

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

December 8,
2017



Dear STA Families,

We are getting in the Christmas spirit at STA! On Monday, we held our first Advent prayer service, and our students celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception by attending Mass this morning. Our students are also working hard to get ready for our Christmas program, coming up on December 20.

Earlier this week, I sent a message about tax credit scholarships and intent to return forms. I am once again attaching the intent to return form, which all families need to complete and return to the school office. This information is important for us as we prepare to have families apply for tax credit scholarships and begin planning for the 2018-19 school year.

Please remember we are having a meeting on Thursday from 5:30-6:30 PM in the gym to discuss tax credit scholarships.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

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

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

*Caroling at
Millennium Station –
Wednesday,
December 13*

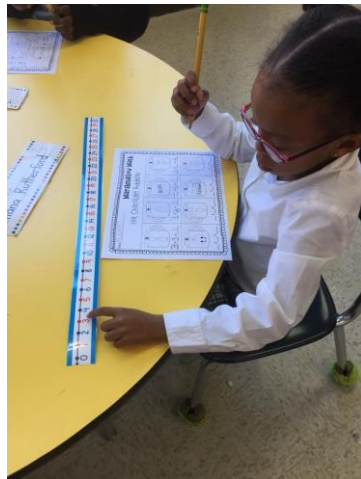
*Tax Credit
Scholarship Meeting
– Thursday,
December 14 (5:30-
6:30 PM)*

*Breakfast with Santa
– Saturday,
December 16*

Intent to Return Forms and Tax Credit Scholarships

Earlier this week, I sent home an intent to return form. I am asking all of our families to complete this form and return it to school by either sending it in with your child or bringing it directly to the school office. We need this information both to help prepare to have families apply for tax credit scholarships and to help prepare our budget for the 2018-19 school year. We use this information to project class sizes for next year, which we then use to determine staffing. Please make sure to complete and submit this form ASAP.

Also, 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. 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

We are excited to announce that our school community raised \$33,779 during the Reach for the STArS campaign. With the addition of the \$30,000 gift from our matching donor, that brings us to a total of \$63,779. This is more money than we raised during this campaign last year! All of this money will be used to pay for

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

the new playground. Thank you again to everyone who made a donation to the campaign. If you would still like to make a donation, we will happily accept it at any point during the rest of the school year.

This fundraiser is a very significant step towards our goal of building a new playground this summer. We have applied for a grant with Kaboom, which is an organization that helps build playgrounds for children. Kaboom covers up to 90% of the cost to build a playground. We are currently in the process of getting the soil tested in order to finalize the Kaboom grant proposal and allow us to move forward in that process.

We plan to continue to raise money for this project throughout the rest of the school year. STArry Night 2018 will be one opportunity for us to do this. The school endowment fund committee has also expressed the desire to support this project with some of the available funds in the school's endowment.

Thank you again for your support and we look forward to sharing more information on this project with you soon!

Upcoming Events in December

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

- 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)

Aspire Interim II Assessment

Our 3rd through 8th graders will take their second Aspire interim assessment on Monday through Thursday of the upcoming week. This is a formative assessment that helps our teachers track student's progress and prepare students to take the summative Aspire assessment in April. They will take four 45 minute tests in reading, English, math, and science. All students will take the tests

on a computer. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about this assessment.

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.



STA Science Fair

We hosted our science fair on Wednesday for our 7th and 8th grade students. Congratulations to all of our 7th and 8th graders for working on such terrific projects. Thank you to all of our volunteer judges, and to Mr. Herrmann for organizing this event. Below are the winners from the science, all of whom will move on to the state competition:

1st Place: Maya Mims, Onyedika Chidume, Devin Jones

2nd Place: Joi Belcher, Sophia Aposhian, Isabella-Rose Gonzalzes

3rd Place: Ayinde Reese, Jada Nix, Jermaine Hampton

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.

STA Christmas Program

Our annual Christmas program will be Wednesday, December 20 at 1:00 PM in the STA church. The title of this year’s program is “Jesus is the Reason for the Season”. All of our classes and our Gospel choir will be performing as a part of the program. Please remember that we have a 2:30 PM dismissal on this day, and there will be NO extended care that day. We hope all of our families can attend this program!



News for Home and School

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!! Remember to purchase your Breakfast with Santa tickets!! Parents we are being nice and extending the ticket purchase date to Wednesday

12/13/17!! Don't be naughty and forget to purchase tickets!! Breakfast with Santa is Saturday 12/16/17 from 9:00am-11:30am!! Tickets include Breakfast, a picture with Santa and crafts!!

SERVICE HOURS, SERVICE HOURS, SERVICE HOURS!!

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

- I will be out from 10:30-2:00 on Wednesday to attend a meeting on tax credit scholarships.
- Families received their child's class picture this week. Please make sure to return the picture or bring in the payment for the pictures by Monday. Please contact Mrs. Perlut at cperlut@stapostleschool.com if you have any questions.
- We will have an 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 have an all-school Mass on Tuesday. 5th grade will lead this Mass.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at tgallo@stapostleschool.com