

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

November 11,
2016



STA Families,

November has been a busy month at STA! I want to thank all of the families who attended our Family Mass on Sunday at STA. Our student readers did a great job, and once again our choir was terrific.

I also want to thank our teachers and students for organizing today's Veteran's Day program. They helped all of the students in our school understand the value of appreciating and honor our country's veterans.

Finally, please make sure to sign up for parent-teacher conferences, which are on November 18. We will not have school that day, and conferences are from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

Home and School Meeting Wednesday, November 16 (6:30 PM)

Parent Coffee Klatch - Thursday, November 17 (8:15-9:00 AM)

Parent-Teacher Conferences - NO SCHOOL - Friday, November 18

Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL - November 23-25

Reach for the STArS Has Begun!

Our Reach for the STArS annual appeal is underway. This event focuses on raising funds for technology for the school. We are fortunate to have an anonymous donor who will match donations dollar for dollar up to \$30,000! Some families have already contributed to this appeal, and our school is grateful for that.

We want all of our school families to participate, either by contributing or by having a friend or family member contribute. We are going to give an out-of-uniform day to the class that has the highest percentage of students participating. Please try to contribute or share information on Reach for the STArS with loved ones who can contribute. I have continued to get questions about this appeal, which I have answered below:



I want to support Reach for the STArS, but do not have the financial means to give a donation. How can I participate?

We are not expecting every family in the school to make a financial contribution. However, we do hope that every family will promote this appeal to their family and friends. We encourage you to share information on your Facebook pages. We also have extra copies of the appeal letter and reply cards in the office for you to share. You can also email the link loved ones to contribute on our GiveCentral page, which is [here](#).

Also, please remember that you can make a pledge payable over an extended period of time. This pledge can be automatically withdrawn over a period of time of your choosing. For example, you can pledge to give \$10 a month of the next year, which would equal a \$120 contribution.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

AM and PM Parking Lot Duty – 6th Grade Parents Lead

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



Where can I get more information and updates on Reach for the STArS?

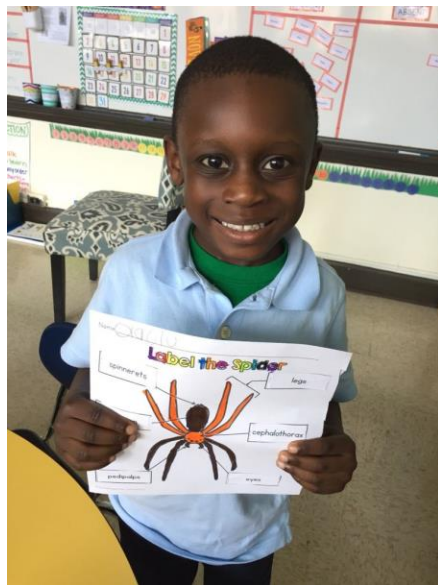
We have been and will continue to post pictures and videos updating everyone on the progress of Reach for the STArS. I encourage all families to follow our school's Facebook page. You can find our page by searching for St. Thomas the Apostle School on Facebook or clicking on this [link](#).

Parent-Teacher Conferences

As stated above, we have now opened sign-up for parent-teacher conferences. All families must attend conferences, and we will not release your child's report card to you until you attend a conference with your child's teacher. Conferences are 15 minutes long. You should have received information on how to sign up for conferences online. If you did not, please contact Carol Perlut at cperlut@stapostleschool.com

We are also modifying the schedule for middle school families. All of the teachers will have an open slot in the last 15 minutes of every hour (for example (1:45-2:00). You will be able to walk in and talk with the teachers if you have a question about their grade (for example, a 7th grade parent could talk to Mrs. Melachrinidis about their child's math grade). This will allow parents to talk to teachers that are not their child's homeroom teacher if necessary.

Finally, please remember that there is NO SCHOOL on Friday, November 18 for conferences, and that conferences are from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.



Thanksgiving Food Drive

STA is running a canned food drive during November. All donations will be going to the Hyde Park Food Pantry. We encourage all STA families to contribute canned goods to support this program. Please make sure any canned goods you contribute are not expired. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Wilson at jwilson@stapostleschool.com or Mrs. Malnar at smalnar@stapostleschool.com.

Election Day

I was thrilled to see how many STA students went with their families to vote. Several of our classes had almost 100% of the students go with their family to the polling places. I want to thank all of you for letting your children participate in our democracy and teaching them the value of voting.

Both our teachers and I have had many students come to us with questions about the results of the election. I would encourage all families to talk to their children about the election and the transition of leadership moving forward.



STA Flag Football Season Finishes

Congratulations to our STA flag football teams on another successful season! Our JV flag football team finished in second place in the South Side Catholic Athletic Association. Their trophy is on display in the school office. Thank you to Mr. Kemp and Mr. Brooks for coaching our teams this year.

General Reminders

- Please remember that we have returned to our normal drop-off and pick-up routine. Students will enter the building through the main door off of Woodlawn. Students will wait outside the south door at dismissal and families can pick their child up there.
- Clubs for the second trimester begin on Monday. Check the schedules posted in and around the school office to see when and where the clubs happen.
- We have partnered with Pockets and Potbelly's for fundraisers for our school. A portion of the sales at the restaurant will go to STA on a designated day. Our day with Pockets is Friday, November 11, and our day with Potbelly's is December 8. Thank you to Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Kohn for arranging these events. Support STA by getting dinner at these restaurants on these nights.
- 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.
- 5th grade 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