

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

October 7 2016



STA Families,

We are into October, and fall events at STA are starting. We have our Family Math Night this Thursday from 5:30-6:30 PM in the cafeteria and our first Spirit Day on Friday. Other upcoming events include our first Sunday Family Mass, Wines and Steins, and the Home and School Halloween Party. There are lots of exciting things happening at STA this month.

I also want to remind families that we will have **no school on Friday, November 18 for parent-teacher conferences**. As our school has grown, we have found it hard for teachers and families to fit all of their conferences in when conferences are only in the afternoon. With the day off, all families should be able to have a conference with their teacher on November 18.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

Columbus Day – NO SCHOOL – Monday, October 10

Pre-K/K Field Trip (Apple Orchard) – Tuesday, October 11

Family Math Night – Thursday, October 13 (5:30-6:30 PM in the Cafeteria)

Spirit Day – Friday, October 14

STA Family Mass – 3rd and 7th Lead, 4th and K Hospitality – Sunday, October 16 (8:30 AM)

Home and School Association Meeting – Wednesday, October 19 (6:30-7:30 PM)

Math Night at STA

STA will be hosted Family Math Night in the lunchroom on Thursday, October 13 from 5:30-6:30 PM. Families can come to learn about math strategies and math games they can use with their children at home. Our teachers will be stationed at different tables to demonstrate age-appropriate activities in math for you to do with your students. All STA Families, from PK to 8th grade, are welcome to attend.

Wines and Steins!

Our annual Wines and Steins fundraiser is Saturday, October 22 in the STA gym. You can make your reservation on GiveCentral, in the school office, or by emailing Mr. Driscoll at pm.driscoll@comcast.net. Wines and Steins supports the STA School Endowment Fund. Below are some frequently-asked questions about this fund:

What is the STA School Endowment Fund?

The STA School Endowment Fund was established decades ago by a group of STA parents. These parents raised money over the years for various fundraisers.

How does STA benefit from the Endowment Fund?

Our school receives a dividend every year earned from the fund's principal. The money the school receives from the dividend goes to support school-related projects. Over the years, the dividend payment has paid for air conditioners, a new sound system, a stage curtain, a laminator, and many other items to support the school. The endowment fund is designed to be a fiscal resource for the school in perpetuity.

How does Wines and Steins help the Endowment?

Wines and Steins raises additional money to be added to the Endowment Fund's principal. The more money the principal has, the more the annual dividend the school receives will be. All money raised from Wines and Steins goes to the endowment.

How can you help?

Attend Wines and Steins (and invite your friends)! We also can use volunteers to help with the planning and running of the event.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

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

Basketball Coaches – See Coach Satterfield

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

Organize and Distribute Taffy Apples – Wednesday, October 26

Field Trip Chaperones – Please contact your child's teacher if interested

Spirit Day Snacks (1st Grade) – October 14th at 2:00 PM

Save the Date!



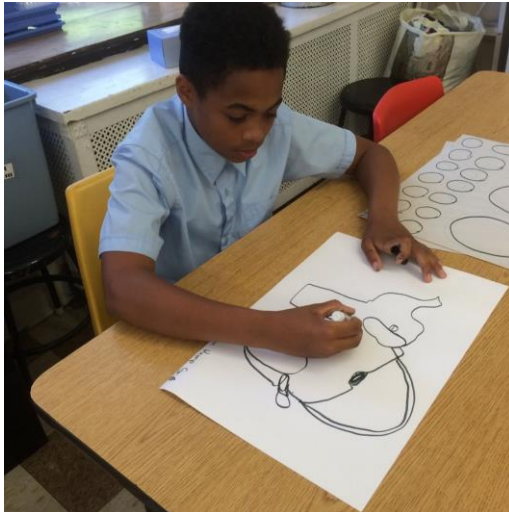
October 22, 2016

Tickets available at Back to School Night, Classroom Open House Nights, and on GiveCentral

Taffy Apple Sales

Below is a note regarding Taffy Apple Sales:

- Due to popular demand we are extending the Taffy Apple sale for one more week. So you have one more week to help raise money for the school and perhaps win a Pizza Party for your kiddos class! Please have completed order forms with MONEY turned in no later than Friday Oct. 14th. If you have any questions please contact Tareema Jean-Baptiste.



Aspire Interim Assessments

3rd-8th grade students will continue taking their first Aspire Interim Assessments. This will be the last week for the assessment. These assessments are progress checks of where the students are at currently, and help provide teachers and families with more information on students so that everyone can work together to best help the students. The test will be administered on the computer, and they will take one in reading, math, English, and science. This test will NOT go into the student's file and is NOT a summative assessment for the year. Teachers will share the results of this interim assessment with families at parent-teacher conferences in November.

Family Mass

We will have our first school Family Mass on Sunday, October 16 at 8:30 AM at the STA church. Students are encouraged to come in their school uniform for this Mass. Our school's Gospel Choir will be leading in song, and students from our 7th and 3rd grade will read the scripture and petitions and bring up the gifts. After Mass, the Kindergarten and 4th grade families will lead the hospitality in the parish hall. All STA families are welcome to attend.

PBIS Update

On Monday, our students once again achieved their goal of 10,000 STAR points. As a reward, all students are allowed to wear a hat to school on Friday, October 14. This can be a baseball hat, winter hat, or any other hat the children would like to wear. Please make sure to continue check the bulletin board outside the office to track our school's progress toward this goal. Also, make sure you have signed up for Class Dojo to track your child's progress. You can also see pictures and videos on Class Dojo of your child's class.



Spirit Day

We will have our first Spirit Day on Friday, October 14. Students are allowed to come to school in STA spirit wear. They also are allowed to wear hats on this day as a part of their PBIS reward. We will also be selling healthy snacks in the afternoon for the students. Snacks are 75 cents per item. 1st grade families are responsible for leading the snacks for this day.

General Reminders

- 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.
- The STA Parish is hosting an Opera Gala Benefit Concert on Sunday, October 16 at 7:00 PM at the STA church. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and \$12 for students and seniors. Please email Luciano Laurentiu, STA Parish Music Director, at lucianolaurentiu@gmail.com if you are interested in attending.
- 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.

- 3rd 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