



The Pelican Express

Let Go...Let God

DECEMBER 14, 2023

CALENDAR

December 15

- “The Nativity” - St. Ursula, 9:00am
- Early Dismissal, 11:30
- No afternoon extended care
- No afternoon buses; morning buses will run
- FACTS gradebook is disabled for parents

December 18-January 2

- No School for Students, Christmas Break

January 3

- Students return to school
- No buses
- Jill Penno Pajama Day, see page 2

January 4

- No Buses
- Mass, Dress Uniform
- King Cake Day

January 8-13

- Re-Enrollment for the 2024-25. See page 3. All existing MBS students (grades K-7) must re-enroll for the upcoming school year.

January 9

- Report Cards emailed to parents and Gradebook opened in FACTS.
- Science Fair

January 10

- Winter Sports Pictures

January 11

- Mass, Dress uniforms
- 2nd Quarter Awards After Mass

January 15

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - no school

*you can fulfill both obligations
by going to two masses.*

SUNDAY OBLIGATION

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

SATURDAY, 12/23
4:30 PM

SUNDAY, 12/24
8:00 & 9:45 AM

NO 11:30 MASS



CHRISTMAS MASS OBLIGATION

THE MASS OF
CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, 12/24
4:00 & 6:30 PM

MIDNIGHT MASS
12:00 AM

MONDAY, 12/25
10:00 AM

COME,
LET US
adore
HIM

FACTS dates

Friday, December 15 - Gradebook is disabled for parents.

Tuesday, January 9 - Report cards emailed to parents and Gradebook is opened in FACTS.

Cafeteria News

Meal Payment Reminder: No Cash will be accepted in the Cafeteria as payment. Checks and Money Orders are acceptable. Parents are encouraged to create an online meal account at MySchoolBucks.com. More information can be found on the Child Nutrition Program [Website](#).

Jill Peno PJ Day

Jill Peno was an MBS student who passed away during her eighth-grade year after being diagnosed with a brain tumor.

To honor her memory, the Jill Peno Memorial Scholarship is awarded each year to a seventh-grade student that models Jill's outstanding qualities.

On the 3rd, the MBS Student Council is collecting money for the scholarship fund. Donations may be made in the form of cash or a check made out to MBS.

Any student who brings in a monetary donation of \$2 or more on that day may wear their coziest and comfiest pajamas to school on **Wednesday, January 3**. Students must wear athletic shoes.

The Blessing of the Baby Jesus

On the Third Sunday of Advent,
children are invited to bring the Baby Jesus
from their family Nativity scene
to Mass for a blessing.



UNTO US

a child is born.

Enrollment for 2024-25

Existing Kindergarten-7th Grade Students

- All students (K-7) who will remain at MBS for 2024-25 school year MUST RE-ENROLL through FACTS Family Portal.
- If your student will not return, please UNENROLL.
- Re-Enrollment takes place 1/8-1/13. The fee is \$375. After the 13th, a \$100 Late Fee will be added. The re-enrollment fee is non-refundable.
- Tuition is not deducted in January due to this Re-enrollment fee.

How to Re-enroll, January 8-13

- All existing K-7 students who will attend school for the 24-25 school year must Re-enroll during this time period.
- If your student will not return, please login and “unenroll” during this time period.
- Have your FACTS login information. Reminder: District Code is MBS-LA.
- Login to FACTS Family Portal.
- Click [Apply/Enroll](#)>[Enrollment/Reenrollment](#), and begin the Re-enrollment process.
- There is a Reenrollment fee of \$375 per student.
- Those who miss the deadline of the 13th will be charged a \$100 late fee, for a total of \$475/student.
- *Spirit shirt sizes are communicated for the upcoming school year during Re-Enrollment.*

Existing PK Students

- PK Students who applied to Kindergarten in November will be notified of acceptance on February 19.
- Tuition is not deducted in January.
- February 19-March 4, accepted students will be asked to "Enroll" in FACTS. Enrollment fee is \$375 and is non-refundable.



Christmas **SPECTACULAR**

DEC **21** **THU**
7PM

MICHAEL MCDOWELL
SOLO ON PIANO

MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH
ADMISSION: \$12

**TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT MCDOWELLPIANIST.COM OR
AT THE CHURCH OFFICE**

Volunteerism - Time & Talent

- In order to volunteer on school or church campus, you must go through the Office of Child Protection to update your credentials.
- Opportunities to volunteer and get service hours will be placed here in the newsletter.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Pelican Games - April 19

OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION



The Safe Environment file database for the Diocese of Baton Rouge is scheduled to terminate in December 2023. A new database is being prepared to start in early 2024. Please note that volunteer applications will not be accepted and processed starting December 1, 2023 through the beginning of January 2024 due to the database transition.

Please be patient as we navigate through this transition time for there may be unforeseen issues.



Kleenex [Sign-up](#)

Book Fair [Sign-up](#)



Excerpt taken from Marjorie Shonnard , Resilient Leader, Leadership Coach

While on vacation, a colleague of mine noticed a group of people huddled together on the beach near the dunes. It looked like a class of some sort and as she watched, she realized that the group was actually part of the volunteers who carefully guard the sea turtle nests and their migration to the ocean. They were watching a nest of sea turtles hatch and emerge from deep in the sand to begin their trek to the ocean! This usually happens only at night!!

She quickly joined the group as these tiny creatures pulled themselves out of the deep sand and started the long hike to the ocean. The tide was low and the ocean a very long way from the dunes, especially for these little guys. She latched on a few of them and accompanied them on their journey. As she watched them, she found herself feeling anxious as they encountered one hurdle after another on their way. There were footprints from morning walkers filled with water that one of the turtles fell in and flipped over desperately flailing his legs to recover and crawl out of the hole. Another little guy fell into a crab hole and disappeared for a few minutes. When he began to surface it seemed like a never-ending task to get out and resume the journey. He even started walking the wrong way!!

Each time she watched the turtles face these obstacles, her anxiety increased and she felt the urge to intervene and help them on their way! She couldn't just pick them up and take them to the ocean and set them on their way? Then as they finally reached the ocean, the waves kept batting them around - out under and back to the beach, flipping them over and over again several time before they finally disappeared into the ocean.

She turned to one of the volunteers and said – “Whew life starts out so hard!” She asked the volunteer if they ever helped these turtles during this first part of their life. The volunteer looked at her and said “Oh NO!”. This part of the journey seems hard but is necessary as they face the bigger challenges ahead.”

Oh – so very true. As she reflected, she was reminded of the importance of developing our internal muscle – the one that allows us to be able to stand with people as they face life's struggles and not rob them of the opportunity to learn and grow through tough circumstances. She thought of the many times that her anxiety got in the way as she watched a person struggle in life. She was also reminded that it has been during her most painful struggles that she learned and grew the most.

As I reflect on this story on the last day of exams I know that it has been difficult watching our students, your children work hard, even struggle as they balanced end of the quarter assessments and extra-curricular activities and studied for exams. I share this story to remind us to “Don't steal the struggle” of others. Remember, oftentimes our children grow the most from what they have learned during their most painful struggles. Struggles help them to develop grit and stick-to-itiveness and ultimately shape their future.

Have a very Merry Christmas!
Mrs. Gioe

Time & Talent (Service Hours)

Parent's Commitment to Church and School

Enrollment and/or continued enrollment at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic School requires a commitment to ALL of the following:

- **Prayer and Mass** – Families must commit to daily prayer at home. Catholic families must attend weekly, Sunday, Mass on Holy Days of Obligation. Non-Catholic families must attend Sunday services at their home church.
- **Service** – Twenty (20) hours of Time and Talent given to the school and/or Church each year. Hours must be completed between January 1 and December 31 *to receive the in-parish tuition rate*. These hours are reviewed each year.

Definition of an hour of Time and Talent: an actual hour of volunteer work or donation purchases of \$10

- **Weekly Church Offering** – As an Identified Offertory Giver (IOG), a minimum amount of \$325.00 must be donated, yearly, to the Most Blessed Sacrament General Offertory or Building Fund to support the Church stewardship program. Church members who meet the IOG requirement *will receive in-parish tuition*. Donations will be verified by December 15 unless otherwise authorized by the Pastor or Principal. Any offerings thereafter will count towards the next school year.

New Students Clause

Time and Talent hours are prorated for new students. However, new families must still meet the IOG requirement of \$325.00 to receive in-parish tuition.

Log your Service Hours into FACTS.

Go to Family > Family Home.
You will see "Service Hours" in
the middle of the screen. Click
"add" to add the hours. You
must type in a description.
Select "type a custom value,"
and then type your description.

Sending Items to School

Please label your items that you
send to school from a SignUp
Genius:

- Parent Name (signed up on the SUG)
- Name of item
- Title of Sign Up (ex: 5th Grade Auction Basket)

This helps us match your hours
in FACTS.

MBS Basketball Christmas camp – Wednesday December 27, Girls & Boys, K-7th grade MBS Students. Registration is OPEN – Deadline is December 18

Use this link: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/IGnXbB9C>

Parish Sports Tee Ball – PK , K and 1st grade! Registration is OPEN, - Deadline is December 18

Use this link: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/iYILiSi2>

Parish Sports Tee Ball teams will be assigned over the Christmas break – you will be contacted January 3rd or 4th . Games begin January 13

CSAA Home Games – Saturday, December 16

9:00am ~ MBS 4th grade Gray vs. St. Aloysius

9:45am ~ MBS 4th grade Maroon vs. St. Aloysius

10:30am ~ MBS 5th grade Gray vs. St. Aloysius

11:15am ~ MBS 5th grade Maroon vs. St. Aloysius

Hope to see you the GYM ~ we accept debit/credit cards for Gate Fee and Concession Stand Items!

Athletics can be an important part of a young person's life. It teaches discipline and self- pride while helping one realize the importance of cooperation. Athletics are a component of, and interact with, the spiritual, social and academic components of the overall school program. MBS recognizes that support from the administration, faculty, staff, coaches, parents and fans are necessary in providing a positive Catholic athletic experience for the student-athlete. Athletes, parents, and fans are a direct reflection of MBS and should adhere to the philosophy of the school by always acting in a dignified manner.

Go Pelicans!

Tommy Krysan, Athletic Director

MBS Athletics

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