



Dear Saint Mary Families,

August 30, 2017

Hello and Welcome Back! We would like to extend a warm and heartfelt 'Welcome,' to our new Saint Mary students and families and offer a friendly 'Welcome Back' embrace to our returning ones. It is hard to believe that summer is unofficially over. As the summer slowly fades, we start to look forward to the rich, crisp, smells and sights that autumn ushers in. There isn't a better way to celebrate it all than with our annual **Saint Mary Family Festival!** The timing couldn't be better to help us peel those last fingers off our loosening grip on summer – freeing us to embrace the cool comfort and traditions of fall.

Before you go wishing for summer back, let us tease you with what lies ahead. **The 2017 Family Festival Committee** has been very busy this summer creating, planning, preparing and 'imagineering' to bring you a Festival that is better than ever! For starters, this year we kickoff Festival Week on Saturday September 9th with the 5K Road Race & Fitness Walk. If you're not a runner, consider walking – it's a great way to catch-up with friends, get in your workout and contribute to Our School. In addition to the 5K race we have a **Kids Fun Run** followed by a **Magic Show!** On Sunday, September 10th is the **Disney Character Pancake Breakfast** presented by the St Mary 7th Grade. Join us Friday, September 15th for Family Fun Night where the entire family can enjoy the Games, Inflatables and Children's Activities, while indulging in their favorite Festival Food. We have some new additions of the culinary kind from wonderful local vendors. Adults can join in the fun too with our **Over 21' Games** on Friday Night including a Cornhole Tournament! Join us for happy hour on Saturday Night as a warm-up to the toughest ticket in town – **The Pub Quiz!** Sign-up early or you'll be disappointed; we can only fit so many teams under the Big Tent! How's that for multi-tasking!

As you go about the next few weeks delighting in the anticipation and excitement that a new season and new school year brings, please include us in your plans. You will see many forms and flyers soliciting your help and talents. We need more than a few good **Bakers** and would welcome with open arms any new **Sponsors or donations** for our **Silent Auction**. With pride we say – **WE NEED YOU! Volunteers, this is your time to shine!** We know you're out there, so pencil us in early and as often as your calendar allows. Volunteering will give you a unique perspective of what goes on 'behind the curtain' of this very special school event; and if you visit our website you can sneak a peek as well. You never know, when the curtain closes on this year's Festival, you may find yourself wanting to run next year's show. All flyers as well as further details of any and everything Family Festival, can be found on the website <http://www.stmarysparish.org/NewsEvents/FamilyFestival.aspx>

For those of you who were unable to follow us all summer through the Parish, you have some catching up to do! We have kicked off our **Grand Raffle** ticket sales with much energy and enthusiasm. This year's first prize is \$15,000, second prize is \$5,000 and third prize is \$1,000. You are invited into join in the fun!

Wishing all a very successful and fulfilling school year. And for the much anticipated **Family Festival Week** - September 9th through the 17th - **LET US ENTERTAIN YOU!** You'll be glad you did.

Thank you and God Bless,

Chris & Colleen Clifford
2017 Family Festival Chairs

and

The 2017 Family Festival Committee