

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

March 3, 2017



STA Families,

Thank you for attending Parent-Teacher Conferences today. These are extremely important meetings as they give the chance for you to discuss your child's progress with their teacher. If you have not had a conference, please schedule one as soon as possible. You can not get your child's report card until you have a conference with their teacher.

Also, please note that we are moving AM Care to room 107 to the gym. We have been getting more students in AM Care, and we feel that the gym will be a better place for it.

This week's newsletter has a lot of information in it, including the premiere of our STA video. Please make sure to read through this carefully. Finally, if you have not yet done so, please fill out the Intent to Return form at the link [here](#).

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

*STA School Advisory
Board Meeting –
Wednesday, March 8
(7:00-8:30 AM)*

*7th Grade Parent
Meeting – Thursday,
March 9 (5:30-6:30
PM)*

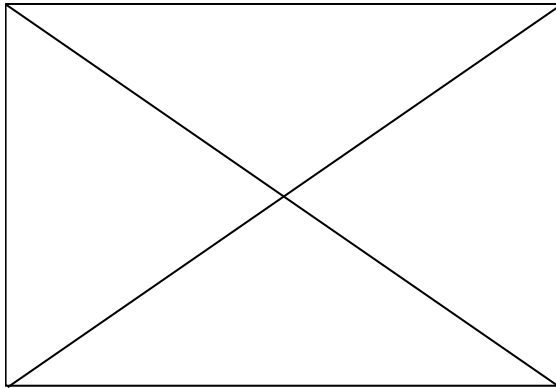
*AdvancEd
Accreditation Visit –
Friday, March 10*

*Parent Coffee Klatch
– Thursday, March
16*

*Open House –
Thursday, March 16
(5:00-7:00 PM)*

Premiere of the STA Video!

In January, we had a production company come to school to shoot footage of our school in action and interview some of our students and parents. This material was used to make a promotional video for our school. We are excited to share this video with you today. You will also find this video on our school website. If the embedded video does not work, the link to the video is [here](#). Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen, and enjoy!



Re-Register for the 2017-18 School Year

We continue to have more students register for next year. We currently have 171 students registered, meaning that we are just 29 students away from our goal of 200 students by March 24. You can receive \$45 off of your registration if you register by March 13. See the table below for more information on this deal.

Registration Date	Registration Fee	Savings
February 27 – March 13	\$150	\$45
March 14 – March 24	\$175	\$20
April 3 – August	\$195	\$0

Students who have re-registered can wear their “I’m In for 17-18” pins to school. We will be posting pictures every week of our re-registered students on the bulletin board outside of the office. Make sure to register and guarantee your child’s spot for next year!

New Location for AM Care

As our school has grown, we have had more students coming to AM Care every day. This has made AM Care more cramped each morning as more and more students come in. We are going to move AM Care from room 107 to the gym to accommodate the increasing number of students. Please have your student go directly to the gym if they arrive before 7:45 AM.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

AM and PM Parking Lot Duty – PK/K Families Lead

PK Field Trip – Thursday, March 9

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



Any student who arrives at school before 7:45 AM must go to AM Care.

Scholarship Applications

Any family that would like to apply for financial aid must apply on FACTS. We have a scholarship committee meeting that meets in March, May, June, July, and August to award financial aid. Our first scholarship committee meeting is March 8. If you want to be eligible for the first round of awards, you will need to have your application completed on FACTS by 8:00 AM on March 7. We award scholarships as we receive applications, so your odds of getting the best aid are highest if you apply earlier.

Summer School 2017

I apologize for the delay in getting information on summer school to families. We have been waiting for word on a potential grant to do work on the building. This construction would alter our summer school plans. We WILL be having summer school this year. Our planned dates for summer school are June 26-July 28. This will start one week later and end one week later than we have in previous years in order to accommodate for potential work on the building. We will not be having the We Got Game camp in between the last day of school and the first day of summer school like we had in previous years due to this potential construction work. Our summer program is available to rising K-8 students and consists of a half day of school, a half day of camp with We Got Game, and Friday field trips. We will finalize dates and have applications available by Friday, March 10.



7th Grade Parent Meeting

We will be having another 7th grade parent meeting to plan the graduation dinner on Thursday, March 9 from 5:30-6:30 PM. The parents on the Serving and Cleaning Committee do NOT need to come to this meeting, but the parents from the Food Committee and the Decorations and Invitations Committee will need to meet.

Parking Lot Help

I want to thank the parents who have stepped up to help in the parking lot before and after school recently. Special thanks to Mrs. McGruder, Ms. Okorafor-Chidume, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Holton, Mrs. Wallace, and Mrs. Wheatley for helping guide traffic, and Ms. Sakwe for helping set up and take down cones every day. We rely on parent volunteers to make sure our parking lot runs safely and smoothly before and after school. We still need more parents to help set up and take down cones, and to help guide traffic during these times. Please let me know if you are available to help out. Remember that we will be dismissing outside the rest of the year unless there is inclement weather.

STA Students Compete in Science Fair

Illinois Junior Academy of Science Non-Public Schools Regional Science Fair at MSI. We are sending eight students this year. This is four more than we sent last year. The following students have been chosen to represent St Thomas:

- 8th Grade – Tyra Richardson, Jaliyah Smith
- 7th Grade – Sophie Aposhian, Joie Belcher, Christopher Carter, Jada Nix, Ayinde Reese, Aria Vincent

Congratulations to all of our STA students competing, and good luck!

STA Fundraiser at A-10

We are partnering with A-10 to raise more money for STA. STA will receive 10% of the total bill from all friends and families of STA on Tuesday, March 21. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a night out and help support STA. Thanks to Mrs. Kohn for putting this fundraising opportunity together.



End of the School Year

We will be moving our last day of school up if we end up not using any of our snow days this year. Currently, the last day of school is scheduled to be June 9. However, if we do not use any snow days, we will move the last day up to June 2. This has not yet been finalized, but I am anticipating this happening unless we receive a surprise snowstorm in March. I would encourage all families to be prepared for this change.

If we move the last day, it will not significantly alter our schedule for the end of the year. The only event we would move is the Kindergarten celebration. Currently, this celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6. If we do move the last day up, we will move this event to Wednesday, May 31. Kindergarten parents should be prepared for this possibility.

I will notify parents when this decision is finalized, and if there are any other schedule changes, before spring break begins on March 24.

Open Houses and Tours at STA

Below is a message from Tareema Jean-Baptiste, who is coordinating admissions for our school:

Attention STA! March 16th is fast approaching and this our last Open House opportunity for this school year! Please, please, please tell all your friends, family, co-workers...to come check us out! Open house is March 16th from 5-7pm. Interested families can register online at www.stapostleschool.com or email tjeanbap@stapostleschool.com. REMEMBER THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO GET YOUR 25 DOLLAR REFERRAL AWARD!

General Reminders

- Remember that all STA families need to complete 20 service hours and log them on Track It Forward. Make sure to do both of these things. Please let me know if you have any issues with Track It Forward.
- Home and School has organized a STA Chicago Wolves trip on April 15. Look for information on this in the attached flyer.
- My graduate school classes have resumed this week. I will be leaving right before dismissal on Tuesdays to make it to my 4:00 PM class downtown. This class goes until May.
- We have an All-School Mass Tuesday. 2nd grade will lead the Mass.
- 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.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at tgallo@stapostleschool.com
