

# St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

April 13, 2018



Dear STA Families,

I hope everyone had a great first week back to school! April is a busy month at STA, with lots of events coming up.

STArY Night is tomorrow night! We still have some tickets available if you are interested in attending. If you can't come, you can still bid for items in our auction. See more information on how to do this in this newsletter.

Our third through eighth graders will be taking the Aspire test next week. The test will be Tuesday through Friday. Please make sure your students are rested and ready for this important test.

Finally, next week is the Week of the Young Child. Our PK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will be participating in a variety of activities around this year's theme – "Healthy Bodies and Healthy Minds".

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

## Important Dates

*STArY Night 2018 –  
Saturday, April 14*

*Aspire Testing (3<sup>rd</sup>-  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade) – April  
17-20*

*STA Advisory Board  
Committee Meeting  
– Wednesday, April  
18 (7:00-8:00 AM)*

*Home and School  
Association Meeting  
– Wednesday, April  
18 (6:30-7:30 PM)*

*Parent Coffee with  
Mr. Gallo –  
Thursday, April 19  
(7:45-8:45 AM)*

*New Parent Open  
House – Thursday,  
April 19 (6:00-7:30  
PM)*

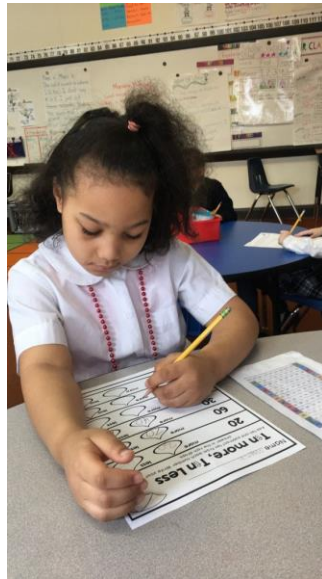
## STArray Night

STArray Night is tomorrow night! We still have a few tickets available if you want to come. You can buy them [here](#).

Early bidding is now open! **You do NOT need to attend the event in order to bid on items. Everyone can participate in bidding!** Our silent auction is online, so you can bid on items you are interested in from anywhere. We have plenty of great items, and we also have some fun school experiences too. You can win a chance for your child to participate in a fun outing with a teacher, and even a chance to have your child be principal for a day!

You can also still buy raffle tickets for our two raffle items: \$600 off of your tuition for next year and 2 box seats for the Notre Dame – Pitt game on October 13 (valued at \$1,500). Raffle tickets are \$25 each.

Remember that all of the proceeds from this event go to support the new playground for our school! If you have any questions about STArray Night, contact Ms. Acton at [macton@stapostleschool.com](mailto:macton@stapostleschool.com).



## Aspire Testing

Our 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking the Aspire test on Tuesday through Friday of next week. This is the summative, standardized test that our students take annually. Please make sure your students are well rested and eat breakfast every morning before school. Students in these grades will not be getting any homework next week so that they can focus and prepare for testing. Below is a schedule of what subjects they will test each day:

## Parent Volunteer Opportunities

AM and PM Parking Lot Duty

Assist the Pre-K and K students at lunch (11:00-12:00 daily)

Check for other opportunities on Track It Forward

Tuesday – Reading

Wednesday – Math

Thursday – Writing and English

Friday – Science

Our students are prepared for this test, and we are confident they will do great on it!

## **Re-Register for 2018-19 – Now Online!**

Early registration for next year closed on Thursday, March 29. We are excited to announce that we currently have 240 students registered for next year! This is 36 more students than we had at this time one year ago. If you have not yet re-registered, there is still time to do so. The registration fee will be \$195. Remember that we have capped our classes, and will accept students until those spots are filled. Families who are not yet re-registered do not have a guaranteed spot for next year until they complete registration. The online registration links are below:

[Re-Register for Pre-K](#)

[Re-Register for K-8](#)

Below is a breakdown by grade of how many students we have for next year:

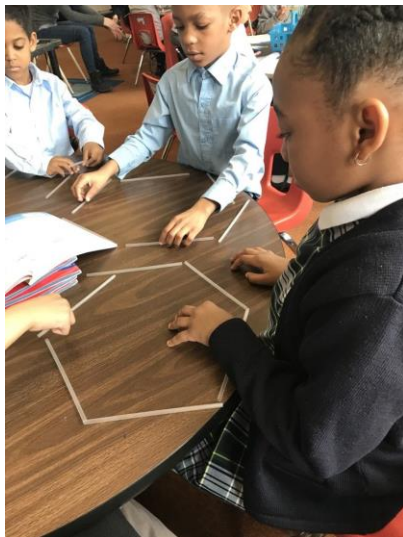
Grade	Number of Students
PK3	16
PK4	27
K	24
1 <sup>st</sup>	32
2 <sup>nd</sup>	27
3 <sup>rd</sup>	15
4 <sup>th</sup>	26
5 <sup>th</sup>	22
6 <sup>th</sup>	19
7 <sup>th</sup>	19
8 <sup>th</sup>	13
Total	240

We are planning on have two sections of PK3, PK4, K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be having two sections of either 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> depending on how many students enroll in each of those classes.

The materials fee for families who have already re-registered will be due on May 31<sup>st</sup>. We will use the same process that we used for the registration fee to handle this payment. Families with ACH on their FACTS account will have the materials fee billed through FACTS and withdrawn on May 31. Families with invoice on FACTS will need to bring their materials fee payment to the school.

### **Week of the Young Child at STA**

Our PK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child next week. This is an annual event for our school where our students in these grades participate in several shared experiences around a theme. This year's theme is "Healthy Bodies and Healthy Minds". Our students will be going on a field trip to the Bulls/Sox Academy, celebrate a shared meal together, lead a parade celebrating young students, and participate in a group dance party!



## **STA Spirit Wear – Now Available Online!**

We are excited to announce that you can now order STA spirit wear online. You can go to this link to order your spirit wear: [STA Spirit Wear](#). We have added some new items that you can now order. Thank you to Alton Brooks for setting all of this up for our school!

## **Community Celebration – Compassion**

On Thursday, we had a community celebration focused on the virtue of compassion. Congratulations to the following students for receiving a Shining STAR award for demonstrating compassion:

Ella Jones (PK3)  
Reagan Kohn (PK-Blended)  
Grace Spruiel (K-212)  
Michael Adjei (1<sup>st</sup>-209)  
Deyani McCray (3<sup>rd</sup>-204)  
Kyah Lloyd (4<sup>th</sup>)  
Ashya Walker (5<sup>th</sup>)  
Madison James (8<sup>th</sup>-304)  
Rian Johnson (8<sup>th</sup>-307)

Our final virtue of the year will be empathy, which we have defined as “understanding how another person feels”. Our students will be working on a class project to learn more about a disadvantaged group of people to understand empathy. Each class will share what they learned in May community celebration.

## **Financial Aid for 2018-19**

Empower Illinois has begun notifying families about the status of the status their applications for tax credit scholarships. Families should make sure to check their email for communication from them, and to please let us know if you have been awarded a tax credit scholarship.

Families who have a Caritas scholarship will need to complete the FACTS financial aid application as soon as possible in order to be eligible to receive their Caritas award again next school year.

Families who received letters from STA regarding an STA scholarship need to make sure they turn in their scholarship

acceptance form to the school by April 30. Our scholarship committee will meet again in early May. Any family interested in an STA scholarship must complete a FACTS financial aid application.

## **Summer Program 2018**

The STA Summer Program run from June 20-July 27. There will be academic classes in the mornings, camp with We Got Game in the afternoons, and weekly field trips. I am attaching a flyer with more information to this newsletter.

Registration for the summer program is now available. Families can complete the link below in order to register:

[Summer Program Registration Form](#)

You will also need to pay the \$50 registration fee in the school office in order to finalize registering.



## **News for Home and School**

We have 50 families that have completed and logged their service hours. Thanks to all the families for getting this done. Please see below for more information on how to log your hours.

We raised \$1,503.70 from the two book fairs this year! This money is going to be donated to the school to purchase books for classroom libraries.

Login Track It Forward, "Click" Event Sign Up and scroll through and choose service hours! Remember to also login and submit any hours you have completed!!

### **General Notes**

- There will be no school Mass this week due to Aspire testing.
- On Friday, we will be hosting an event for Playworks in the parish hall. Playworks considers our school to have one of the strongest recess programs, and they are bringing in people from other schools to demonstrate the quality of our recess program.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [tgallo@stapostleschool.com](mailto:tgallo@stapostleschool.com)