



CONNECTIONS

February 7, 2019

Letter from the Principal

Important Dates

Thursday, February 7

- Free Dress with Pass
- Progress Reports

Friday, February 8

- School Open House & Tour: 9:00 AM

Wednesday, February 13

- Parents' Club Mtg: 7:00 PM
- Parents' Book Club: 8:30 PM

Thursday, February 14

- School Mass (1): 9:00 AM

Friday, February 15

- No School—Staff Retreat
- No Kids Club

Monday, February 18

- No School—Presidents' Day

Friday, February 22

- Free Dress & Pizza Lunch
- Family Game Night: 6:30 PM

Thursday, February 28

- School Mass (K): 9:00 AM
- Auctions Items Due

4811 Wallingford Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103

Phone: 206-633-3375

Ext. Day Phone: 206-518-6009

Submit Connections articles to:

M. Mary: m.ancich@stbens.net by
3:00 PM Tuesday.

Dear St. Benedict Catholic School Families,

I want to start by thanking everyone for your patience and understanding over the last few days. Snow days can be an exciting and fun event for any family, they can also be frustrating and stressful as parents try to telecommute or find childcare when the school is closed. This week's bizarre communication problems certainly added an element of confusion. I want to share information regarding the problems we had with technology (maybe more than you realized) and explain a plan to deal with future winter weather.

1. The problems...our Emergency Alert System (through Alma) is designed to text or call phones (then send a follow up email) when it is activated. Some families received texts, some calls, some both. Many received calls with no message when they answered the call.

Alma's email system had, I am told, separate issues. Their email is hosted through a 3rd party (Mailchimp) which experienced a 36 hour, worldwide service interruption. Service was restarted Tuesday afternoon at which point many of you received stored emails in random order.

Unrelated glitch- KING 5's online weather notification system (that I use to report our status) was also not working properly! Many of us had to resort to calling their newsroom to get our delays posted, and then there was still a delay.

2. Until I am confident that Alma's systems are working properly St. Benedict School is going to use more reliable means of notifying parents of delays or closures.

Local media outlets (KOMO 4, KING 5, KIRO 7) all of which post closures on their websites and live feeds.

Posts on the school's website main page as well as its Facebook and Instagram accounts.

I will do everything I can to communicate this message as soon as possible. Ideally, you would know before you go to bed to expect a change for the morning. If I am unable to make a decision before going to bed, you will know early in the morning, typically by 5:30am.

I have been in contact with Alma to find out if the issues we have been experiencing can be fixed or if we need to find a new provider for our emergency alerts. If I get word that some of these issues have been fixed I may test the system later in the week so don't be too surprised if test alerts go out.

Again, thank you for your patience,

Brian Anderson, Principal

Auction News

Auction Volunteer Opportunity:

The auction committee is looking for someone to work with Renee Lindstrom on auction RSVPs, bid packets and check in for this year's auction, so they can be in charge of it for next year's event. If you're interested or would like more details, please reach out to Kayla Nestor and Jaime Lin-Yu at auktion@stbens.net.

Scrip

The next QFC/Fred Meyer card reload date will be delayed 3 days until Thurs Feb 7th. Sorry for any inconvenience. To participate, turn in payment and card # in the office by Thursday morning at 9 AM, up to \$500 per card.

With PCC, you can reload your own card online, minimum \$50. St Bens will still get proceeds. We now have Heavy Restaurant \$100 cards, in addition to \$25.

St. Benedict Athletic Sweatshirts

Order your Athletic Sweatshirts now. Order forms, available online and in the office, are due Feb 14.

Box Tops Winter Competition

Gather those Box Tops! The Box Tops Class Competition is on from now until Thursday, February 14 (there's no school on Friday, the 15th). The winning class will get a Candy Party! Box Tops will be collected in each classroom.



Mariners –March 31!

After a fun night of adult fun at the Auction, gather your crew and join St Benedict for Family Night at T-Mobile Park to see the Mariners take on the Boston Red Sox on Sunday, March 31, at 1:10pm. We need at least 20 paying attendees in our group to participate in Family Night and receive the discounted tickets for just \$14 each! Children 2 and under are free. RSVP by Friday, Feb 15 so we can see I know if we participants. Payments will be due to by Feb 28. Email Ashley Hermsen: ashley.hermsen@gmail.com to reserve your seats or with questions.

Family Game Night! - Feb 22

We will not be showing a movie in February. Instead, we will be hosting a Family Game Night! Families are invited to join us in the auditorium on February 22 at 6:30 p.m. for games, dinner, and treats.

Ticket to Ride, Settlers of Catan, Sleeping Queens, Jenga, Candy Land, Tenzi, and Uno are just a few of the games we'll have available! Or, bring a game that you want to share with friends! The suggested donation of \$5 per family will go to our sister parish in Zambia.

Pre-order pizza dinners and pizza by the slice will be available, in addition to baked goods. Please submit pre-order pizza dinner forms, which are attached, to Ms. Mary by noon on February 22. Pre-order forms are also available in the school office.

Please email shannonbenbow@yahoo.com if you plan to come. While RSVPs are not necessary, we would like an estimate of how many people will be coming to Family Game Night so we have enough food and games for everybody.

The Yearbook Needs Your Pictures!

Do you have any photos from the 2018-2019 school year so far that should be considered for the yearbook? The yearbook needs sports team photos, photos from field trips and any other school-related event photos (first day of school, in class, special events, etc.) Please submit these photos to Annie Quinn at: Andrea_L_Larson15@hotmail.com.

Mother/Son Event - March 2

Save the Date! Saturday, March 2, will be our Mother/Son Event. More details to come!

St. Benedict *glassybaby*

Created especially for this year's auction, the *glassybaby* is etched with the St. Benedict logo and comes in school colors Blue and White. Come by the office to see them in person, and ORDER YOURS NOW for pick up at the auction!

Sickness

If your child is sick, please be sure to keep them at home until they are fever free for 24 hours.