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Welcome to Tuesday Newsday!

Volume 18, 2025–2026 | Edition: December 9–15



- 12/12:** Upper El Museum Day
 - 12/16:** Advent Lessons & Carols at Morning Prayer
 - 12/18:** Primary Only 11:30 Dismissal
 - 12/18:** PJ & Ice Skating Day
 - 12/19–1/2/2026:** No School – Christmas Break
-

HAPPY Birthday

Monday, December 15 — Hartley Nichols (River Birch)

Action Required: Two Ice Skating Forms

✨ Thursday, December 18 is Pajama and Ice Skating Day! ✨

On the last day before Christmas break, it's GSMS tradition for students to wear their pajamas to school and spend the morning participating in fun activities with their classmates. In the afternoon, younger and older students follow **different schedules**.

Primary Early Dismissal

All Primary children (in Blue Beech and Redbud) must be picked up at **11:30 a.m.** that day. There is no aftercare option. See below for information about skating for Primary children.

Ice Skating for LE, UE, & JH

All Lower El, Upper El, and Junior High students will spend the afternoon ice skating at Howard Park.

 **ATTENTION:** ✨ There are **TWO** necessary forms for every skater. ✨

#1. Online GSMS Ice Skating Form — Due December 10

- All families with LE, UE, or JH students must fill out the online “GSMS Pajama Day Ice Skating” form to participate in ice skating (use [this link](#) or the **ORANGE** button below).

- This form gives parents important information and collects children's skate sizes.
- Please submit the form no later than **TOMORROW, Wednesday, December 10.**
- We have had MANY families return the paper waiver but not fill out this online form, so make sure you do this critical step.

GSMS Online Ice Skating Form

#2. Ice Skating Waiver – Due December 15

- All skaters need a **signed Howard Park waiver** to skate.
- A **GREEN** copy of the waiver was sent home with all children in LE, UE, and JH on Friday, December 5.
- You can also download the waiver [PDF] by clicking on the purple button below.
- Signed waivers can be returned in your child's folder or dropped off at the front desk.

PDF of Howard Park Waiver

Primary Families Option to Skate

Primary families have the option of joining us at Howard Park after their half-day pickup. Any families interested in doing that must fill out this separate form. Primary children must be accompanied by their own adult at all times.

- [Primary Family Ice Skating](#)

Last Chance to Help GSMS Earn \$2.5K

Good Shepherd has a chance to earn **\$2,500** through a great program at Notre Dame Federal Credit Union called "ELEVATE."

December Challenge

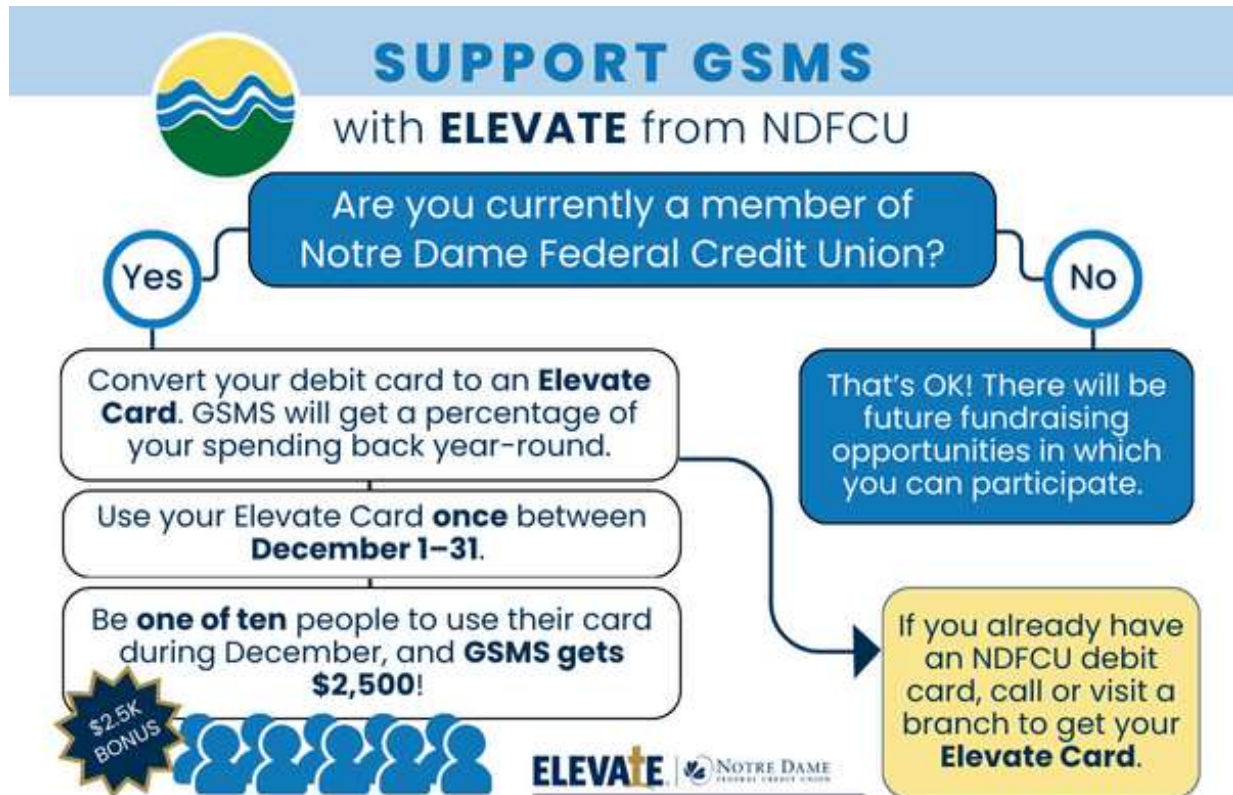
If **ten people** make a single purchase (non-PIN) on their **ELEVATE debit or credit cards** during the month of December, Good Shepherd earns a \$2,500 bonus!

1% to GSMS Year-Round

The rest of the year, users earn 1% back on all their purchases, which goes to Good Shepherd.

LAST CHANCE for December Bonus

Converting to an ELEVATE card can take 10 to 14 days, so **act now** if you want to help GSMS earn the December bonus! There are several ways to get an ELEVATE card—See instructions below.



Get Your ELEVATE Card

If you already use Notre Dame Federal Credit Union, it is pretty simple to **convert your debit card to an ELEVATE card**.

1. Call the downtown branch at 574-400-4820. Ask for Hannah Ellito or Jasmin Coria. One of them will be happy to assist you.
2. Call the Shamrock Call Center: 800-522-6611
3. Visit any branch to request an ELEVATE card in person.
4. You can apply for a card online, but if you already have an NDFCU debit card, it's **best** to call or visit a branch to make sure everything is handled correctly.

Qualifying Transactions

Once you have your ELEVATE debit card, **use it like a credit card—without the PIN—**

🌟 once 🌟 between now and **December 31**. Making a purchase online is the easiest way to do this! Joint accounts with two ELEVATE debit cards count as “one swipe,” so either account owner can make the qualifying purchase.

If you aren't currently a member at NDFCU, that's OK. There will be other opportunities to fundraise for GSMS.

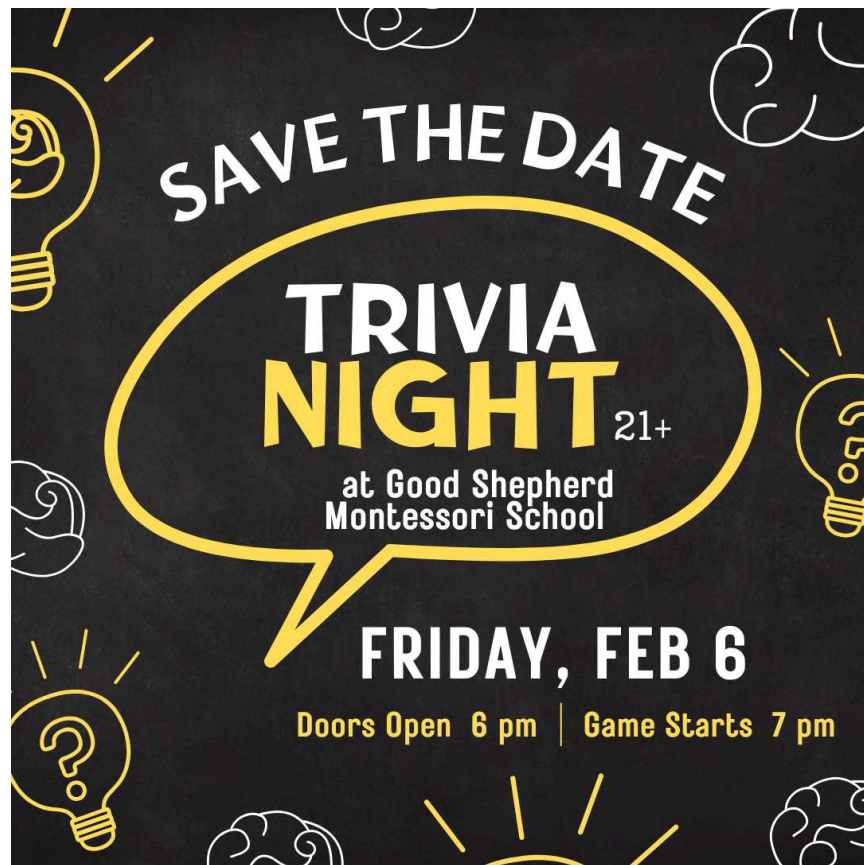
If you'd like to learn more about ELEVATE, visit [this webpage](#) or scan the QR code below.

Thank you for all the ways you support Good Shepherd!



Save the Date: GSMS Trivia Night 🧠 🤔

Save the date for Good Shepherd's Trivia Night on **Friday, February 6, 2026** (21+ event)! Single tickets or tables of eight will go on sale after Christmas break. So, mark your calendars and book a sitter for a fun-filled evening you won't want to miss!



Upper El Museum Day 🏛️

Friday, December 12
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

At Museum Day, each Upper Elementary student will display samples of the work they have completed so far this year and will share about their favorite follow-ups. It is a **can't-miss experience for Upper El parents** and a wonderful opportunity for parents from **all levels** to see the scope of work that happens in Upper Elementary. **Drop in anytime this Friday between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

Friday: Drama Club Sharing

Friday, December 12
3:15–4:15 p.m.

The student-led Drama Club invites you to our final sharing. Participants from Lower EI, Upper EI, and Junior High have been working on a shortened version of the *Wizard of Oz*. All are welcome to see the club's sharing this Friday in the Sanctuary.



Advent Lessons & Carols at Morning Prayer

On **December 16**, we will celebrate Advent Lessons and Carols at our regular Tuesday Morning Prayer service. Beginning at **8:30 a.m.**, this will be a wonderful time of **prayer, reflection, and song** for the GSMS community.

Children from different levels will share songs they have practiced during this special service. As is always the case with our Tuesday Morning Prayer services, we invite family members of GSMS students to join us and experience the time of prayer along with the school community.

Unique FPC Opportunity with Children

Dear Parents,

🌍 Are you interested in guiding children in a **real-life practice** that encourages them to become **better stewards** of the Earth and its resources? 🌍

Michele Woody is seeking a **lead parent** to take on the role of guiding students through cap sorting and cleaning to participate in the "Green Tree Plastics - ABC Partnership." GSMS already has several bags of caps collected—Just sorting, cleaning, and weighing need to be completed.

In 2022, GSMS students collected and sorted enough caps to change into a beautiful new outdoor bench for the recess area (see Facebook post image below). **What item could we receive for the GSMS community this school year?**

You can read about the program and specific guidelines here on the website:

<https://www.greentreeplastics.com/abc-program/>

Please email Sarah Kulwicki at skulwicki@gsms.org if you are interested in taking on this project.



After 2 years of LE collecting and sorting caps, our bench is now gracing our recess area! More than 250lbs of plastic caps are out of the landfill and are now a beautiful, restful spot for our community!
[Green Tree Plastics- ABC Partnership](#)

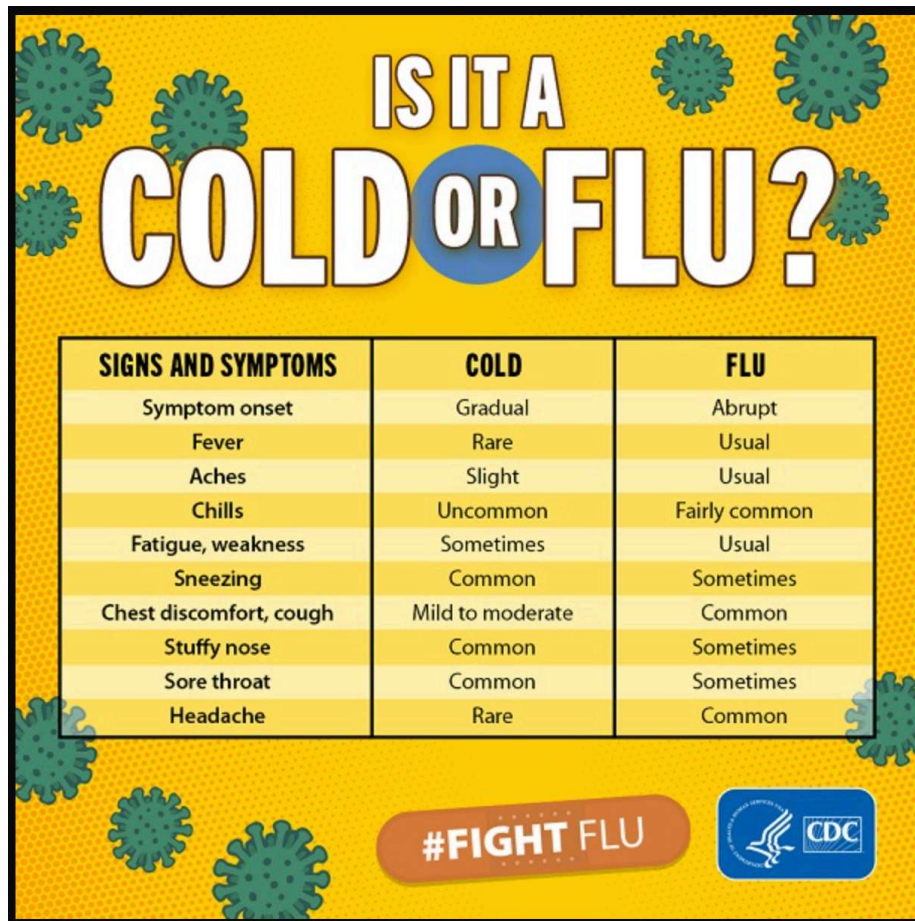
NURSE'S CORNER

Winter is definitely here, and it has brought along its good friends: cold and flu. And tagging along as the third wheel this year is strep!

Below is a quick infographic to help you figure out what your child may be dealing with if they come home not feeling well. If their symptoms are leaning more toward the flu side, some good rest and hydration at home are the way to go.

If your child is complaining of a severe sore throat that comes on suddenly, has a fever and/or pain when swallowing, but doesn't really have a cough or congestion, those are classic symptoms of strep and may be worth getting checked out by your child's doctor. Thanks for reading! As always, feel free to email nurse@gsms.org if you have any questions!

Angelica Anderson, RN
GSMS School Nurse



SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	COLD	FLU
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual
Aches	Slight	Usual
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate	Common
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Common

Hot Lunch

Next Week's Menu

Monday 12/15 — Pizza Pie

Tuesday 12/16 — Crème Brûlée French
Toast
Wednesday 12/17 — 4 Cheese Pasta
Thursday 12/18 — Bev Stoganov
Friday 12/19 — No School

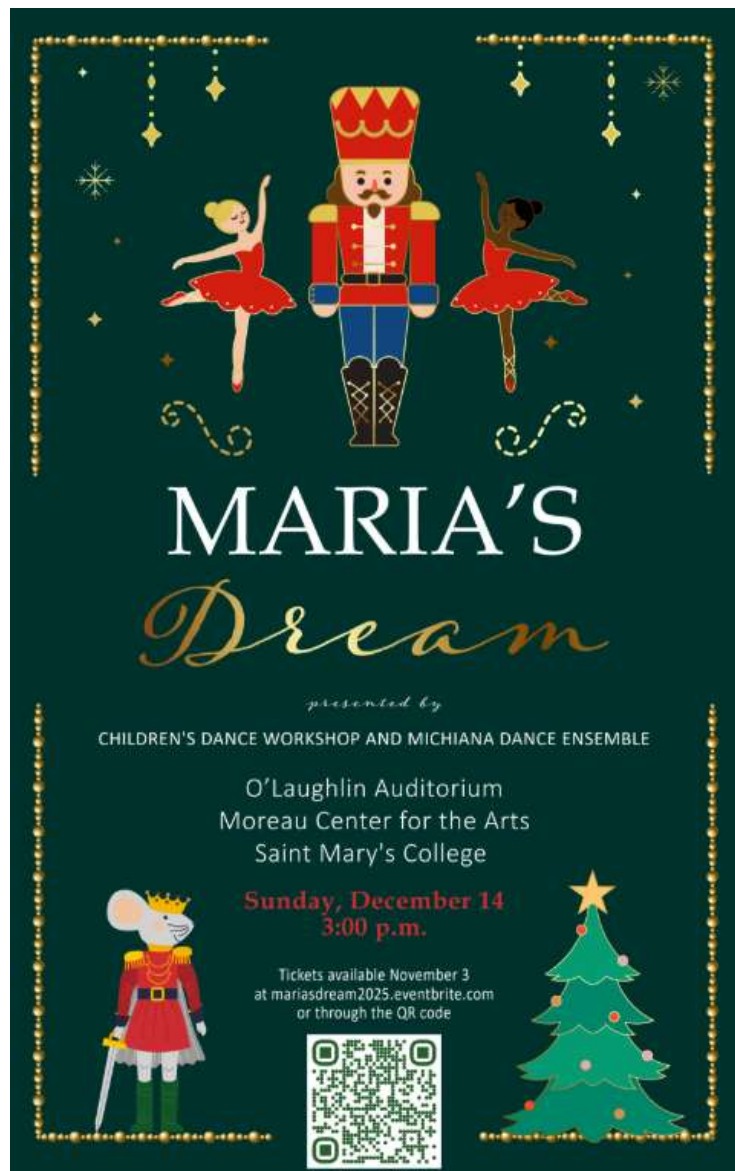


Order Today!

IN THE COMMUNITY

Performance: *Maria's Dream*

The Children's Dance Workshop and the Michiana Dance Ensemble present *Maria's Dream* on Sunday, December 14, at 3:00 p.m. at the O'Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary's College. Founder Bonnie Boilini Baxter was the recipient of Good Shepherd's Chiaravalle Award in 2020, honoring those who bring the light of learning and compassion to the area's children. Many GSMS students will be on stage! Tickets are available [online here](#) or by following the QR code below.



Missed an issue? Visit the [Tuesday Newsday Archive](#).

To submit an item for this e-newsletter, email tuesdaynewsday@gsms.org by Monday mornings at 8:00 a.m.



[Tuesday Newsday Archive](#)



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MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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