

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

April 20, 2018



Dear STA Families,

We are wrapping up a busy week at STA! We held our 4th annual STArry Night Gala on Saturday and it was a great success. This event is an important evening for our school, as it provided us with an opportunity to celebrate our school.

Our 3rd-8th graders are finishing up Aspire testing this week. We are proud of our students for working so hard on this testing all week.

Finally, our PK-2nd graders celebrated the Week of the Young Child. They held a parade, went on field trips, and had a dance party all around the theme of "Healthy Bodies and Healthy Minds". Our young students enjoyed the opportunity to work and play together during this week.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

7th Grade Parent Meeting – Tuesday, April 24 (5:30-6:30 PM)

PBIS Reward – NUT Card Day – Friday, April 27

Poetry Cafe – Friday, April 27 (2:30 PM)

Yearbook Orders Due – Tuesday, May 7

Music Concert – Tuesday, May 7 (6:00 PM)

STA Advisory Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 16 (7:00-8:30 AM)

Aspire Testing

Our 3rd-8th grade students are completing their Aspire testing today. The Aspire is the summative standardized assessment our school takes each year. It is run by the ACT. Students who were absent this week will need to make up the test next week. We anticipate receiving the results of this test over the summer, and we will distribute the results to families at the start of next school year.

STArry Night

Thank you to all STA families for your support of STArry Night 2018! We are happy to report that the event was a success! We've already raised over \$30,000 from the event! Thank you to all of the parent volunteers, families with students participating in the program, and to everyone who participated in this year's mobile bidding! You all helped to make the night enjoyable for everyone.

The STA endowment committee has agreed to help financially support the building of the playground. The support of this committee, along with the proceeds from Reach for the STArS and STArry Night, are enough for us move forward with the playground. Please look for more information from us in the coming weeks about next steps with this project.

There are still some spots open for your child(ren) and you, to participate in this year's sign-up parties!

The teacher experiences that are still available are:

- "Crafternoon" with Ms. Daley - May 10th after school
- Bowling Outing with the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Teachers - May 2nd after school

You can also sign up yourself for STA's Night at Shred415! Come Shred and have fun with parents, teachers, and friends from STA! It will be a heart-pounding, 60 min. interval training class! All fitness levels welcome! The class will take place on Wednesday, May 23rd at 4:00 pm at Shred's South Loop location: 1136 S. Delano Court West, Suite E202. With validation, parking is free for 2 hours. Limited, complimentary childcare available on location. Must sign-up for childcare at least one day in advance.

All reservations can be made [here](#).

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



Re-Register for 2018-19 – Now Online!

We currently have 244 students registered for next year. We encourage any family who has not yet re-registered for next year to do so ASAP. We are going to accept students until our classes fill, and your spot is not guaranteed until you complete registration. Some of our classes are already close to capacity, so it is important to do this soon. The online registration links are below:

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

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

The materials fee for families who have already re-registered will be due on May 31st. 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

This week, our PK-2nd grade students celebrated the Week of the Young Child. The theme for this year was “Healthy Bodies and Healthy Minds”. Our students went on a field trip to the Bulls/Sox Academy, celebrated a shared meal together, led a parade celebrating young students, and participated in a group dance party!



Reminders for the End of the Year

The end of the school year will be here before we know it. Below are a few reminders as the end of the year approaches:

- The last day of school for PK, K, and 8th grade is Monday, June 4. K will dismiss at 11:30 AM (after their Kindergarten Celebration) with NO extended care. PK and 8th grade will dismiss at their normal time and will have extended care.
- The last day for the rest of the school is Wednesday, June 6.
- The 8th grade graduation dinner is Friday, June 8 at Mount Carmel. The graduation service will be at 11:15 AM on Sunday, June 10 at the STA church.
- Families should plan on paying any remaining balance by Tuesday, May 15. Any family who has not paid off their balance by then will be excluded.

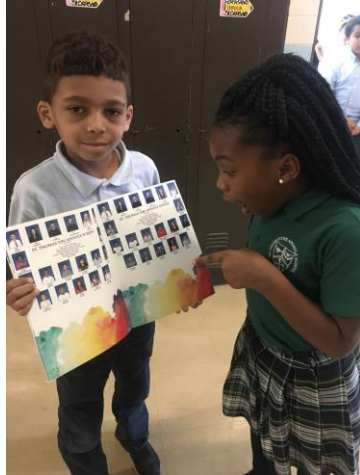
Poetry Café Next Week

Our school has been learning about poetry during the month of April. We are doing two things as a school to learn more about poetry:

1. We are having a poetry door decorating contest. Each class has decorated the door to their room with their class's favorite poem. Mrs. Peeples and I will evaluate all of the doors and choose one class to win this contest.
2. On Friday, we will be holding our Poetry Café in the gym at 2:30 PM. Each class will either recite a poem as a class or send student representatives to read their original poetry to the school. All are welcome to attend this event.

PBIS Reward for 15,000 STAr Points

Our students once again have earned 15,000 STAr points. Each time we achieve this goal, our 8th grade leadership team determines what the school's reward will be that month. This month, the reward is that students can come out of uniform on Friday, April 27 following the NUT card dress code. Students can also carry a purse or backpack with them in class. Congratulations to our students for earning 15,000 STAr points again!



7th Grade Parent Meeting

We will have a mandatory 7th grade parent meeting on Tuesday, April 24 from 5:30-6:30 PM. We will be meeting in our committees to begin finalizing plans for 8th grade graduation.

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

HSA Meeting: Please come to our **last** HSA meeting for this school year! **Wednesday 5/16/18 at 6:30 – 7:30pm** in the Parish Hall!! If you are interested in being a room parent, committee chair, committee person and or have a new event idea please come!! All are welcome!!

Coffee Klatch: Please come to our **last** parent coffee **Thursday 5/18/18 at 7:45 – 8:30am** in the Parish Hall. Mr. Gallo will be there to continue to hear ideas that will help make STA great next year!! All are welcome!!

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 school Mass on Tuesday at 8:30 AM. Ms. Jordan's 3rd grade class will lead the Mass.
- I will be out from 12:30-3:30 on Tuesday for a meeting with the Archdiocese.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at tgallo@stapostleschool.com