

MOSS NEWS

January 2020

A Message from Mrs. Szmed



Thank you to all the families who returned their Re-Registration packets. We are receiving new Preschool and Kindergarten registrations and are on track to filling each of those programs. I have made some changes in the 3- and 4-year-old program schedule in order to accommodate the large number of 4-year-old children. For the past several years, we've had a waiting list for this program, so the schedule change for the 2020-2021 school year will allow us to accommodate an additional 24 children.

The Mother of Sorrows annual Day of Giving kicks off on Tuesday, January 28th at noon and runs until noon on Wednesday, January 29th. MOSS has a goal of \$18,000 to fund the one-to-one technology initiative. If you are not comfortable making an online contribution during this 24-hour campaign, you can make your gift by check and drop it off at the school office. Information concerning the MOSS Day of Giving was sent home in hard copy, by email, and is on our Facebook page. The link to contribute was shared with all families by email and on Facebook. The link will open on January 28th at noon. See additional information in this newsletter.

Catholic Schools Week will kick-off on Sunday, January 26th at the 9:30 am Mass at Mother of Sorrows Church. All students have an opportunity to be a part of the liturgical celebration and each student is asked to attend in their dress uniform. The Open House that follows the Mass is an opportunity for MOSS to celebrate the educational accomplishments of our students, highlight cutting-edge programs we offer, and give new families time to explore the MOSS difference. Presently, we have 15 tours scheduled, but I anticipate many more families who will just drop in to see what MOSS has to offer. Our Catholic Schools Week Chairs, Amanda Kapp and Rena Altman, and their committee, have worked very hard to organize our Open House and the week's activities. I am very thankful for their support. It would be wonderful to see all our families join in our Catholic Schools Week celebration. Information was sent home about Catholic Schools Week and more information is available in this newsletter.

Our school has an excellent future, thank you for your commitment to Catholic education. Please be a positive Mother of Sorrows School supporter so we can educate many children for years to come.

Faithfully yours,
Theresa A. Szmed
Theresa A. Szmed
Principal

Important Dates:

January 24th:

Free Dress Down Day

January 26th:

Mass
9:30 a.m.

Open House
10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Jan. 26th to Feb. 1st:

Catholic Schools Week
See Newsletter
for more details.

February 1st:

First Communion Workshop
Social Hall

February 5th:

Save Day Deposit

February 6th:

Junior High Dance

February 14th - 16th:

Peter Pan Musical
See Newsletter
for more details.

February 17th:

No School



Mother of Sorrows School: 3264 Evergreen Drive, Murrysville, PA 15668

Phone: 724-733-8840 Website: www.mossschool.org



Day of Giving

#IGIVE  TO MOSS



Many Gifts, One Nation
A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools

Give back to your
local Catholic school!
January 28 - 29, 2020

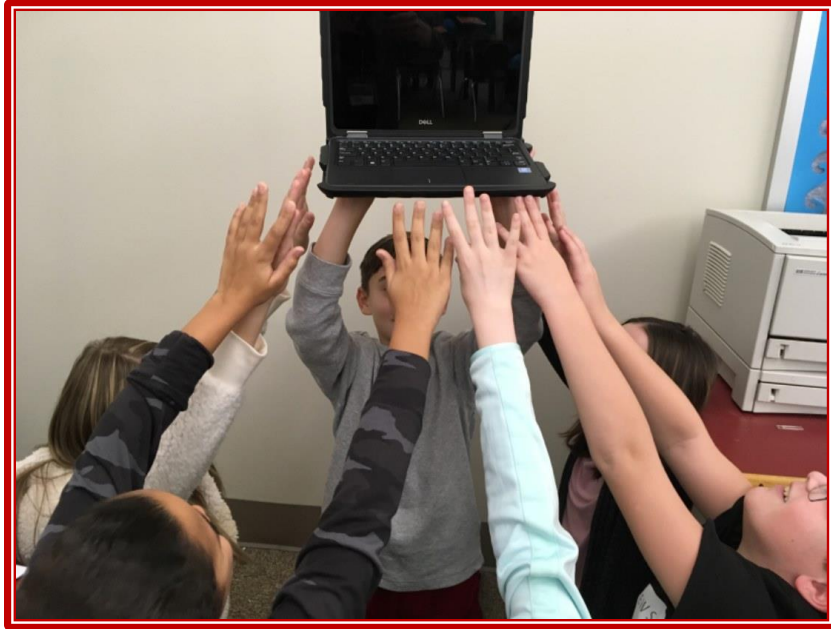
www.NCEA.org/csw/manygifts

Help us reach this year's goal:

\$18,000

MOSS wants ALL STUDENTS to have ONE-TO-ONE technology! We hope you can make OUR DREAMS a REALITY!

Day of Giving



What is the NCEA “Annual Day of Giving”?

The National Catholic Education Association’s **“Annual Day of Giving”** is a special day in which family, friends, coworkers and businesses can **donate money directly to Mother of Sorrows School**.

When does the “Annual Day of Giving” take place?

This event will take place on Tuesday, **January 28, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.** and runs for 24 hours, closing on Wednesday, **January 29, 2020 at 11:59 a.m.**

What is the fundraising goal?

Our goal is to raise \$18,000. We understand that everyone’s financial situation is different so please contribute what you can. Donations, of any size, are greatly appreciated.

What will the funds be used for?

All money raised will be used to provide our students with a one-to-one technology advantage. Today, best educational practices call for successful, safe technology integration for student learning. MOSS students continue to be Catholic global leaders and equipping our students with one-to-one devices will keep them on the cutting edge.

How can I make a donation?

1. **Direct Donation:**
 - Donations can be dropped off in the school office.
2. **Online Donation:**
 - The online portal opens on January 28, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. and will stay open until 11:59 a.m. on our January 29, 2020. The portal link will be emailed to families and will be available on our Facebook page.

Is my donation tax-deductible?

Yes! All donations are tax-deductible. Once your online or direct donation is processed, you will receive a letter acknowledging your tax-deductible contribution.

Spotlight on Sports

Boys Basketball and Cheerleading Schedule

The Mother of Sorrows Boys Basketball and Girls Cheerleading seasons are in full swing. MOS has two JJV Boys Basketball teams, three JV Basketball teams, and one Varsity Basketball team. The MOS cheerleaders have 31 girls participating this year.

The MOS Boys Basketball and Girls Cheerleader schedule for the remainder of their season is listed below. We invite you to stop by the MOS gym to watch our basketball players and cheerleaders at one of their games. We hope to see you there!

January 23rd:

- MOS JV White: 6:00 p.m. (Also, a MOS Cheerleader's game.)
- MOS JV Blue: 7:00 p.m.

January 30th:

- MOS JJV Blue/JJV White: 6:00 p.m. (Also, a MOS Cheerleader's game.)
- MOS Varsity: 7:00 p.m.

February 1st:

- MOS JJV White: 10:00 a.m. (Also, a MOS Cheerleader's game.)
- MOS Varsity: 11:00 a.m. (Also, a MOS Cheerleader's game.)

February 3rd:

- MOS Varsity: 6:00 p.m.

February 5th:

- MOS JJV Blue: 6:00 p.m.
- MOS JV White: 7:00 p.m.

February 11th:

- MOS JV Blue/JV Gold: 6:00 p.m.
- MOS JV White: 7:00 p.m.

February 13th:

- MOS JV Blue: 6:00 p.m. (Also, a MOS Cheerleader's game.)
- MOS JV Gold: 7:00 p.m.
- MOS Varsity: 8:00 p.m.

February 22nd:

- Diocesan Championship Tournament at GCC: (Game times to be determined.)

Save the Date

Please "Save the Date" for the "Mother of Sorrows All Sports Banquet" which will take place on Friday, April 24, 2020, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. We will recognize participants in the following sports: Cross Country, Girls Basketball, Cheerleading, Boys Basketball, Jump Rope Club, Girls Volleyball, Track and Field and Soccer. All of our hard-working athletes will be honored with a special recognition to our graduating 8th grade athletes. We hope to see you there!

Spotlight on Sports



Girls Basketball

The Mother of Sorrows Girls Varsity Basketball team won the Diocesan Championship in November and has advanced to the CYO State Girls Basketball tournament. The tournament will include the girls' championship teams from the state's eight catholic dioceses and will take place March 6th through the 8th at Greensburg Central Catholic High School. The next MOSS Newsletter will provide specific times for the tournament games. We would like to congratulate the Girls Varsity team for a job well done and wish them luck in the upcoming state tournament.

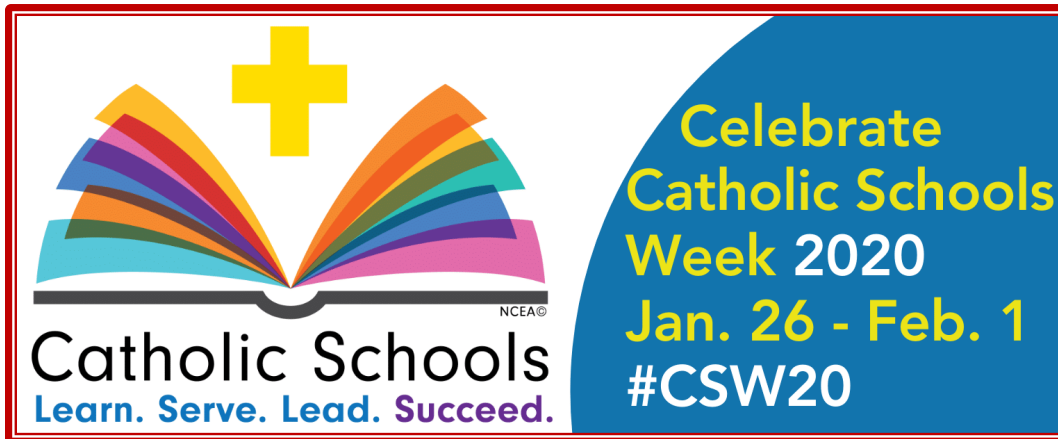
Girls Volleyball

The Mother of Sorrows Girls Volleyball season is here. MOS Girls Volleyball is open all students in grades 3rd through 8th. There are 3 MOS Volleyball teams this year: Junior JV (grades 3rd and 4th), JV (grades 5th and 6th), and Varsity (grades 7th and 8th).

Team practices will start in February. The CYO league season will begin on March 7th. Anyone interested in participating should contact the MOS Athletic Director, John Koury, at jfk001@comcast.net.



Catholic Schools Week



**OPEN
HOUSE**

Sunday, January 26, 2020

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 10:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. | Coding (Computer Lab) |
| 11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. | Peter Pan, Jr. Musical Preview (Cafeteria) |
| 11:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. | Smart Lab |
| 11:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. | Art Class Demonstration |
| 11:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | Maker Space (Room 208) |
| 12:00 p.m. to 12:15 p.m. | Project Lead the Way (Computer Lab) |
| 12:15 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Greensburg Central Catholic High School (Library) |
| 12:30 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. | Robotics (Smart Lab) |

Catholic Schools Week

"Celebration and Open House" (Sunday, January 26th):

Opening Liturgy:

- Mother of Sorrows Church (9:30 a.m.)
- Students in Dress Uniform, who attend Mass and open House will receive a "Dress Down Pass".

Open House:

- Mother of Sorrows School (10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)

"Celebrating Catholic School Students" (Monday, January 27th):

- Free Dress Down (All students must follow the handbook guidelines.)
- Aviary presents "Penguins"
- Jeopardy Game: "Are you Smarter than a 7th Grader?" (7th Grade vs the Faculty)

"Celebrating Vocations" (Tuesday, January 28th):

- MOSS Spirit Dress Down Day (Wear anything MOSS. Please follow the handbook guidelines.)
- Book Train (All grades. Bring your favorite book or two and a small pillow.)
- Thank you notes to our priests and sisters.
- Pep Rally
- 8th Grade vs Faculty/Parents Basketball Game (1:30 p.m.)

"Celebrating Families" (Wednesday, January 29th):

- Dress in your Favorite PJ's
 - PJ's must have long pants and tops.
 - Shoulders must be covered (no sleeveless).
 - Tennis shoes must be worn.
- "Thank You" Activity for Parents
- 3rd Grade Author, Floyd Stokes, Visits the School.

"Celebrating our Faith" (Thursday, January 30th):

- Dress Uniform (School Mass is at 9:30 a.m.)
- Faith Craft
- 5th Grade Living Museum (1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.)

"Celebrating Faculty and Staff" (Friday, January 31st):

- Free Dress Down with Crazy Hair Day (All students must follow the handbook guidelines).
- Pittsburgh Zoo "Reptile Show"
- Grace Life Christian Rock Concert

Throughout the week, students will also be involved in a variety of service projects such as the "Kentucky Project" and "Penny Wars".

Catholic Schools Week

MOSS Gives Back... Close & Far Away from Home...

Penny Wars:

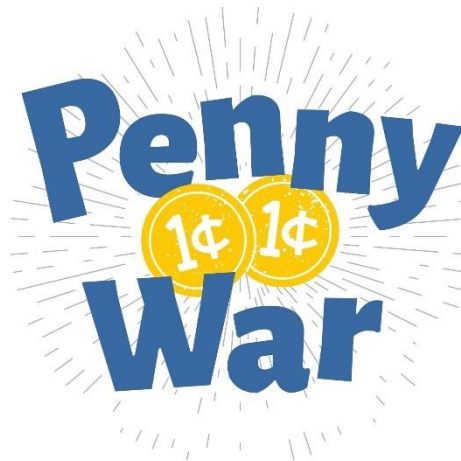
Each grade will have a water jug in the cafeteria on display all week. The grade with the most PENNIES by the end of the week wins. But there's a twist... if any SILVER COINS (OR DOLLAR BILLS), are placed in your jug, you will receive negative points. So, if you want your grade to win, be sure to place silver coins or dollar bills into your opponents' jars! All proceeds will benefit local Catholic Charity Organizations.

Add Points:

1. Pennies = Points
2. One Point per Penny

Subtract Points:

1. Nickels: Subtract 5 Points
2. Dimes: Subtract 10 Points
3. Quarters: Subtract 25 Points
4. \$1 Bills: Subtract 100 Points
5. \$5 Bills: Subtract 500 Points



Kentucky Project:

The Kentucky Project is an outreach ministry dedicated to Christ's command to feed the hungry. The Kentucky Project meets monthly to pack and send food boxes, equivalent to one week's worth of food, to the neediest families with children in poverty-stricken, southeastern Kentucky. Partnered with the Christian Layman Corps of Greensburg and Church of the Good Shepherd of Campton, Kentucky, this outreach ministry currently supports 21 families. We are happy to partner with St. Barbara's Parish in Harrison City for this wonderful service project!

We will be collecting the following new and gently used items for this service project:

1. Preschool to 2nd Grade:

- Diapers, Onesies, Sleepers, Pacifiers, Blankets and Wipes

2. 3rd Grade to 5th Grade:

- Children Coats, Scarves, Gloves and Blankets

3. 6th Grade to 8th Grade:

- Garbage Bags, Toilet Paper and Lysol Wipes



Peter Pan Musical

Mother of Sorrows School
Drama Club
proudly presents



Performance Times:

Friday, February 14, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 15, 2020

2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 16, 2020

2:00 p.m.

Tickets for reserved seating go on sale January 17th.
General Admission Tickets will be available at the door.

Adults: \$5.00 and Students/Seniors: \$3.00

Save the Date



Designer Purse Bingo



Sunday, May 3, 2020
2:00 pm (doors open at 12:45 pm)

Mother of Sorrows School Gymnasium
3264 Evergreen Drive
Murrysville, PA 15668, 724-733-8840

Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door.
Price includes 13 games of BINGO
(6 cards per game) and light refreshments.

Must be 18 or older to attend.
"Spirits" will be available to purchase at the event.
You are welcome to bring additional snacks for your table.

Additional BINGO cards, daubers, basket raffle tickets
and 50/50 tickets will be available to purchase at the door!

**Jackpot Winner:
Louis Vuitton Purse,
Wristlet and \$500 in Cash!**



National History Day

Did you know that the seventh-grade students at Mother of Sorrows School will be working on a special project called “National History Day”? Over half a million students, across the United States and the world, participate in “National History Day” each year. The theme of this year’s project is “Breaking Barriers in History”. Our seventh-grade students have spent significant time researching and discussing “Breaking Barriers” in Education, Civil Rights, Medicine, Science, Space Exploration and Sports. Each student was required to select a topic, in this area, and create a presentation in one of four ways: a Written Paper, an Exhibit Board, a Documentary or a Performance. These projects will be presented at Mother of Sorrows school in January. Students will also have an opportunity to present their projects at the Heinz History Center on National History Day (March 15, 2020).

Advisory Council Meeting Summary

In January, the Mother of Sorrows School Advisory Council met on Tuesday, January 7th.

The following items were discussed:

- Advisory Council members agreed to speak to parishioners about Catholic education in the Diocese of Greensburg. Several members volunteered to deliver this message on January 25th and 26th to the following churches: St. Barbara, St. John Baptist de La Salle, St. Mary, and Mother of Sorrows Church.
- Members discussed and provided an update on the Annual Day of Giving. Members continued to discuss and strategize on the one-to-one technology initiative.
- Members discussed Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) contributions and campaign strategies.

Contest Winners



The Knights of Columbus held it's “Keep Christ in Christmas” poster contest. We'd like to congratulate the following MOSS winners:

Grades 3rd through 5th:

- 1st Place: Garet Gizler
- 2nd Place: Reid Farberow
- 3rd Place: Lauren Bell

Grades 6th through 8th:

- 1st Place: Sarah Yauger
- 2nd Place: Millie Curry
- 3rd Place: Olivia Thatcher

Light Up Night

We would like to thank everyone who attended our annual Light Up Night! What an amazing turnout! We feel so blessed to share this special evening with our MOS community. Thank you to all the families who generously donated baked goods, hot chocolate bar supplies, drinks and ornaments for our Christmas tree! We look forward to seeing everyone again next year. Merry Christmas!

THANK
YOU

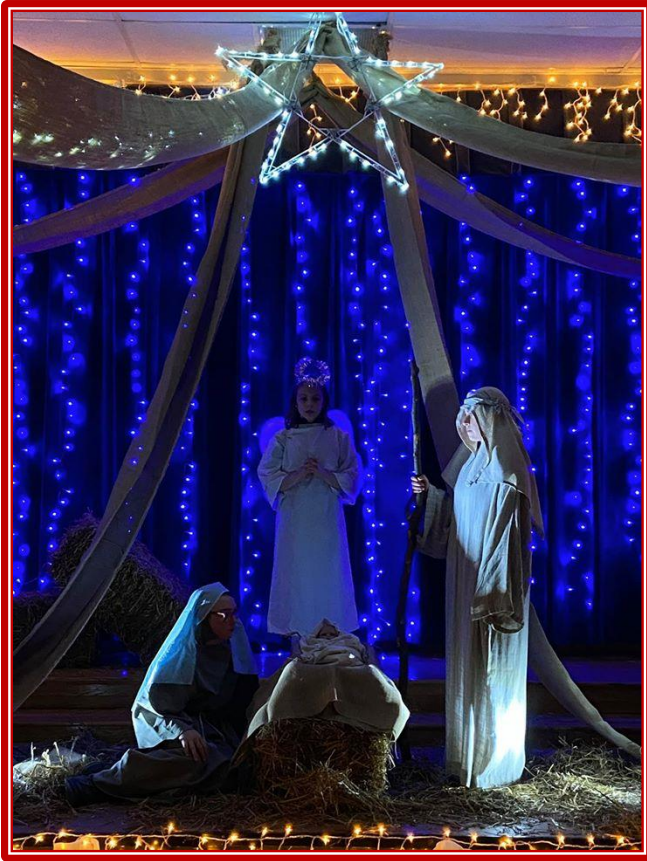
5th Grade Nativity Projects



Here are some of the beautiful Nativity projects our 5th graders had on display during Light Up Night.



Light Up Night



Thank you to all of the student volunteers that participated in the Living Nativity. It was a breathtaking display and a wonderful reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.



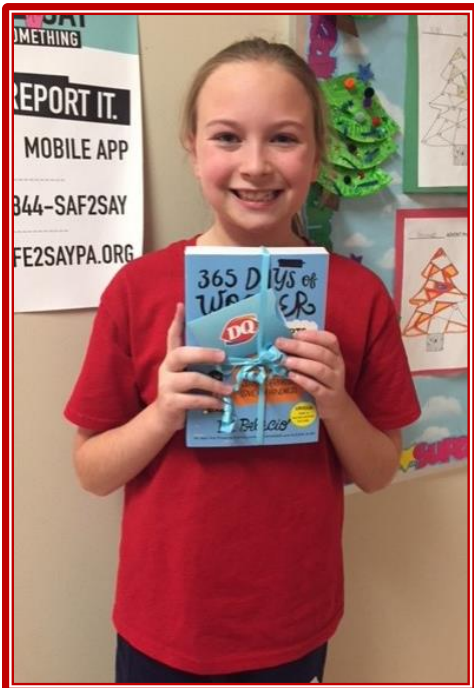
Around the Halls of MOSS

In December, the MOSS choir stopped by the Sisters of Charity at Caritas Christi. During their visit, they celebrated Mass, with Monsignor Gaston, and participated in a special Christmas concert!



Happy New Year from 1st Grade!

Congratulations to Chloe Carr for winning the History Bee Contest!



Happy New Year!

Around the Halls of MOSS



Mrs. German's fifth grade Project Based Learning class recently completed a project entitled, "Fifth Grade Food, Fractions, and Fun!" Students researched recipes from Africa, Cuba, Germany, and Poland. They doubled recipe amounts and cut recipe amounts in half to gain a better understanding of fractions. Students then went home and prepared samples of their recipes to share with their classmates.



MOSS students learned all about the night sky during a fun visit from the Planetarium.

Office Reminders

Lunch Volunteers

The lunch duty volunteer sign-in book will now be located on the front counter in the main office. Please be sure to sign in every time you volunteer for lunch duty. If you need to cancel a lunch duty, please cancel online and schedule a new date. Once you have selected a new date, please inform Jodi at jbeall@mosschool.org. It is so important that you cancel online so we can find a substitute volunteer. Thank you for your cooperation!



Re-Registration Packets

The 2020-2021 “Re-Registration Packets” were sent home to all current MOSS families on Wednesday, January 15th. If your child did not bring one home, please notify the school office as soon as possible. We kindly ask that you return the completed packet by Friday, January 24th so we can ensure your spot next year! After Open House, we will begin accepting “New Student Registrations” so please return your packet, today!

Flexible Instructional Days

Mother of Sorrows Schools is allowed a maximum of 5 Flexible Instructional Days (FID) per year. This will give our students an opportunity to receive educational instruction if circumstances arise that prevent instruction within the school building. Teachers prepared 5 packets called “Blizzard Bags”. Last week, each student received their first packet. Parents will also receive the packet via email during the morning of the Flexible Instructional Day.

Teachers will be available, by email, between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to answer any questions concerning the assignments and are required to answer emails within 30 minutes. Students will follow the school’s six-day cycle schedule and complete assignments for the classes scheduled. The packet includes all of your child’s core and special classes. For example, if your child has music on the Flexible Instructional Day, he or she will complete a music assignment in addition to core subject assignments. For your convenience, your child’s schedule is included in your packet. **All assignments must be turned in to the homeroom teacher within 3 days of the Flexible Instructional Day. Students who fail to turn in ALL assignments will be marked absent for the Flexible Instructional Day.**

Please feel free to contact Theresa Szmed if you have any additional questions.