

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

December 2,
2016



STA Families,

We have had a great first week back from Thanksgiving break. Everyone at our school is now getting in the Christmas spirit! Starting today, we will be having weekly Advent prayer services every Friday in the gym after morning announcements. Any parents who would like to attend are welcome to come. 2nd-8th grade students will also be going to confession once during Advent to prepare for Christmas.

Our science fair for 7th and 8th grade students is coming up this Wednesday. Please try to come and see the great projects our students worked on this fall.

Finally, please remember to log all of your service hours on Track It Forward. We are approaching the half-way point in the year, and all families need to complete 20 service hours by the end of the school year.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

Advent Prayer Service – Fridays during Lent at 8:00 AM in the gym

School Advisory Board Meeting – Tuesday, December 6 (7:00-8:30 AM)

Science Fair – Wednesday, December 7 (9:00 AM- 2:00 PM)

Spirit Day – Friday, December 9 (Pre-K Snacks)

Parent Coffee Klatch – Thursday, December 15 (8:15-9:00 AM)

New FOSS Science Materials at STA

Thanks to a generous donation from the Bears Cares Foundation and the Big Shoulders Fund, STA has been able to purchase new FOSS Science kits for the 1st-8th grade. These new kits include new units of study and are aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. These kits will ensure that our school will have a comprehensive science curriculum that teaches our students all the necessary science material through inquiry-based instruction. We expect to get the new kits in January. A breakdown of the kits by grade level is below:

Grade	Physical Science	Earth Science	Life Science
8	Gravity and Kinetic Energy Waves	<u>Planetary Science</u>	Human Systems Interactions Heredity and Adaptation
7	<u>Chemical Interactions</u>	<u>Earth History</u>	<u>Populations and Ecosystems</u>
6	Electromagnetic Force Variables and Design	<u>Weather and Water</u>	<u>Diversity of Life</u>
5	<u>Mixtures and Solutions</u>	<u>Earth and Sun</u>	<u>Living Systems</u>
4	<u>Energy</u>	<u>Soils, Rocks, and</u>	<u>Environments</u>

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

AM and PM Parking Lot Duty – 6th Grade Parents Lead (5th grade parents lead starting December 1)

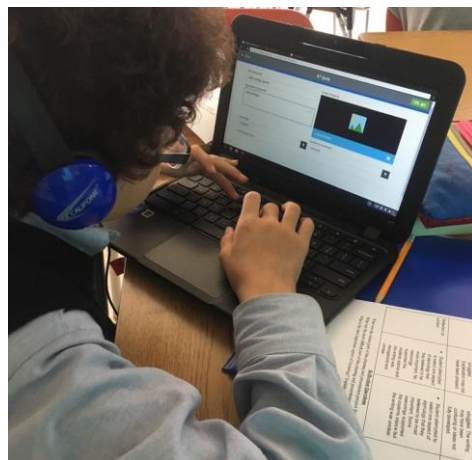
Lunch Helpers – Daily throughout the year from 11:00-12:00

Field Trip Chaperones – Please contact your child's teacher if interested

Help Pre-K students pack-up for dismissal – Contact Mrs. Lendi or Mrs. Pruitt



		<u>Landforms</u>	
3	<u>Motion and Matter</u>	<u>Water and Climate</u>	<u>Structures of Life</u>
2	<u>Solids and Liquids</u>	<u>Pebbles, Sand, and Silt</u>	<u>Insects and Plants</u>
1	<u>Sound and Light</u>	<u>Air and Weather</u>	<u>Plants and Animals</u>



Reach for the STArS

We wrapped up our Reach for the STArS campaign on Tuesday. Thank you to all the families that helped out with the appeal, shared information on it with loved ones, and contributed to the campaign. This appeal has a matching gift up to \$30,000, meaning that we could raise up to \$60,000 for technology for the school. As of today, we are excited to announce that we have raised over \$57,000 for school technology! We are so close to our goal of \$60,000. We will continue to accept donations both online and in-person. The link to contribute online is [here](#).

I also want to thank Ms. Acton and Mrs. Damico for their work in developing videos to promote this campaign on Facebook. I encourage all STA families to follow us Facebook to see pictures and videos updating you on news and events in the school. We will be continuing to post updates regularly after the campaign. The link to our Facebook page is on the right-hand side of this newsletter.



Upcoming Fundraising Opportunities

We have two fundraisers to make you aware of during the holiday season. First, we will be hosting a fundraiser at the Hyde Park Potbelly's on Thursday, December 8 from 4:00-7:00 PM. 25% of all sales during this time will go to STA. Please consider getting dinner at this Potbelly's on Thursday.

Also, please remember that the SCRIP program continues at STA. Below is a message from Mrs. McEwen, the coordinator of the SCRIP program.

Buy XMAS gift cards and get tuition back. Making it even easier for you this year!

STEP 1 - WHICH GIFT CARDS DO YOU WANT?
(choose ONE of the ordering option below):

- **(a) Just email or FastDirect me how many of each gift card you want. I'll fill out the order form.**
- **(b) Create a free account online with this enrollment code C53A77D411457 and order on www.shopwithscrip.com**
- **(c) Use the attached order form and submit it to the STA front desk.**

STEP 2 - SUBMIT PAYMENT

Submit payment for the cards through your child/STA student or at the front desk in an envelope labeled 'STA Scrip' for Mrs. McEwen, SCRIP Coordinator. (Cash or check payable to St. Thomas Apostle School, 'SCRIP' on the memo).

DEADLINE (1 WEEK LEFT!): Order now through December 9 to receive your gift cards in time before the break. I'll handle the tuition reimbursement through Mrs Kiekenapp after I receive your payment. (I'll only process the order after I receive payment.) Turnaround is good; you'll get the cards within a week, if not sooner!

(The more gift cards you order, even on behalf of your friends/family, the more tuition reimbursements you get to keep!)

-Mrs. McEwen, STA Scrip Coordinator
email: scrip.stapostleschool@gmail.com

Christmas Events at STA

Our Christmas program will be on Tuesday, December 20 at 1:00 PM. This is also the last day of school before break. Due to our growing enrollment and the popularity of this program, we can no longer have it in the school gym. Instead, we will be having the program at the church. More information on the Christmas program will come as the event approaches.

The Home and School Association will be hosting their annual Breakfast with Santa in the STA gym on Saturday, December 17. All families are welcome to attend. Families can also earn service hours by volunteering for this event.

General Reminders

- Our students once again reached 10,000 STAR points. As a reward, students will be allowed to come out of uniform on Friday, December 16. They should wear holiday clothing to get in the Christmas spirit.
- Please make sure to check when your child's after school programs are, and that they attend the program on the correct day. Schedules for after-school clubs are posted in the office and around the school building.
- Please remember that all families need to sign up on Track It Forward to log your service hours. All families need to complete 20 service hours and log them on Track It Forward. Please contact Mr. Gallo if you need help with your Track It Forward account.
- We need some parent volunteers to help open student lunches from 11:00-12:00 daily. Please let Mr. Gallo or Mrs. Damico know if you are interested. This will count for service hours.

- 5th grade will be leading our school Mass this Tuesday at 8:30 in the church.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at tgallo@stapostleschool.com