



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES

WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG MARCH 3, 2022



SOCCER



St. Matthias now has a soccer team for grades 6,7 and 8 grade boys! Coach Sotelo will be holding the first practice on Thursday, March 10 right after school. He is willing to host practice for other students if a couple of parents are willing to step up to lead those teams, most importantly by attending games on Saturdays. There are currently not enough middle school girls interested in spring soccer, but there is enough interest for spring track and field. There maybe enough students for a co-ed grades 3-5 soccer team. If your child is interested, and you can help in anyway, please contact Mrs. Schratz or Mrs. Blackburn.

THANK YOU

The faculty, staff and students enjoyed a festive Mardi Gras celebration. The children and teachers appreciated and had such a good time, we hope to make this an annual event. The school community is grateful to Kenique Freeman for her leadership and all the wonderful parent helpers.



OPERATION RICE BOWL



One of the three disciplines of lent is almsgiving, sharing our blessings and abundance with the poor. Operation Rice Bowl is a project of Catholic Relief Services which supports the poor in developing countries and overseas. This year the students will be learning about needs in Guatemala, Bangladesh, and Rwanda. We will also be raising money to help the refugees from Ukraine. Please put the rice bowl somewhere in your home in a prominent place and collect spare change and money saved through your family's Lenten sacrifices.

READ-A-THON

The second annual Read-a-Thon is coming soon. The kickoff will be announced as soon as a committee of parents is in place to lead this important student fundraiser. Funds will be combined with last year's to complete the playground renovation projects. Please consider helping with this project to benefit all the children of St. Matthias for years to come.



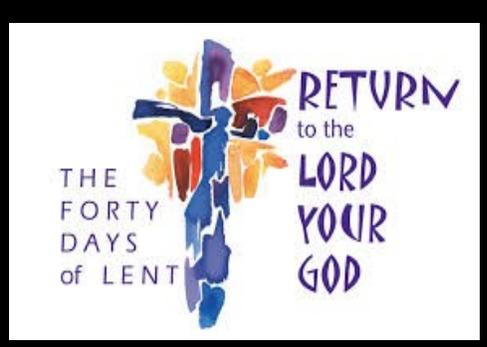
Upcoming EVENTS
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, March 4
Stations of the Cross

Monday, March 7
Rally to Read

Thursday, March 10
God's Rods 3:00 - 4:15 pm
Soccer Practice 3:00 pm

Friday, March 11
Principal's Coffee 8:30 am
Stations of the Cross





GREAT NEWS!

The new playground equipment has arrived. It is currently in a warehouse waiting to be delivered and installed. Volunteers are needed to assist Mr. Hector in getting the space ready for our beautiful new playground!

GRADE 5 CLASSROOM NEWS

Students in Grade 5 were excited to read and learn more about many famous African-Americans during February. First, they each read a biography about their chosen person. Then, they made a poster depicting the important events and accomplishments of that person. Next, they made a presentation as that person to the class. And finally, they shared what they learned with Grades 3 and 4 in a "Museum Gallery Walk".



VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS

BECOME A VOLUNTEER - MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Two-thirds of the school year is behind us. All families are required to provide 20 hours of service to the school by the end of the school year. Those who do not are billed \$20 for every hour unserved. There are some opportunities to complete service hours in the coming months. However, few of these (except for coaching or moderating a club), will result in 20 hours. Therefore, those who have not met the service hour

requirement must be prepared to a maximum of \$200 with their last tuition payment. **Parent help is desperately needed to help** with lunch time, lunchroom clean up at 2:30, the Read-a-thon and Easter Egg Hunt committees, field day, coaching, teaching guitar, and spring clean. Please sign-up to help by responding to the Sign-Up Genius request coming soon.

We currently have 3 active after school clubs, all run by teachers. Mrs. Gillis' drama and God's Rods and Ms. Smith's Junior Drama Club. There are 32 children in the Junior Drama Club and unless a parent comes forward to assist, the club will be discontinued. There are also 15 children interested in learning to play the guitar. St. Matthias can even supply the guitars! A parent volunteer who plays guitar is desperately needed.



TO OUR ARTISTS AND WRITERS

Some of our very talented artists and writers were selected for publication in the *Catholic Standard*, the monthly newspaper for the Archdiocese of Washington. The following students were published in the on-line version of the paper: Bezankeng Khumbah, Ayami Notice, Stephanie Oben, Enuma Offiah, Isabella Penado, and Korrine Wiseman. The art and writing of one student, Oliva Udebuala was included in the paper version. The artwork of these students are on display on one of the school bulletin boards. We are looking forward to additional awardees for the March issue.

CLASS OF 2022

Catholic High School acceptances were announced recently. Of the 20 students in grade 8, 15 applied to Catholic high schools. All the students who applied to Catholic high school were admitted. Of these 93% were admitted to their first-choice schools. Five students were awarded academic scholarships based on merit worth \$63,500 over four years! We are very proud of these students and their teachers.