

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

December 9,
2016



STA Families,

Christmas is quickly approaching! We are continuing to have our Friday Advent prayer services, and classes will be practicing for the upcoming Christmas program. Students will be able to come in holiday clothing on Friday, December 16 as a reward for reaching 10,000 STAr points. Our annual Breakfast with Santa will be coming up on Saturday, December 17.

Please keep Ms. Peeples and her family in your prayers. Ms. Peeples is sick and will be out until after the holiday. We are hoping for her recovery and look forward to her return to STA.

Finally, please do not forget to log your parent service hours on Track It Forward and check your child's academic progress on Fast Direct.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

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

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

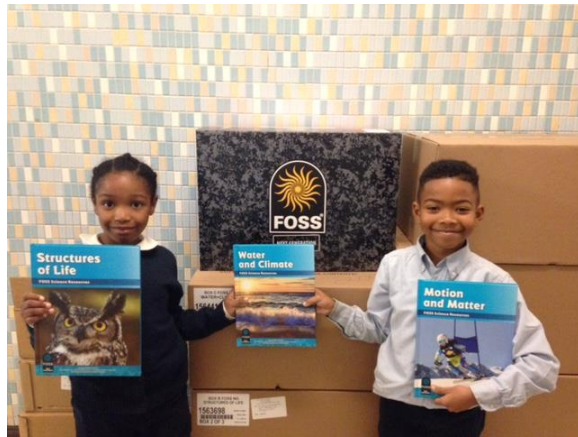
*Christmas Dress
Down Day – Friday,
December 16*

*Breakfast with
Santa- Saturday,
December 17*

*STA Christmas
Program – Tuesday,
December 20*

New FOSS Science Materials at STA

Our new FOSS Science kits have arrived! 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. You can expect your children to begin using these kits in their classrooms in January.



Reach for the STArS Update

We are continuing to receive donations for Reach for the STArS. With our matching gift, we have currently raised **\$59,000** for technology at STA! This means we are only \$1,000 from our goal of \$60,000. We will continue to accept donations both online and in-person. The link to contribute online is [here](#).

School Closing Procedure

Winter has arrived, and this brings the possibility of inclement weather. We will not open school if the weather creates unsafe conditions for bringing children to and from school. If we determine to close school, you will receive a message through School Messenger alerting you of the closure. You will receive an email, text message, and phone call alerting you that school is closed. We will also post news on the closure on our Facebook page, school website, and on the Illinois School Emergency Closure Center. Please make sure to look for this alert and be prepared for a possible school closure if there is severe weather.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

AM and PM Parking Lot Duty – 5th Grade Parents Lead

Breakfast with Santa- Contact Home and School

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

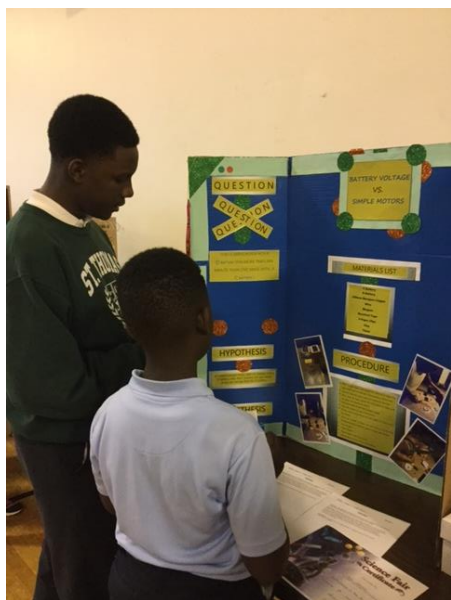


7th Grade Parent Meeting

We will have a 7th grade parent meeting on Thursday, January 12 at 5:00 PM. All 7th grade parents should plan on attending. We will be discussing plans for the graduation dinner and meeting in committees to make sure we are prepared for the evening.

Science Fair at STA

This past Wednesday, STA hosted its annual science fair for 7th and 8th grade students. These students worked hard to prepare their science fair presentations, and they were all judged by members of the local community on their projects. Students from our other classrooms also go to tour the science fair and learn about the student projects. Special thanks to Mrs. Belcastro for leading our students through their projects and organizing this event.



Christmas Events at STA

On Friday, December 16, our students will have an out-of-uniform day since they earned 10,000 STAR points. Students should come in festive holiday apparel for this day. Please note that students must come in holiday clothing if they will come out of uniform.

Our Christmas program will be on Tuesday, December 20 at 1:00 PM. The theme for the program will be "The Meaning of Christmas". Each class will perform a Christmas song and perform something that discusses what the meaning of Christmas is to them.

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

- There is a parent coffee this Thursday at 8:15 AM in the parish hall. All families are welcome. Mr. Gallo will be at the coffee to answer any questions you may have.
- Thank you to all the families that came to Potbelly's on Thursday in support of STA, and thank you to Mrs. Kohn for organizing this event for our school.
- 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.
- 1st grade room 206 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