or drop them off to me anytime and I will stick them in my freezer!

Please let me know what you are going to provide for the bake sale so I can have an idea of what to expect....Wendy Sauer, Wendy.Sauer@Outlook.com or call/text 702-4844.



Parish News

Blessed Palms

Since the 12th century, the church has burned the blessed palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday and used these ashes on Ash Wednesday. We are once again collecting palm branches to be burned in a short ceremony on Tuesday, February 13. Bring your blessed palm branches to church this weekend (February 10/11) and leave them in the box in the Gathering Space. Thank you!

Safe Families for Children

Imagine that you are the immigrant mother of two young children, with another soon on the way. You have travelled to the United States to seek treatment for your daughter, who was severely injured back home in Nigeria by the very people you needed for support. Imagine that you cannot go home, due to fear that what happened before may happen again. Imagine the uncertainty and fear you would feel as you wonder, "Who will take care my kids while you I am in the hospital to deliver my new baby?"

Luckily, there is Safe Families for Children, a nonprofit, volunteer movement that provides hope and support to families in our local communities. Safe Families for Children creates extended, family-like support for desperate families through a community of devoted volunteers who are motivated by faith to keep children safe and keep families intact.

We are eager to engage the community of St. Michael in the Safe Families movement. You are invited to attend an informational evening with Chris Combs, Executive Director of Safe Families for Children's Greater Cincinnati branch, on Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00, here at St. Michael. Chris will explain the movement and the many ways you can get involved to support families in crisis. For more information, please contact Jason Sauer (jasonsauer@outlook.com, 513-545-2555). We hope to see you there!

News to Share?

News to Share?

If you have any news that you would like to share with our St. Michael Parish School community, please email Kaylene Schwab at kaylene@saintmichaelchurch.net.