

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

November 4,
2016



STA Families,

We have reached the end of the first trimester. All families should have received the information to sign up online for parent-teacher conferences on Friday, November 18. Conferences are from 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM and each conference is 15 minutes long. Please remember that there is no school on this day.

We also have our second Sunday Family Mass this Sunday at 8:00 AM. Our second and sixth grade are leading Mass, and 5th grade and 1st grade will lead hospitality after Mass. Members of our choir will perform at the Mass. Students who attend Mass in school uniform will get a NUT card.

Finally, we have our Veteran's Day program this Friday at 2:15 PM in the gym. All families are welcome to attend.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

STA Family Mass
Sunday, November 6
(8:30 AM)

Second Trimester
Begins, Monday,
November 7th

Veteran's Day
Program, Friday,
November 11 (2:15
PM)

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

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

Reach for the STArS Has Begun!

Our Reach for the STArS annual appeal has begun. 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 parents have had questions about this event, which I have answered below:



Who will receive a letter as a part of this campaign?

We will mail a letter to every parent, alumnus, and benefactor of our school. We will NOT mail a letter to people who previously had received letters as a part of the Race for Education. As a part of the Race for Education, we told participants that we would not collect their contact information.

How can I share information on this campaign with my family, friends, and co-workers?

We encourage all of our families to share this information with anyone they know who may be willing to contribute. We will have attached a letter and a solicitation envelope in our office for you to use. We also have a link on our school's GiveCentral page that people can use to contribute. The link is [here](#). We will also be sharing this link on our Facebook page.

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 cpertlut@stapostleschool.com

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

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

Lunch Helpers – Daily throughout the year from 11:00-12:00

Open House Parent Ambassadors – Tuesday 9:00-1:00

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

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.

Lend a Shoulder Day

On Thursday, our school hosted members of the Big Shoulder's Fund for their annual Lend a Shoulder Day. Joi Belcher from our 7th grade spoke about her experience at our school, our gospel choir performed a song for the guests, and our guests visited classrooms to participate in a science experiment, perform a web quest with students on their ChromeBooks, and participate in an art activity with our kindergarteners. Our guests were impressed by our students and the wonderful things happening at STA.



Veteran's Day

We will be hosting our annual Veteran's Day program on Friday, November 11 at 2:15 PM in the gym. We are inviting any family members of students who are veterans to attend so that we can honor them at this program. Please contact Ms. Monahan at emonahan@stapostleschool.com if you are a veteran interested in attending or know a veteran who can attend.

Election Day

Election Day is coming up on November 8. Regardless of who you support, our school believes that it is important to teach our students about the importance of voting. Obviously, none of our students are eligible to vote, but all of our school parents are! We are going to ask that you please try to take your child with you to the polling place when you vote. Any child that comes to school with an "I voted" wrist band on or the day after Election Day will get a NUT card. You can also email a picture of you and your child at the polling place your child's teacher and your child can receive a NUT card. Please help us in teaching our students about the civic value in voting.



STA Basketball Begins

Basketball season at STA has begun! If your child is interested in playing on one of our basketball teams, please make sure to turn in your sign-up form to the office ASAP. If you have any questions, please contact Clifton Saterfield.

General Reminders

- Please remember that we have returned to our normal drop-off routine. Students will enter the building through the main door off of Woodlawn. We are finishing tuck-pointing above the south entrance of the school. Once that is finished, we will return to dismissing students outside the building.
- 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.
- 7th 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