

St. Thomas the Apostle School Newsletter

September 8,
2017



Dear STA Families,

We wrapped up our beginning-of-the year meetings this week with our classroom open house nights. Thank you to all of the families who attended, and to our teachers for preparing their presentations for the evening. These nights are crucial in establishing a strong teacher-parent partnership for the school year.

Next Friday is picture day! Students should come in dress-up clothes or their school uniform for pictures. Also, Sunday is the STA parish picnic. Mass is at 10:00 AM, followed by the picnic in the courtyard. All school families are welcome to attend. You can also earn service hours by helping out with this event. Please contact the parish office to learn about how you can help.

Finally, we were featured in the Hyde Park Herald this week. The link to the article is [here](#).

Mr. Gallo

Important Dates

***STA Parish Picnic –
Sunday, September
10 10:00 AM***

***Picture Day – Friday,
September 15***

***First All-School
Mass– Tuesday,
September 19 (8:30
AM)***

***8th Grade Parent
Meeting – Tuesday,
September 19 (6:00
PM)***

***HSA Meeting –
Wednesday,
September 20 (6:30-
7:30 PM)***

2017 Reach for the STArS Campaign Goal: A School Playground

At our Back to School Night last week, we announced that we will be focusing our fundraising efforts for the upcoming year on raising money to build a playground. Last spring, we reached an agreement with Pioneer Acquisitions to have them donate the western portion of the vacant lot directly north of our school building so that we can build a playground. I have attached a press release announcing this campaign, and we will be sharing more information on the event in the upcoming weeks. Below is a rough mock-up of what the finished playground will look like:



Exciting News from Mrs. Damico

Mrs. Damico has asked me to share with everyone that she is pregnant! She and her husband are expecting their first child in March. Please make sure to congratulate her on the big news!

Free and Reduced Lunch Application

The deadline to submit either your free and reduced lunch application or household income survey is quickly approaching! The Archdiocese is requiring all families to either complete a lunch application or a household income survey. We have the potential to get more federal funding for this year, but this is dependent on having as many families as possible complete either the application or the survey. Please complete one of the following by September 15th. The survey is [here](#).

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

AM and PM Parking Lot Duty

**Parish Picnic –
Sunday, September
11 10:00-1:00 PM**

**Flag Football and
Volleyball Coaches –
See Coach
Satterfield or Alton
Brooks**

**Check for other
opportunities on
Track It Forward**

Track It Forward, Fast Direct, and Class Dojo

Please make sure you have set up your accounts on Track It Forward, FastDirect, and Class Dojo. We will be regularly using all three of these programs during the year. Track It Forward is where you will sign up and log your service hours. FastDirect is where our teachers will post grades. Class Dojo is where you can monitor your student's behavior and watch pictures and videos from the classroom. Congratulations on Mrs. Gough's 3rd grade classroom for being the first class to have 100% of families signed up for Class Dojo!



Picture Day

Picture Day is Friday, September 15. Students are allowed to come to school in “nice clothes” or in their STA uniform for picture day. I would encourage K-3 families to send their child in something that will also be comfortable for gym since they will also have gym class that day.

Playworks Junior Coaches Program

This week, our 4th and 5th grade students received applications to participate in Playworks's Junior Coaches program. This is an after-school club that meets twice a week during one week each month to develop leadership and conflict-resolution skills. These students will also help lead recess for the younger classes. This club will be on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:45-4:45. The first meeting for this program is Tuesday, September 19. Any interested 4th or 5th grade students should turn their application in to Ms. Holifield.

Notes from Home and School

Please see the note below from the Home and School Association:

HSA MEETINGS: the first is Wednesday 9/20/17 from 6:30pm – 7:30pm in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome!! Remember you get 1 service hour for attending!!

PARENT COFFEE: the first is Thursday 9/21/17 from 7:45am – 8:45am in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome!!

PARENT COFFEE KLATCH: the first is Thursday 9/21/17 from 7:45m – 8:45am in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome! Come with ideas and questions to share with the community and Mr. Gallo!

FUN LUNCH: is Tuesday 10/31/17! Please remember completed form and money due Friday 10/6/17! You may pick up a Fun Lunch forms in the school office. (please note hot lunch is not served on fun lunch days so if your child is not participating in fun lunch they will need to bring a packed lunch)

TAFFY APPLE SALE: time to start selling STA!! Remember all money raised goes back to the school! **FOR EVERY \$100 SOLD STUDENTS EARN ONE NUT CARD!! FOR EVERY \$100 SOLD PARENTS EARN A CHANCE TO WIN A \$50 STARBUCKS GIFT CARD, \$100 COSTCO GIFT CARD OR CHAMPAGNE MASSAGE DATE FOR TWO!! COMPLETE ORDER FORMS AND MONEY ARE DUE 10-6-17. HAPPY SELLING!!**

SERVICE HOURS, SERVICE HOURS, SERVICE HOURS!

Please log into Track It Forward, "Click" Event Sign Up and scroll through and choose service hours! First HSA meeting is 9/20/17 from 6:30-7:30pm in the Parish Hall! All Parents are welcome! If you have any questions please email homeandschool@stapostleschool.com

STA Parish Picnic

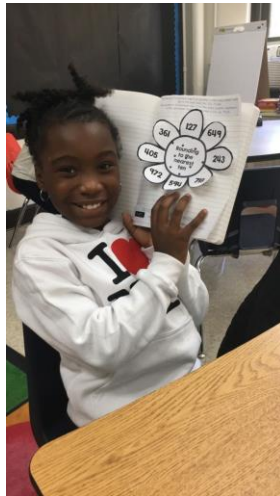
Our parish will be having its annual parish picnic on Sunday, September 10. There will be a parish-wide Mass at 10:00 AM followed by a picnic in the courtyard. All STA school families are welcome to attend. The parish is looking for volunteers to help with the event. Any interested parent should contact Lisa Couch at

lisajcouch@sbcglobal.net. Parents can also complete service hours by helping with the event.

Box-Tops Fundraiser

Below is information from Ms. Acton on a fundraising opportunity for STA:

The first-ever National Box Tops for Education Week is September 24 - 30! Collect your box tops during the month of September on the sheet that was sent home on Friday, September 1st. Turn your sheet into school during National Box Tops for Education Week (9/24-9/30). Students who turn in a completed box top sheet (35 box tops) with their name on it during National Box Tops for Education Week will earn a NUT card. Families can also enter STA for a chance to win double the box top points: <https://goo.gl/m4igqe>. Thank you!



General Notes

- Pre-K students who participate in Supper Soccer Stars or Acrobatics are allowed to come in their gym uniform on the day they have the club so that the students do not need to change after school.
- We will NOT have an all-school Mass on Tuesday. Fr. Elias is out sick. We are planning on having our first all school Mass on Tuesday, September 19.
- I will be out all day on Tuesday to attend a curriculum meeting for the archdiocese.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at tgallo@stapostleschool.com

