

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

January 5,
2018



Dear STA Families,

Welcome back! I hope that everyone had a restful Christmas break, and that you are all staying warm in this cold weather! We have been glad to welcome our students back to school. I hope that everyone enjoyed our Christmas program. The church was packed, and all of our students and faculty did a great job getting everyone in the Christmas spirit.

January will be a busy month at STA. We have events for both students and parents on bullying next week, open re-registration for the 2018-19 school year, and kick off Catholic schools week this month. Please make sure to read these newsletters carefully to make sure you stay up to date on what will be happening at our school. Also, please turn in your intent to return form if you have not done so already.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

Easing the Teasing (K-5) and Take a Stand (6-8) Program
– Monday, January 8
(1:00-3:00 PM)

Parent Night – "Is It Teasing or Bullying?" –
Thursday, January
11 (5:30-6:30 PM)

Spirit Day and Community Celebration (Positivity) – Friday,
January 12

NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
– Monday, January
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Our School's Business Office Moving Forward

I sent a message to families over break notifying you that Mrs. Joanne Kiekenapp, our parish treasurer, passed away. We have been praying for her family during this difficult time. We are currently working with the parish to look for a new business person for the church and school. In the interim, I will be responsible for any tuition-related questions. Mrs. Perlut will support me in doing this. Please contact me if you have any financial-related questions.



Reminders for the New Year

The new year is a great opportunity to review some rules and procedures we have as a school community. Some things to remember are:

- Please make sure to drive carefully in the parking lot. There may be ice on the roads, and we want to make sure all of our students get to school safely. Drive slowly, come to a complete stop for our parking lot volunteers, and (most importantly) act Christ-like!
- Make sure to check FastDirect and Class Dojo regularly to follow your child's progress. Contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about their grades.
- Look over the handbook to make sure your child is coming to school in uniform each day. They are allowed to wear STA sweatshirts or uniform sweaters to school, and they must bring a change of shoes if they come to school wearing boots.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

AM and PM Parking Lot Duty

Assist the Pre-K and K students at lunch (11:00-12:00 daily)

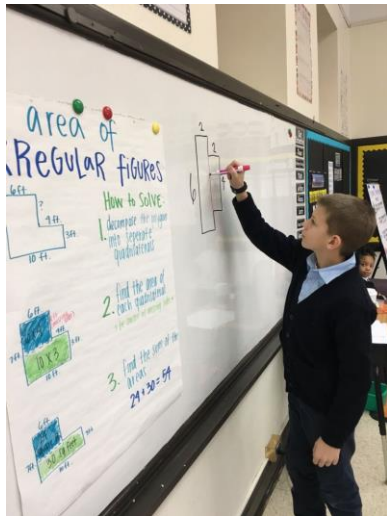
Check for other opportunities on Track It Forward

- All students who bring a cell phone to school must turn it in to the school office. No student is allowed to have a cell phone on their person during the school day. Students are also not allowed to have Apple Watches or any other smart watch on their person at school.

Easing the Teasing Program

Our programs around easing the teasing are next week! 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. Judy has previously done professional developments for our staff on easing the teasing. I encourage all of our families to attend this program. 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. The K-5 program will be at 1:00 PM, and the 6-8 program will be at 2:00 PM. 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.



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, and Empower Illinois open on January 24. 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.

Intent to Return Forms

Thank you to all of the families that have turned in their intent to return forms. 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. Your child will get a NUT card if you turn in the form.

Spirit Day and Community Celebration

Our next Spirit Day and Community Celebration are on Friday, January 12. Our Community Celebration will focus on positivity, which has been our virtue for the past month. We will play a game around this virtue, recognize students who have modeled this virtue, and listen to a presentation from our middle school students on this virtue.

Remember that students can come out of uniform in school spirit wear on Friday. We will have snacks available for them to purchase as well.

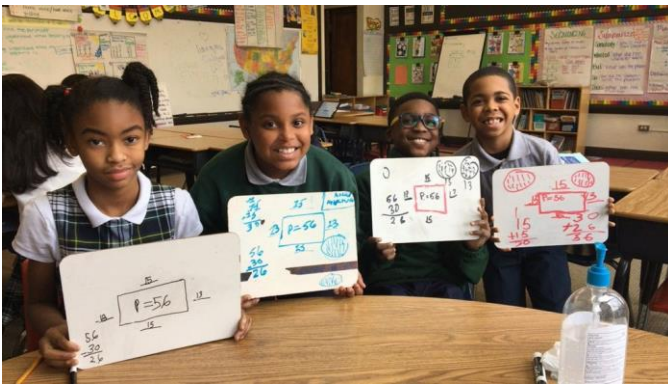
Open Houses

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.

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. Friday Jan 12th, 2018 is Spirit Day!! Please remember to send students with money to purchase a spirit day snack!! Snacks start at 75 cents!!

3. 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!!

4 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

- I will be out of the building all day Tuesday for a budget planning meeting and a meeting for the Archdiocesan principal's association.
- 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 all-school Mass on Tuesday. Ms. Jordan's 3rd grade class will lead this Mass.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at tgallo@stapostleschool.com

