

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

January 12,
2018



Dear STA Families,

We are wrapping up another great week of school at STA. On Monday, Imagination Theater came to our school to give performances for our students on the differences between teasing and bullying and how to respond when someone teases or bullies them. The actors performed different scenarios for the students and had students model different effective responses to this behavior. We then had a parent night last night on the difference between teasing and bullying. Our teachers will be applying some of these ideas in lessons with their classes over the next few weeks.

Make sure to stay on top of news coming up in the next few weeks. Tax credit scholarship applications open in a couple weeks. We will be announcing tuition and fees for 2018-19 and procedures for re-registering soon. **Re-registration opens on Sunday, January 28.** Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
– Monday, January 15

STA Advisory Board Meeting –
Wednesday, January 17 (7:00-8:30 AM)

HSA Meeting –
Wednesday, January 17, (6:30-7:30 PM)

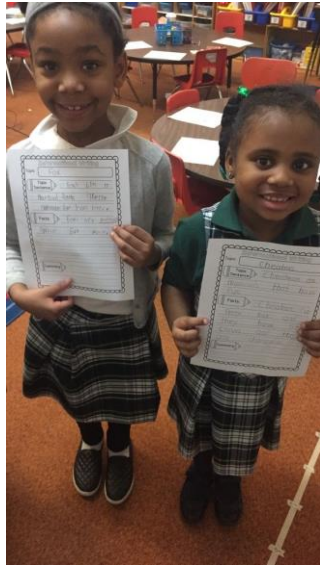
Parent Coffee with the Principal –
Thursday, January 18 (7:45-8:45 AM)

Big Shoulders Tax Credit Scholarship Application Open –
Monday, January 22

Important Upcoming Dates

January and February are busy months at STA. Below are some important upcoming dates for to keep track of:

- January 22- Big Shoulders Fund Tax Credit Scholarship Applications Open
- January 28-February 3 – Catholic Schools Week
- January 28 – Sunday Family Mass (8:00 AM), Open House, Re-registration for 2018-19 opens
- January 31 – Empower Illinois Tax Credit Scholarships Open, Prospective Family Open House (6:00 PM)
- February 6 – State of the School Meeting (6:00 PM)



Procedure for Canceling School Due to Weather

Winter is here, and with it brings the possibility of inclement weather that could force us to cancel school. We will use our School Messenger system (which what we use for these messages) to reach you. This system can send you an email, text message, and phone call. You can also check our website and Facebook page for more information. We will do our best to communicate this decision as soon as possible, but be prepared for the possibility of this happening early in the morning if there is a large amount of snow overnight.

Any snow days will push our last day of school back. The last day of school is currently scheduled for June 5. It will be pushed back one day for each snow day we take during the year.

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

Re-Registering for the 2018-19 School Year and Open Houses

Current STA families are invited to an Open House on January 28th from 9:45-11:00am! Join us for hospitality after Family Mass in the Gym and learn exciting news about the 2018-19 Re-registration process! Then, you are invited to visit your child's grade level classrooms for the 2018-19 school year. We hope to see you there!

We are also hosting an Open House for Prospective families on January 31st from 6:00-7:30 pm. Please share this information with anyone you know who is interested in sending their child to STA! Open Houses offer prospective families the opportunity to learn about the school's faith-based environment, academic curriculum, as well as getting a tour of the building. Families who are interested in attending can sign-up using the link on the STA website.

Tax Credit Scholarships

Applications for tax credit scholarships open soon! 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 Big Shoulders open on January 22. Empower Illinois has pushed back the date they open applications to January 31. 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. The information flyers that we distributed at our meeting are available in the school office. I will share any new information on these programs with you once I get it.

Intent to Return Forms

If you have not turned in your intent to return form, please do so ASAP! This information is extremely important for us as we plan our budget and classrooms for next year. For those families that have not submitted your form, we will still take them! A copy of

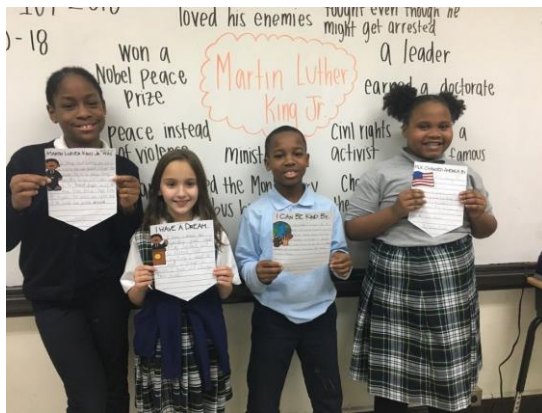
the form is attached, and you can submit them to the school office. We also have copies in the school office for you to take to complete. Your child will get a NUT card if you turn in the form.

Virtue of the Month - Positivity

We had our community celebration for this month today, focusing on the virtue of positivity. We had a freeze dance contest, Ms. Hollifield led our school in cheers, and two of our 8th graders gave a presentation on this virtue. We then recognized some students with Shining STAR awards for modeling this virtue at school. Congratulations to the following students for receiving this award:

- Melinda Zheng (PK4)
- Zoe Hogsett (K-212)
- Morgan Rutherford (1st-206)
- Addison Odo (1st-209)
- Ajani Sutherland (3rd-204)
- Alianna “Coco” Holton (4th)
- Kaylee Williams (5th)
- Faith Poppel-Agnew (6th)
- Kennedy Shelby (7th)

Our virtue for this month will be good judgement, and our next community celebration is Friday, February 9.



Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is on Monday, January 15. Please remember that there is NO school that day. This week, all of our students have worked on projects on Dr. King, and these projects will all be displayed on the north hallway by the main office. You are welcome to walk this stairwell to see the great work all of our students did to learn about and honor Dr. King.

STArry Night – Save the Date!

We hope to see you at this year's STArry Night benefit on April 14, 2018. Be sure to check your child's backpack today for your Save the Date for the event! This year, the event proceeds will go towards STA's new playground. You will receive more information soon on everything to look forward to that evening, including information on two new things this year: on-line bidding and the STArry Night after-party!

STA's Parent Tip on Facebook

Be sure to check the STA Facebook page today for another helpful parent tip! <https://www.facebook.com/stapostleschool/> And, make sure you're "following" the STA page to see updates on the great things going on here at school!



News for Home and School

1. **STA Pizza Fun Lunch is Friday February 2nd, 2018.** There will be **no hot lunch** that day!! If your child is not going to participate they will need to bring a packed lunch from home. **Order form and money are due Friday January 26th, 2018.** (see order form attached)

2. **Next HSA meeting is Wednesday January 17th at 6:30pm** in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend!! You will earn 1 service hour as well!!

3. Next **Parent Coffee Klatch is Thursday January 18th at 7:45am** in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend!!

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 try to make sure you either send your child to school with a lunch or order them a hot lunch each day. We are getting more and more families ordering lunches that are getting delivered to the office, and students are forced to eat their lunch outside of their normal lunch period. Please make sure your child has food for the day with them when they come to school, or order them a lunch through our lunch program.
- We will have an all-school Mass on Tuesday. Mrs. Gough's 3rd grade class will lead this Mass.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at tgallo@stapostleschool.com