

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

December 1,
2017



Dear STA Families,

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving break! Everyone at STA was glad to welcome our students and families back this week. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we had our community celebration today focused on the virtue of gratitude. We want everyone at our school to focus on all of the things they are grateful for in their lives.

Many families have approached me with questions about tax credit scholarships, which are a part of the new Illinois education bill. Both STA and the Archdiocese of Chicago have been learning about the law and preparing for its implementation next school year. We are going to host an informational session on Thursday, December 14 to discuss this new law. More information on the meeting is below in the message.

Good luck to our 8th graders taking their high school entrance exams tomorrow! Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

*Advent Prayer
Service – Monday,
December 4 (8:05
AM)*

*7th/8th Grade
Science Fair –
Wednesday,
December 6*

*Saint Nicholas Day –
Wednesday,
December 6*

*Hearing and Vision
Screening – Monday-
Wednesday,
December 11-13*

*Aspire Interim 2
Assessment (3rd-8th
Grade) – Monday-
Thursday, December
11-14*

Informational Meeting on Tax Credit Scholarships

We will be having an informational meeting on the new tax credit scholarships on Thursday, December 14 from 5:30-6:30 PM in the gym. I will walk through how these new scholarships will work, who is eligible for these scholarships, how families can apply for these scholarships, and how our school is planning for this new program. Things around this law are moving very quickly, and I am still waiting to learn more about these scholarships from the archdiocese, but I will do my best to answer any questions families may have about these scholarships. I just learned yesterday that families can begin applying for scholarships in early January, and that they take applications on a first-come, first-serve basis, so we need to make sure our school community does everything we can to prepare to take advantage of this opportunity.

I am going strongly encourage any family currently receiving financial assistance and/or are interested in financial assistance for the 2018-19 school year to attend this meeting.

Reach for the STArS

Thank you to everyone who supported the Reach for the STArS campaign this month! We have raised over \$61,000 as of today and we are continuing to receive donations. We are thrilled with the results of this campaign. Next week, we will update you on more final numbers and our plans moving forward to raise the money needed for the playground project. Thank you all!



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

Upcoming Events in December

December is a busy month at STA! Below is a breakdown of important upcoming dates for December so families can stay on top of what is coming up:

- Catholic High School Entrance Exam – Saturday, 12/2
- Advent Prayer Service – Every Monday morning starting 12/4
- Science Fair and St. Nicholas Day – Wednesday, 12/6
- Aspire Interim 2 Assessment – Monday-Thursday, 12/11-12/14
- Free Hearing and Vision Screenings – Monday-Wednesday, 12/11-12/13
- Meeting on Tax Credit Scholarships – Thursday, 12/14
- Breakfast with Santa – Saturday, 12/16
- STA Christmas Program – Wednesday, 12/20 (1:00 PM in the church)



Community Celebration - Gratitude

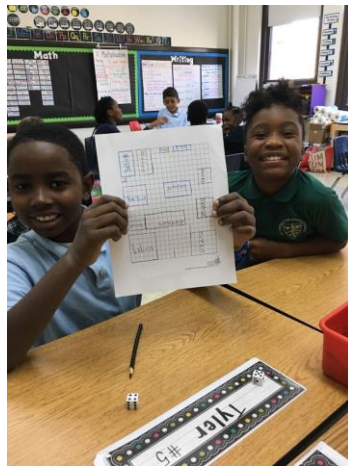
This morning, we had our third community celebration of the year, focusing on November's virtue of gratitude. All of our students wrote thank you notes to people they are thankful for, and we had some of our students share their letters with the school community. We then recognized students who modeled the virtue of gratitude during the past month. Congratulations to the follow students for earning a Shining STAR award for modeling gratitude:

- Blake Nathaniel (PK-Blended)
- Kennedi Carey (K-212)
- Marieke Van Exel-Evans (K-210)
- Isabella Leal (1st-206)

- Maggie Dault (2nd)
- Tyler Greenlee (3rd-208)
- Brianna Kinsey (6th)
- John Kemp (7th)
- Leah Roe (8th-307)

Caroling at Millennium Station

The Big Shoulders Fund has arranged to have the STA choir sing at Millennium Station downtown to get commuters in the Christmas spirit! Our choir will be performing from 4:30-5:00 PM, and they will return to school around 5:30 PM. Choir members received permission slips for this performance from Mr. Jones this week. Please make sure to turn this into the school office so that your child can participate.



Easing the Teasing

At recent parent coffees, several parents have expressed an interest in learning more about bullying and what they can do to teach their children about how to identify and prevent it. We have arranged for a parent night around this topic. We will have Judy Freedman come in to give her parent program “Is It Teasing or Bullying?” on Thursday, January 11 from 5:30-6:30 PM. You can learn more about Judy and her program at her website [here](#).

We will also have Imagination Theater come in to do performances for our students built around Judy’s Easing the Teasing program. Our K-5 students will watch “Easing the Teasing 2.0” and our middle school will watch “Taking a Stand”. These program will be on Monday, January 8. A link with more information on these is [here](#). We will be sharing more information about all of these programs as we get closer to them.

News for Home and School

Breakfast with Santa is December 16th from 9am - 11:30am in the Gym!! Tickets includes breakfast, face painting, crafts, cookie decorating and a picture with Santa!!

Adults \$10
Children \$12

Pre -Sales only please see order form attached!!

SERVICE HOURS:

So far this year we have 10 families that have completed their 20 service hours!! Remember to login into Track it Forward and sign up for service hours!!

General Notes

- We will begin having our Advent prayer services on Monday. These will happen each Monday in the gym after morning announcements. All families are welcome to come and participate in this service.
- We will NOT have an all-school Mass on Tuesday. We will instead have an all-school Mass on Friday to celebrate the Immaculate Conception.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at tgallo@stapostleschool.com