



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ FEBRUARY 27, 2020

STRENGTHENING THE PARENT TEACHER PARTNERSHIP

As you are aware one of the school goals this year is to cultivate a stronger relationship between parents and teachers. Achieving this goal has two important outcomes. First, when parents are involved in their children's school and educational experiences the children achieve more. Secondly, when parents and teachers know and respect one another, a stronger sense of community is realized. Good communication is a key element for a strong parent teacher partnership. A new communication tool is being implemented in grades K-4 beginning next week. Students will have a calendar in which they receive stars based on their day. (The rubric is included on the calendar). The purpose of the tool is for parents to know how their child is doing daily and communicate with them about their successes and/or challenges. Please use this opportunity to talk with your child about their day, affirm their accomplishments and help them make necessary improvements. The calendar will come home each day in the child's folder for parents to review, initial and return to school in the same folder.

THANK YOU TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS FOR A GREAT TIME

After each of the classes presented their research on the accomplishments of African Americans by way of a Mardi Gras parade of floats, the students were treated to a tasty pancake breakfast. We are very grateful to Mrs. Pamela Hopkins and Mrs. Concheeta Wright and their helpers, J'Ton Myers, Lena Martin, Veronica Onyewu, Milagros Paredes and Desiree Grillo, for preparing the meal and serving the children. All enjoyed a traditional Mardi Gras king cake at lunchtime. Thanks go to Mrs. Courtney Smith for her creative and engaging idea to help the children learn about and share the accomplishments of renown African Americans throughout the 20th Century. We are already making plans for next year's celebration of Black History month and Mardi Gras!

ST. MATTHIAS WELCOMES OUR NEW ART TEACHER

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Marianne dela Cuesta will be teaching art until the end of the school year. Ms. dela Cuesta is an alumna of St. Matthias and is happy to be returning to share her talent and love of art with our students. Her email address is dela.Cuesta@stmatthias.org. She will be working closely with the classroom teachers to support their curriculum to the greatest extent possible. Ms. dela Cuesta will begin entering art grades in Rediker in the next couple of weeks.

What's Happening

Thursday, February 27

HSA Executive Committee Meeting
6:30 pm

Friday, February 28

Band
Pizza Friday
Ice Pops Sale \$1
Stations of the Cross 2:10 pm

Monday, March 2

Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration
No Robotics

Tuesday, March 3

Progress Reports Distributed

Wednesday, March 4

Advocacy Day 8:00 - 1:00 pm

Thursday, March 5

Stem Literacy Night & Science Fair
6:00 - 7:30 pm

Friday, March 6

Band
Stations of the Cross 2:10 pm

STEM LITERACY NIGHT IS ALMOST HERE

We hope to see all St. Matthias families at our first STEM Night. Students from grades 6-8 will be displaying their science fair projects, teachers are sharing what they have been working on in the STEM professional development course and children and their families will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of STEM activities. Doors open at 5:45. The program begins with a brief presentation on our school's STEM initiative and an overview of the evening. Please note that children must be accompanied by a parent or adult family member to attend this event. Thank you for your cooperation.

TRACK AND FIELD IS COMING SOON

We are in the process of gearing up for track season. All children in grades 4-8 are welcome. However, unless two parents volunteer to help, practices cannot start earlier than 4 and children who are not registered in the ESP (Extended School Program), must be picked up at 3 and returned at 4. Track registration forms will be coming next week.

LENT HAS BEGUN

It was a treat to have our former pastor, Fr. Milt Jordan, distribute ashes and celebrate mass with our school community on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time when we focus on what we can do to grow closer to God and prepare for the celebration of our salvation on Easter Sunday. The disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving will be the focus of our religion classes until we break for the Easter holiday. The students were given cardboard "rice bowls" to put on the family dinner table as a reminder to share what they can with the poor in developing countries. This service project is an annual Lenten tradition in the Catholic Church and supports Catholic Relief Services.

STEM CAMP

Attached is a flier about a wonderful opportunity for our students this summer. Our robotics teacher, Mr. Tom Brett will be leading the program. It is open to children in grades 4-8 who would like to learn more about robotics. We hope many children will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

ADVOCACY DAY

All parents are invited to visit the State House in Annapolis on March 4 to implore our legislators to continue to fund state programs that benefit our school. The BOOST program, aging schools' grants, and non-public school textbook funding are very important to our school and help all our families. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact the school office. This is a great way to earn 5 volunteer service hours and to help our school.

SPRING DANCE

Plans are underway for the annual HSA Spring Dance. Parents are needed to plan and run this event. If you can help, please attend tonight's planning meeting at 6:30 in the school faculty room. If you are unable to attend, but can serve on this committee, contact Mrs. Schratz at pschratz@stmatthias.org.

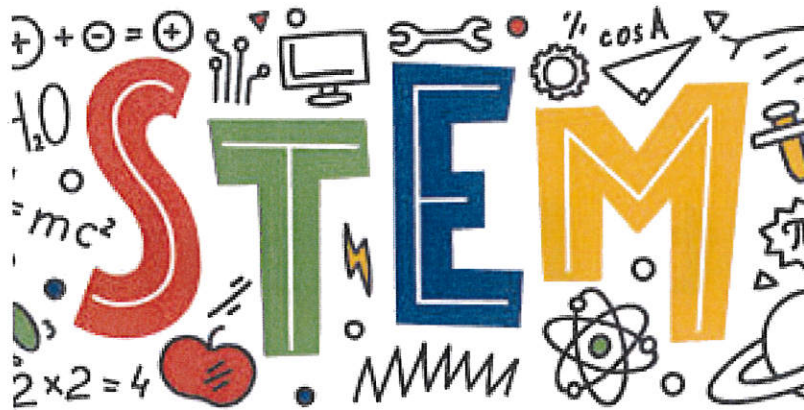
NEW MORNING DROP OFF PROCEDURE REMINDER

All students are to be dropped off at the back of the school until 8:20 a.m. If students arrive after that time, **they must be accompanied by a parent and enter the front door**. These parents must park in the top lot, not along the sidewalk. Students who arrive after 8:05 are marked tardy.

RE-ENROLLMENT AT DISCOUNTED RATE EXTENDED THROUGH MARCH 8.

The discounted re-enrollment rate of \$200 will be available to families through Sunday, March 8. This additional week is a courtesy to families that may have missed previous communications. Those who enroll on March 9 or later will be charged \$350. We hope all our returning families will take advantage of the \$150 savings by completing the enrollment forms on TADS on or before March 8.

Please join us for family



STEM Literacy Night

Discover the fun of STEM through hands-on activities for the whole family! Be sure to visit our middle school science fair.

Date: Thursday, March 5th

Time: 6:00-7:30 pm

- Invent It! Build It!
- Have fun with your family!
- FREE admission.



Yes! Sign us up for Family STEM Literacy Night!

Last Name: _____

Email: _____

Number of Adults: _____

Number of Children:

Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 3, 2020