

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

October 28,
2016



STA Families,

The end of the trimester is quickly approaching! Please make sure to check your child's grades on FastDirect. We will be sending out the link for you to sign up for parent-teacher conferences. Please remember that conferences are on November 18th and that we will have NO school that day.

I also want to thank everyone who came to Wines and Steins last Saturday. The event was a great success, as we raised over \$3,000 for the school endowment! Special thanks to Wanda Martin, Sharon Cannon, and Patrick Driscoll for leading this event.

Finally, our school once again has earned 10,000 STAR points. We will be having a fun activity with buddy classrooms as a reward.

Have a great weekend, and enjoy Halloween!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

**Book Fair October
31-November 3**

**Open House
Tuesday, November
1 (9:00 AM- 1:00
PM)**

**Reach for the STAr
Kick-Off Wednesday,
November 2**

**NO SCHOOL –
Teacher In-Service
Day Friday,
November 4**

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

Reach for the STArS Starts Wednesday!

We are excited to begin our Reach for the STArS appeal on Wednesday, November 2. This event will focus 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! Below are some frequently asked questions about this event:



What happened to the Race for Education?

We have decided to transition the Race for Education over to become Reach for the STArS. We have in previous years done an annual appeal to our alumni, and we have decided to expand this program to include other stakeholders in the school. With this expansion, we are moving as many schools are toward a more philanthropically-based mindset, and this appeal reflects change. We will still have the walk at the University of Chicago track at the end of the year as a part of Field Day.

Is there a minimum contribution we are supposed to give?

No, there is no minimum (or maximum!) contribution for families as a part of this event, nor are families required to contribute. However, we want to give every family the chance to participate in the philanthropy of our school. Remember the every dollar you give brings two dollars to the school.

How can I get involved?

The biggest way you can help is with your enthusiasm and support for this appeal. We hope that you will participate by encouraging anyone affiliated with school to give and give generously and to pray for our success. Home and School will be taking the lead in organizing volunteers. We will need volunteers to spread the word and rally the troops, especially at the November Family Mass, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

AM and PM Parking Lot Duty – 7th Grade Parents Lead

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

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

Fold and Stuff Envelopes for Reach for the STArS – Monday, October 31 (10:00-11:00 AM)

Help serve Fun Lunch – Friday, October 28 (11:00 AM – 12:30 PM)

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

in the parking lot before and after school.

I want to contribute, but November is not a good time to give. What should I do?

We will be accepting pledges as well as contributions during this appeal. You can pledge a contribution that fits without your budget.

I know other people who will want to participate in this appeal, and my employer has a matching program. What should I do?

We welcome anyone interested in contributing to participate in this program. The mailing you will receive next week will include everything you need for a matching gift.

When will I be able to pledge and/or contribute?

Our campaign will go from November 2 to November 29. You can keep giving, but we will stop asking on this date. You have our word!

Has anyone already pledged their support to this appeal?

Yes, we have already received pledges of support from 100% of our teachers and our entire school advisory board.

What are we hoping to accomplish with this appeal?

We will be distributing flyers throughout the campaign with more information on this appeal. Money raised from this appeal will go to enhancing the technology program at STA.

Change to Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedure

We will be taking down the rest of the scaffolding tomorrow, meaning that we will be returning to our normal pick-up and drop-off procedure. Students will go back to entering the building through the main door off of Woodlawn Avenue in the morning. Our classes will go back to coming outside by the south door of the school for dismissal. If there is inclement weather, we will dismiss from the gym.

Please remember to NOT drop your child off directly in front of the school on Woodlawn Avenue. All families should pull in through the parking lot to drop off their child. This makes sure all of our students are safe arriving to school.

Lend a Shoulder Day

On Thursday, our school will be hosting Big Shoulder's Lend a Shoulder Day. Members of Big Shoulder's Advisory Board will be coming to the school to visit classrooms and learn more about our school. Members of our choir will perform for our guests, and a student will speak to them about their experience at STA.

Money Savvy at STA

Today, our K-8 students participated in Money Savvy. This program is sponsored by the Big Shoulders Fund and focuses on financial literacy for students. During this session, students learned the value of saving money, how to set up and monitor a bank account, and how mortgages and credit cards work. We are grateful that the Big Shoulders Fund has provided us with this wonderful opportunity for our students.

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.



Halloween Party

The Home and School Association's Halloween Party is Saturday, October 29 from 5:00-8:00 PM at STA. All families are welcome to attend. The Home and School is looking for baked goods to be donated for the cake walk at the Halloween party. Baked goods can be delivered to the school beginning after dismissal on Friday or before the party on Saturday.

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.

Taffy Apple Sale Update

Below is an update on our Taffy Apple Sale from Tarema Jean-Baptiste. I want to thank Mrs. Jean-Baptiste and our Home and School for their hard work leading this fundraiser.

Taffy Apple Sale was a huge success! Thank you to ALL who participated and volunteered!

Congratulations to Pre K 3 for winning the Pizza Party! So far this year we have raised \$5,200 for STA! This number does not include sales at pick up yesterday...great job STA!

General Reminders

- We need parent ambassadors for our open house on Tuesday from 9:00-1:00. Please contact Mr. Gallo if you are interested.
- 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.
- The book fair is back at STA! We will be hosting the book fair after school Monday through Thursday, October 31 through November 3 in the parish hall.
- Please remember that there is no school on Friday, November 4 for a Teacher In-Service Day.
- 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