

## A Message from the Principal



Dear Saint Ambrose Parents,

My desire for our graduates is that they demonstrate such strength of character and virtue that they are unique among their peers, and easily identifiable in their high school environments as not only well prepared academically, but also exemplary in the way they treat others: from their peers to the hall monitors, from their teachers to the school custodians, from the bus drivers to the principal. There are so many people who might be dismissed as invisible in our daily life. I want our students to recognize the dignity of each person they encounter: to see them as God sees them.

I believe this is an area of challenge for our students, and modeling this starts with us. As a family this Lent, I challenge you to join the Hand family in our goal to see all people as Children of God, to treat each person with dignity, and to truly see people: not just those we consider important or those that we love, but all people. If we intentionally and authentically do this, we are living as Disciples of Christ.

Archbishop Hebda spoke to Catholic school principals on retreat in February. His topic was Pope Francis as a leader, and this talk is what propelled me to think about this challenge of truly seeing all of the people we encounter. It starts in our family: there are times that the ones we love the most are the ones we take for granted. Truly listening to each other and recognizing the dignity of each other is a consistent challenge. Secondly, at school (or work) -ask your children if they know the names of the people who work in our lunchroom, the playground supervisors, the custodians and the teachers who don't teach them. Encourage them to see these people and greet them. The next time you are in a restaurant or at a hotel, encourage your children to see the people who are serving, but are easy to ignore. God who loves us created us for a purpose, and created each person for a purpose. Perhaps this lens will help us to recognize each person we encounter as a Child of God.

The final and all-encompassing tenet of the Saint Ambrose Way is to "Be the Best You Can Be". My Lenten challenge for us is to create the habit of seeing and recognizing the people who could otherwise be invisible. This engages us in the Body of Christ and connects us to each other. It lays the foundation to be the best we can be.

*Sincerely,*  
**Betsy Osterhaus Hand**  
Principal

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## AmazonSmile Online Fundraiser



Did you know that by making a simple change to how you shop on Amazon, you can help generate money for our school?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

Here is what you need to do:

1. Break the app habit. Donations are only made for eligible purchases on the AmazonSmile website but not through the Amazon app. Bookmark <https://smile.amazon.com/> Note: You can go shopping in the app but switch over to the website to checkout - your shopping cart will be waiting for you!
2. Sign on with your existing amazon password. When first visiting, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization. Browse the list and select "St. Ambrose of Woodbury".
3. Start shopping! Eligible items will be marked with:

Eligible for  donation.

## Original Works is Back by Popular Demand



We are excited to announce Original Works is coming back to Saint Ambrose. In mid-March, you will have the opportunity to purchase a variety of products featuring your child's very own artwork.

- iPhone and Galaxy phone covers
- Pillowcases and nightlights
- Journals and sketchbooks
- Notecards, mugs, magnets, key chains, coasters, mirrors, and more!

Original Works products make great gifts for Mother's Day and Grandparent/ Special Friends Day. Stay tuned for more information the second week of March.

# A Message from the Assistant Principal

March 1st is Ash Wednesday and this begins our forty-day Lenten journey. I am reminded that this a great time to deepen our relationship with God. We can spend more time in prayer, fast from the things that distract us from knowing God, and give alms to help people in need - "Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me"(Matthew 25:40).

As a former elementary teacher, I enjoyed teaching my students about the Lenten season and their opportunity to reconnect with God. Often times during Lent preparation, children would be over-zealous and unrealistic about the Lenten commitments and declare things like " I am going to pray 20 times a day" or "I am going to give all my parent's money to the poor" or even one of my favorites, "I am going to give up broccoli because I don't like it very much anyway." But after some coaching and gentle guidance, they would end up making beautiful and serious Lenten goals in which they would deeply and sincerely commit. I was often moved by the devotion and faith of my students.

Recently I had a very similar conversation with my 3 year old daughter, Rose, about the concept of fasting during Lent. Like my students before her, she graciously offered to give up naps for Lent. As you can imagine, this made my husband and I laugh at her "selflessness", but it provided us with opportunity to teach her the importance of Lenten season and our opportunity to refocus on God through prayer, fasting, and giving alms. We have resolved as a family to fast from electronics and take this extra time to add family morning prayer into our daily routine.

Lent is one of my favorite liturgical seasons, second only to Easter. It gives us the opportunity to once again work towards doing the right thing and improving our relationship with God. I encourage you to talk to your children about their Lenten commitments. Attached is 10 Things to Remember about the Lenten journey, courtesy of the US Catholic Bishops. Print your copy, put it in your office and perhaps on your fridge, and follow these simple yet effective suggestions for growing in holiness.

*Sincerely,*  
**Mrs. Erin Nemetz**  
Assistant Principal

## HandS Board Elections are Right Around the Corner!

Do you like to have fun while connecting with other parents and teachers?  
Do you have new or creative ideas for our school? The HandS Board is for you!  
Commitment is only one meeting per month. Open positions include:

**Vice President • Treasurer • Fundraising Coordinator • Secretary**

Email Nicole Lind at [nicole.lind@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.lind@gmail.com)



# Athletic Department News

Hello Parents and Athletes,

Congratulations to our winter athletic teams for successfully competing in the CAA for another season. We offered seven basketball teams and one swimming team. Thank you to our winter coaches who generously spent their time with our student athletes. Saint Ambrose of Woodbury could not offer the sports we offer without your dedication and willingness to work with our student athletes. Many thanks!

In late February and early March the Athletic Department and numerous parent volunteers are hosting Catholic Athletic Association basketball playoffs in our gym. Thanks to parents, to members of Saint Ambrose's teaching staff for spending a considerable number of hours filling necessary duty stations and making money for the program at these playoff nights. Your help is tremendously important to the program. Remember, there's only eight months to go before we host volleyball playoffs in October. If you have athletes at Saint Ambrose, you can expect to hear from me when I begin staffing our next event. Thanks everybody!!

While March might look like a quiet time of year for athletics, the truth is that winter uniform collection, spring organization, league placements, roster management, securing coaches and volunteers makes it a very busy time. The spring signup ends soon with the new teams starting practices in March. I will publish rosters and announce our spring coaches as soon as possible. Spring schedules will likely be available during the first week of April. Our baseball and softball teams will play twice a week and practice once. We also expect each of our spring teams to participate in a weekend tournament at some point in their seasons.

Please contact me at school using email or telephone with questions or concerns.

Thanks,

**Bruce Whynott**

Athletic Director

Phone: 651-768-3025

Email: [Bruce.Whynott@SaintAmbroseofWoodbury.org](mailto:Bruce.Whynott@SaintAmbroseofWoodbury.org)



# Announcing... The Saint Ambrose 2016-2017 Yearbook

Orders Due: April, 17

**Our yearbook is planned to include:**

- All color pages that vibrantly capture school memories
- Sturdy soft cover with protective coating to preserve your keepsake
- Original cover design that reflects our school's spirit and uniqueness

**Please order your yearbook by visiting:**

**<https://ybpay.lifetouch.com>**

Make checks payable to: Lifetouch

(If you cannot pay online, please make your check out to Lifetouch and turn it into the school office.)

Orders Due: April 17, 2017

School ID code: 3701217

Cost: \$17.00



## Let's Go Band!

Support our wonderful 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade musicians at these upcoming band events. Director Josie Bertsch and students always impress with their excellent performances!

Date	Time	Students	Location
Saturday, April 1	TBD	Jazz Band	Woodbury Expo Performance, Eastridge High School
Thursday, May 11	7:00 p.m.	Varsity and Jazz Band	Saint Ambrose Band Concert, Central Park Amphitheater
Friday, May 12	1:00 p.m.	Jazz Band and Select Band Students	Saint Ambrose Grandparents/Special Friend Day, Church
Thursday, May 18	7:00 p.m.	All Band Students	Spring Band Concert, Gym
Thursday, May 25	2:00 p.m.	Prep Band	Prep Band Performance for 4th graders, Gym

Saint Ambrose of  
Woodbury

2017

Gala

FRIDAY  
MAY 5

## *We're off to the Races!*

Saint Ambrose Gala  
A Derby Party  
**Save the Date**  
Friday, May 5  
7:00 PM  
Fellowship Hall

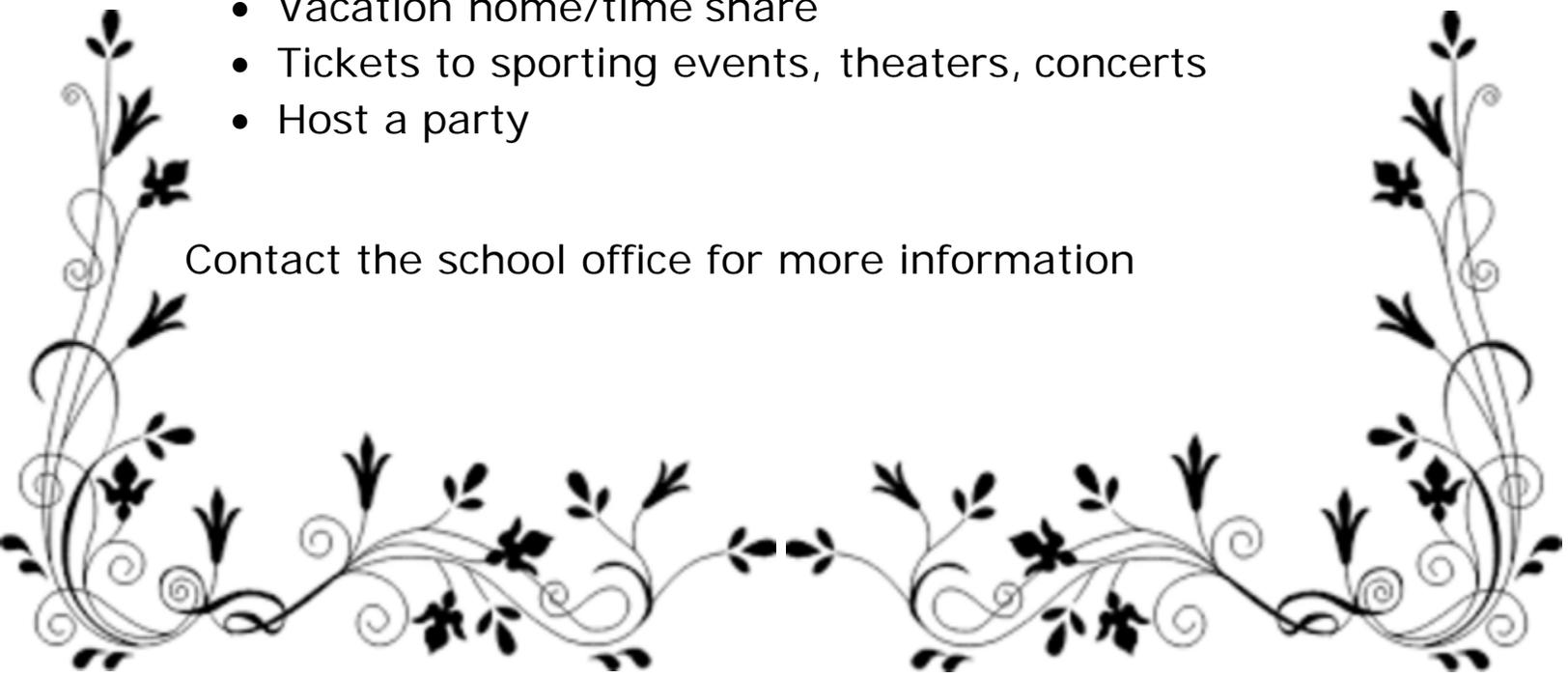
### **Help Needed:**

- Communication coordinator
- Grade level coordinator for classroom creations

### **Donations Needed:**

- Restaurant gift cards
- Vacation home/time share
- Tickets to sporting events, theaters, concerts
- Host a party

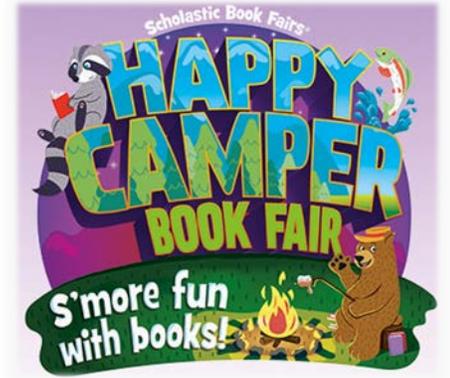
Contact the school office for more information



## Thank You for Making the Book Fair a Success!

Thank you to all students and families for making our annual Scholastic Book Fair a success. We raised over \$4,000 in cash and Scholastic dollars for our school and \$500 in Spanish language books for our sister parish in Cuba!

Also thank you to all our wonderful volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you! We hope everyone is enjoying your new books. If you didn't get a chance to view Mrs. Hand eating the scorpion, there is a video posted on our school's Facebook page.



## Saint Ambrose Summer Program

July 17-21

### **This summer the Crusader Fun Club & Summer School Join Forces!**

Mark your calendars! The week of July 17-21 Saint Ambrose will offer an on-site week of summer enrichment and fun. Any student entering grades K-6 will have the opportunity to take up to three courses for a full day experience; all students enrolled in the Crusader Fun Club for this week will participate. Courses will be 1.5 hours in length, and offered starting at 9AM and concluding at 2:30 PM. Before and after care will be available. Lunch and a recess break will be provided for those students who are staying for the entire experience. Course offerings include art, drama, science, math, writing, Legos and more! Look for registration information soon.

# Calendar of Events

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Ash Wednesday All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)  End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Trimester	11
12	13 No School Teacher In-Service	14	15	16	17 Grades 3-5 Mass (9:45 a.m.)	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 All Pro Dads (8:15 a.m.)  All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Reconciliation Grades 2 – 8 (9:45 a.m.)	

April 2017

Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)	8
9	----- NO SCHOOL – Spring Break -----					14
16	17 School Resumes  -----7th Grade – attending Eagle Bluff ----- Spring MAP Testing begins	18	19	20	21 All Pro Dads (8:15 a.m.) All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)	22
23	24	25	26 Spring MAP Testing ends	27	28 All School Mass (9:45 a.m.) Mid Trimester	29
30						

## 2017 School Calendar

Wednesday, March 01	All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)
Friday, March 10	End of 2nd Trimester
Friday, March 10	All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)
Monday, March 13	No School - Teacher In-Service
Friday, March 17	Mass Grades 3-5 (9:45 a.m.)
Friday, March 24	All Pro Dads (8:15 a.m.)
Friday, March 24	All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)
Friday, March 31	Reconciliation Grades 2-8 (9:45 a.m.)

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Friday, April 7	All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)
April 10-14	No School - Spring Break
Monday, April 17	School Resumes
April 10-April 26	Spring MAP Testing (Grades 2-8)
April 17-19	7th Grade attends Eagle Bluff Trip
Friday, April 21	All Pro Dads (8:15 a.m.)
Friday, April 21	All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)
Friday, April 28	Mid-Trimester
Friday, April 28	All School Mass (9:45 a.m.)

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Friday, May 05	Gala / Bishop Pates Endowment Benefit
Friday, May 12	Grandparent / Special Friend Day
Thursday, May 18	Spring Band Concert
Monday, May 29	No School - Memorial Day

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Thursday, June 01	8th Grade Graduation (7:00 p. m.)
Friday, June 9	Last Day of School (Grades K-7)
Monday, June 12	Teacher In- Service

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### OUR SCHOOLS MISSION

*We at Saint Ambrose of Woodbury Catholic School are dedicated to supporting families in fostering our Catholic faith and moral development while providing the highest quality academic standards, so we may influence the world in a Christian manner.*