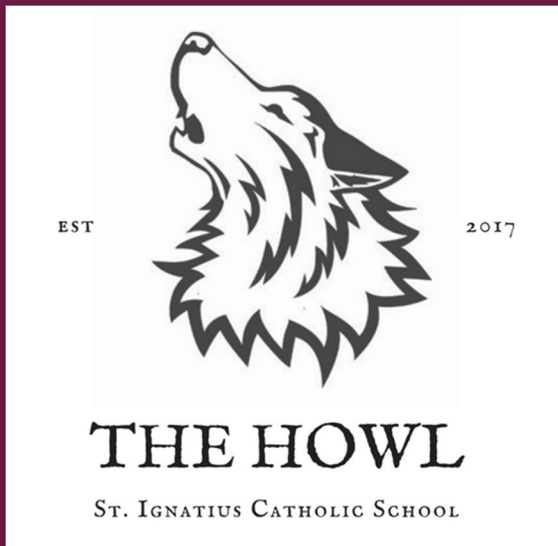


WINTER, 2020



Growing leaders who turn  
FAITH into ACTION.

JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING:\*

- March 16-27- School Closure/Spring Break
- April 10- Living Stations of the Cross- 12:15pm
- April 16/17- Student Led Conferences
- April 26- First Holy Communion- 11am @ HA
- April 30- 6-8<sup>TH</sup> Grade Concert- 6pm @ SI
- May 7- May Crowning Mass- 2:20pm @ HA
- May 20- Volunteer Breakfast- 8:30am @ SI
- May 21- Baccalaureate Mass- 2:20pm @ HA
- May 21- K-5 Spring Concert 6pm @ SI
- May 26- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation- 6pm @ SI
- May 28- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL; 12pm Release

\*All events are subject to change in the interest of on-going health and safety consideration.

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear St. Ignatius School Community,

Each year at St. Ignatius as our students prepare for the annual Faith In Action Fair, our classrooms spend time learning about Catholic Social Teaching. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops describes the Catholic Social Teaching principles as a “rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society” (USCCB). This Lent our students put their faith into action by using these principles to guide their contributions of service and awareness to our community and our world.

Of the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching, the principle of solidarity has been one of the more difficult for students, and adults alike, to fully understand. In describing solidarity, the USCCB explains:

*We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world.*

The place we find ourselves in amid the COVID-19 outbreak is in a place of solidarity, in a world that isn't often friendly to shared experiences. Suddenly borders break down. Lines dividing governments, political parties, race, socioeconomic status and even religion instantly disappear. We are in a global community, and the current crisis makes this apparently clear. This is solidarity. It is recognizing that we are one with our shared human experience.

At St. Ignatius Catholic School we are committed to providing an ongoing, quality education for our students. The past two days, teachers and staff have been tirelessly compiling resources and creating remote learning plans. We are dedicated to providing spiritual, academic, and social support to our students and families despite the challenges of our situation.

St. Ignatius is well-equipped to face these challenges. We have a strong community full of dedicated staff and families. We are already good and blazing new trails and solving the challenges of newness. In the past three years our school has vetted the best digital learning platforms and have prepared students for a flexible learning environment. Our school is ahead of the game for being prepared for this new learning climate. We have the *best* students. I am confident they will work hard to reach their *Magis* from their new home learning spaces.

As we sit in solidarity with our human family, let us pray together for the staff, families, and students at St. Ignatius Catholic School. Let us pray for our Holy Apostles parishioners, our city, state and nation. Let us pray for our world that we might heal and emerge stronger than we were before.

Blessings,

Andi Kane, Principal, St. Ignatius Catholic School

Academic Excellence • Faith Formation • Social Justice • Service • Strength of Community

## GREAT THINGS HAPPENING!

WOW! What a busy few months we have had at St. Ignatius Catholic School during our second trimester! From Catholic Schools Week to Grandparent's Day to the Fire Gala to the Faith in Action Fair- it has been an exciting time for the Gray Wolf community. We have undertaken and accomplished a lot over the winter months. We are proud of the efforts and hard work of our student, faculty, and parent and supporter community.



# NCEA ACCREDITATION

It is an exciting time at St. Ignatius! During the last couple of weeks, the school has been preparing to complete the final steps of the school's accreditation process. As you may be aware, the school was granted an initial accreditation status with the Western Catholic Education Association in the fall of 2017 shortly after opening. Since that time, the staff and faculty have been working on building strong programs that would meet the accreditation standards maintained by WCEA. These factors focus on student academic and spiritual growth, Catholic identity, data analysis, and resource management.

The purpose of the accreditation process is two-fold:

1. Establishes that we are an accredited school that maintains or exceeds the educational standards maintained by WCEA (since we are private it is important to maintain credibility with an outside institution); and,
2. Fosters an ongoing process for maintaining high-quality faith formation and student academic and spiritual growth.

Over the past year and a half, the St. Ignatius faculty has been working hard on completing a formal self-study as the first and most critical step of the accreditation process. This process led to the identification of the school's achievements thus far and our goals for the future. We have diligently tracked student and school-wide data, utilized a wide range of stakeholder feedback, and have assessed our programs and Catholicity, and we have used this data to self-evaluate and create data driven goals for the future. Please see below for a list of the critical goals we have identified. The school has already made progress on most of these goals and will continue to keep them in focus for the coming years.

A team of outside educators chosen by WCEA has been reviewing our self-study and goals over the last several weeks. During the next phase of the accreditation process, this team will be visiting St. Ignatius to assess the findings of our self-study, pour through a multitude of evidence that we have collected, and visit with staff, students and in classrooms. Originally, this team was scheduled to visit St. Ignatius March 17-19<sup>th</sup>. Due to travel restrictions, this team will now be visiting our school in the fall. We feel confident that our strengths and successes will be visible to the team when they are on site.

Our goal through the accreditation process is to receive a strong accreditation term (accreditation terms can vary from 1 to 6 years). We will not know the official results of the visit until after the fall visit. We will make sure to keep you informed along the way.

Thank you for your prayers and support during this time. We are excited to share all the wonderful things happening at St. Ignatius.

## 5 Critical Accreditation Goals for St. Ignatius Catholic School

1. Strengthen unique Catholic identity.
2. Build common assessments for each grade and core subject.
3. Create a consistent tracking system and clear intervention plan to evaluate and meet the needs of students and ensure any accommodations or modifications are being met.
4. All Stakeholders (parents, faculty, school board, and parish) will work to align goals from the school's long-range planning efforts (Self Study, School Business Plan, Strategic Plan) with the National Catholic Benchmarks and Standards in order to impact student achievement.
5. Improve the process and expectations for faculty during Professional Learning Community (PLC) time.

### Goal from In-Depth Study:

1. **Build curriculum maps for each grade and core subject including creation of curriculum maps that meet the needs of the school's personalized learning (station rotation) model in math and ELA.**

# OTHER THINGS WE ARE PROUD OF THIS TRIMESTER.....

## ALL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MASS

In January, St. Ignatius Catholic School was honored to host Bishop Peter Christensen and all of the area Catholic schools for the first time ever for the All Catholic Schools Mass.

We hosted over 1,300 Catholic school students from the Treasure Valley as part of this annual tradition that is the high point of the Catholic Schools Week celebration.

Bringing together all of our Catholic school students to celebrate Mass is a moving visual reminder of the most important element that unites all of our Catholic schools.

The students and staff of St. Ignatius and the staff of Holy Apostles rose to the occasion as wonderful and welcoming hosts. It was a proud and joyous event for our community.



## GRANDPARENT'S DAY

On February 20, we invited grandparents, aunts, uncles and other special adults in our students lives to join us at St. Ignatius for Grandparent's Day. These special adults visited classrooms, toured the school, celebrated Mass with us, and then joined us for a reception hosted by our HSA.

This is such a wonderful day for our students, and a great opportunity for our grandparents to see all the wonderful ways that our students are growing. We treasure the opportunity to welcome these important individuals into our school community.

We so greatly appreciate all that grandparents do for the students in our school and for our school community. We have grandparents who volunteer in our library, lunchroom, and classrooms. We know grandparents help our students and their parents with everything from paying tuition to school pick up and drop off to sick child rescues! Thank you for your time on Grandparents Day and, even more, for all you do for the students in our community every day of the year!!

## HALLISSEY BASKETBALL

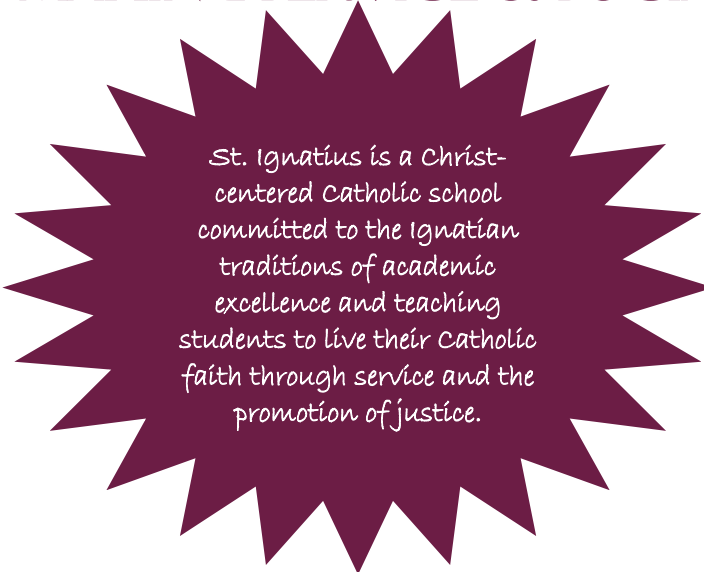
What a successful Hallissey Basketball tournament for St. Ignatius Catholic School! Our 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade girls team won the championship for the girl's division and our 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys won the coveted Sportsmanship Award for the boy's division!

For those of you who may not be familiar, this is the 57th year of the Hallissey Basketball Tournament. This is a tournament for 7th and 8th grade students from the Catholic schools and parishes throughout Idaho and is a wonderful tradition for our middle school students. It includes basketball, masses, a dance, a pancake breakfast, and many other fun traditions with a focus on sportsmanship and camaraderie! This year's teams represented our school in a wonderful way!

Thank you to everyone who came out to cheer on our St. Ignatius/Holy Apostles Hallissey Teams!



# MAKING SERVICE & SOCIAL JUSTICE A TOP PRIORITY



St. Ignatius is a Christ-centered Catholic school committed to the Ignatian traditions of academic excellence and teaching students to live their Catholic faith through service and the promotion of justice.

## Faith in Action Fair

*Every year, the students in our school put their faith into action through participation in age appropriate hands-on service projects that we refer to as "Faith in Action" projects.*

In grades PK-3rd grade, our students participate in a class-wide Faith in Action project that they work on as a group. Our 4th-8th grade students are each required to complete an individual Faith in Action project. Our goal is to have our students identify a need in our community or our world that they are passionate about helping address. These projects can range from working with an existing serve organization, to addressing a community need that is not currently being served, to educating others about an organization or cause.

Once our students have completed all of their projects, we take time to reflect on their projects and celebrate their hard work at our Faith in Action Fair. Students are required to present their projects and reflections in a visual format (similar to a science fair) so that our community can learn more about their hard work. Our students have helped 100s of organizations-- local, national, and international-- through their projects, and touched individuals far and wide.

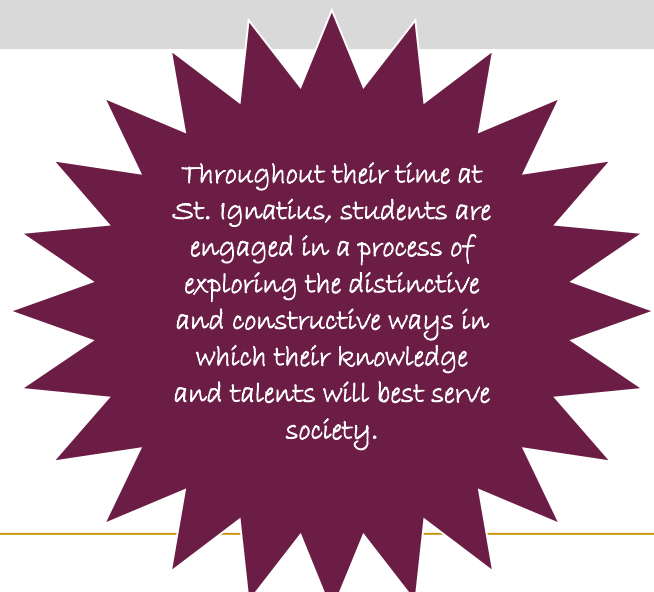
We are so proud of all of our students and the amazing acts of generosity, compassion, creativity, and professionalism that we have witnessed during our Faith in Action Fair.

## Continued School Wide Service Initiatives

*Throughout this school year, St. Ignatius Catholic School has offered families in our community the opportunity to participate in a variety of service projects supporting the local community and beyond.*

- St. Ignatius Catholic School filled over 250 *Boxes of Joy* to send as Christmas gifts to children in developing countries. The *Box of Joy* ministry is an annual Christmas gift ministry facilitated by *Cross Catholic Outreach*. For many poor children, a *Box of Joy* – filled with toys, clothing, school supplies, a rosary and the Story of Jesus – is the first Christmas gift they ever received.
- Each month this school year, our students and parents have hosted a dinner service for the most vulnerable in our community at St. Vincent de Paul.
- St. Ignatius was able to donate over 20 full Thanksgiving dinner boxes to local families in need.
- St. Ignatius decorated and donated a Christmas tree to the Festival of Trees that was auctioned off at the Festival to support St. Al's Foundation. SI's tree won first place!
- St. Ignatius students participated in our Parish Rake Up event cleaning up FIFTEEN elderly or handicapped parishioner's yards this year.

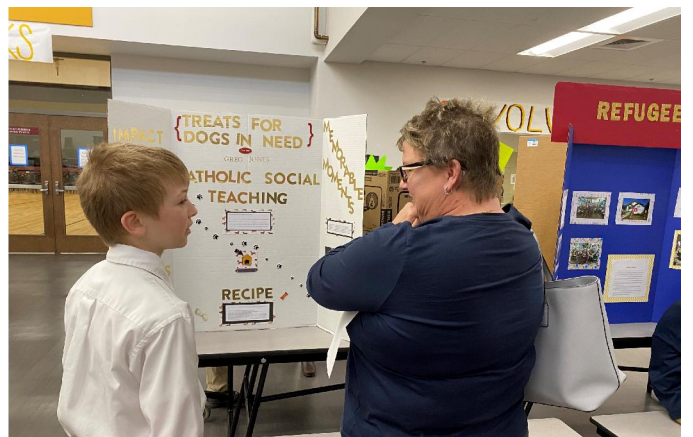
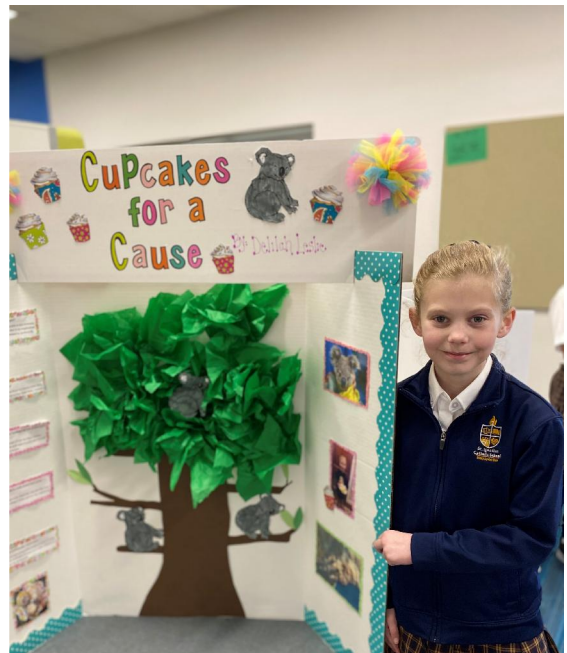
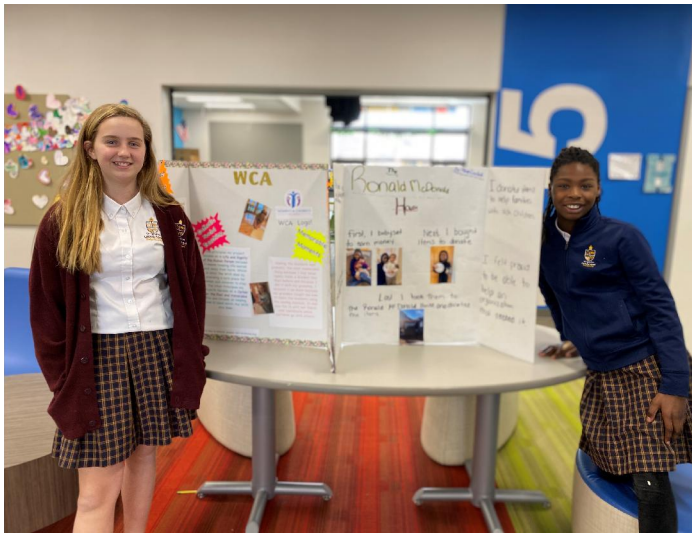
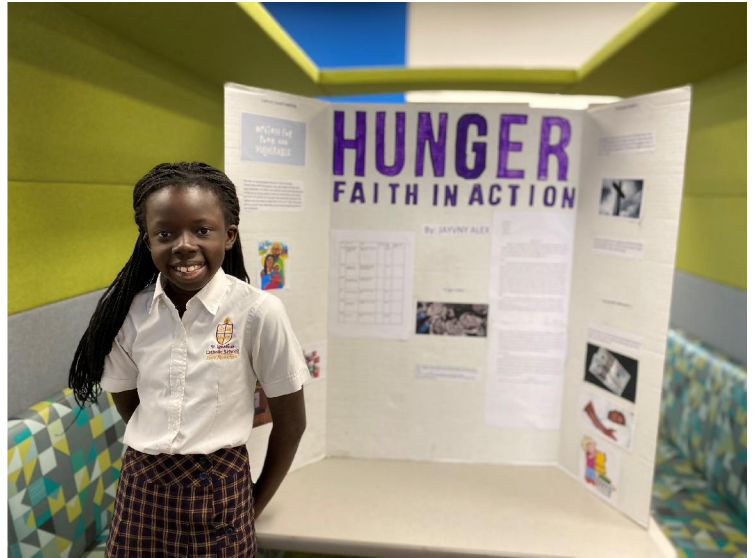
## WAY TO GO GRAY WOLF FAMILIES!



*Throughout their time at St. Ignatius, students are engaged in a process of exploring the distinctive and constructive ways in which their knowledge and talents will best serve society.*

*FROM THE FAITH IN ACTION FAIR.....*

*Our hope is that each of our students graduates with a sense of compassion for others, an appreciation for justice, and an innate desire to serve and lead.*



# FIRE GALA!

What a great Fire Gala Dinner and Auction in support of St. Ignatius Catholic School!!! It was truly a night of celebration, and it was so great to see so many of our community members involved in supporting our school through this event. We project that this event raised almost \$165,000.00 (after expenses) for St. Ignatius. What a HUGE success!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the event- through volunteering, donating, attending, or purchasing. This was truly a community effort! A special thank you to the many, many volunteers who made this night possible. Special thanks to co-chairs, **Nancy Mallory and Kendra Dean Neely**, as well as Nicole Derden, Frances Corrigan, Margot Spytak, Lindsey Burnett, Eileen Von Herbulis, Bizzy Schorr, Terri Martin, Leah James, Tracy Son, Maria Yee, Amy Zubizarreta, Kaylyn Nichols, Chrissy & Joe Kane, Deanna Westmark, Brittany Brady, Farnoush Davis, Michele Munoz, and Carrie Keller. Our school budget relies on this event and we are so grateful to every person that supports this effort with time, talent, and treasure!



## 2020/2021 REGISTRATION!

Can you believe that it is already time to begin thinking about the 2020-2021 school year? We are looking forward to another wonderful year of learning, growing, loving, and building our community with reverent, seekers of justice.

Our existing students began the re-registration process in January. We are proud to announce that almost 98% of our exiting PK-7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be returning next year!! We could not be more thrilled about that fact!

Since January, we have been adding new students to our enrollment for 2020-2021. While most of these new students will be in our Pre-K and Kindergarten, we have been able to add a few students in most grade levels where we have openings.

While most grade levels are now full, we do still have spots in a few of our classes and will continue to add students until all classes are full.

If you know someone who may be interested in St. Ignatius, please encourage them to call us to set up a tour or get more information!

THANK YOU FOR SPREADING THE GOOD WORD ABOUT ST. IGNATIUS!

St. Ignatius Catholic School  
6180 N. Meridian Rd  
Meridian ID 83646  
208-888-4759

[www.stignatiusmeridian.org](http://www.stignatiusmeridian.org)

Connect with us!

Facebook: stignatiuscatholicschool

Twitter: @stignatiusid

Instagram: st.ignatiusmeridian

## ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Come grow  
with us!

Call today!  
208-888-4759

NOW ENROLLING PK-8TH GRADE FOR  
THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

UP NEXT.....CINCO DE MAYO!



## SAVE THE DATE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR DINNER, DRINKS, AND MUSIC

## ST. IGNATIUS FAMILY FIESTA NIGHT

MAY  
02  
2020

St. Ignatius  
Commons

SATURDAY  
5:30  
PM

RSVP AND TICKETS TO FOLLOW

HOSTED BY THE NEIL FAMILY



### *St. Ignatius School Mission*

*St. Ignatius is a Christ-centered Catholic school committed to the Ignatian traditions of academic excellence and teaching students to live their Catholic faith through service and the promotion of justice. Our community - school, families, parish - seeks to inspire students to reach their potential, to act with initiative and integrity, and to engage the world as a place where God can be found in all things.*