

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

December 15,
2017



Dear STA Families,

Christmas is almost here. Our students and teachers got in the Christmas spirit today, wearing festive apparel as a reward for reaching 15,000 STAR points as a school. Please remember that our last day of school before Christmas break is Wednesday, December 20. We will dismiss at 2:30 PM, and there will be NO extended day that day. Please plan on picking up your child at 2:30 that day.

Thank you to all of the families that came to our meeting on tax credit scholarships last night. I will continue to include information on this program as I receive it. Those planning to apply should make sure they have all the information they need by mid-January, and turn in their intent to return form to the school office by Wednesday, December 20.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

Breakfast with Santa
– Saturday,
December 16

*Last Day of School
Before Break (2:30
PM Dismissal, NO
EXTENDED DAY) –*
Wednesday,
December 20

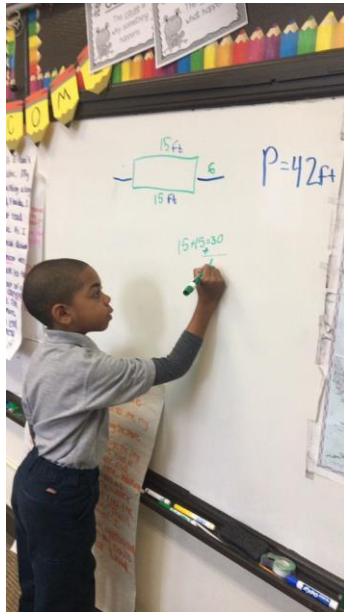
*STA Christmas
Program –*
Wednesday,
December 20 (1:00
PM)

*First Day of School
After Break –*
Wednesday, January
3

Parking Lot

I want to thank all of our parent volunteers who come at arrival and dismissal each day to set up traffic cones and guide cars to make sure we have a safe and smooth dismissal each day. They are out there in the cold each day to help all of us have a good start and end to the school day (and they are doing this on a volunteer basis and do NOT get paid!).

We have had an issue with some parents turning left out of the lot, even though we have a sign indicating that you must turn right and a parent volunteer guiding traffic that way. One of our volunteers was almost hit this week by a car turning left. All families need to follow the parking lot procedures for the school. There is one car in particular that has not followed this every day this week. They drive a **silver Chevy Malibu** with the license plate number **Q622534**. I ask that this family and all of our families follow the rules every day.



Christmas Program and the Last Day Before Break

We have our Christmas program on Wednesday at 1:00 PM in the church. This year's program is called "Jesus is the Reason for the Season", and all of our classes will be singing a song as a part of the program. All school families are welcome to attend this event. Akosua Haynes, and STA 5th grader, will perform Christmas songs on the cello before the performance.

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

I am going to ask all families to pick up their children from the gym after the performance, and not from the church. This will make it easier for our teachers to make sure each student is safely dismissed.

Please note that there is NO extended day on Wednesday and all students must be picked up by 2:30 PM. Please make arrangements to have your child picked up by then.

We return from Christmas break on Wednesday, January 3.

Tax Credit Scholarships

Our 3rd through 8th graders will take their second Aspire interim assessment on Monday through Thursday of the upcoming week. Thank you to all of our families who came to our informational sessions on tax credit scholarships. Families planning to apply for this scholarship need to apply to both the Empower Illinois and Big Shoulders Fund SGO. The websites for both SGOs are below:

- www.empowerillinois.org
- www.bigshouldersfundsgo.org

I encourage families to regularly check both of these websites for information on how to apply. Applications for Empower Illinois open on January 24, and Big Shoulders has said they will open their applications in the second half of January. Remember that these scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis, so it is important for our families to apply once the applications are made available.

If you have any questions about tax credit scholarships, please contact me. I am also sending out the power point and flyer we distributed last night at the meeting.



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

Service Hours!! PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO LOG ANY COMPLETED FOR 2017!!

FOR AVAILABLE SERVICE HOURS IN 2018...

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!!

We need lunch helpers, morning parking lot helpers, Fun Lunch helpers, Father/Daughter Dance helpers, Mother/Son Dance helpers and much much more!! Sign up today!!

If you have any questions please
email homeandschool@stapostleschool.com

General Notes

- Please remember to keep birthday treats for your child's class simple. I would suggest bringing no more than one item in for the class to eat, and to bring any plates/forks/serving materials necessary to distribute the treats.
- Please do NOT have your child picked from extended day in an Uber. We are only able to release students to people listed on your child's adult release form.
- We will have an Advent prayer services on Monday and Wednesday in the gym at 8:05 AM. All families are welcome to come and participate in this service.
- We will have an all-school Mass on Tuesday. 4th grade will lead this Mass.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at tgallo@stapostleschool.com