

NEWS YOU COULD USE

September 10, 2015

Thank You

Thank you to all the parents who were able to come out on Back-to-School Night to meet the teachers and to hear their presentations. It promises to be an exciting year! Our eighth graders have assumed their leadership roles and we look forward to learning from these leaders.



Grandparent/Special Person Day

As you know Grandparent/Special Person day is tomorrow. We are excited to have grandparents and special people share in our liturgy and for us to be able to spend time with them. I ask you to please be careful when parking tomorrow. Be aware of the T-intersection sign—do not park there—you may be ticketed.

Grandparents and special people should enter through the main entrance. After teachers take attendance, the adults will be free to go to classrooms to pick up their special little people and then go into our “worship space” (gym) for our liturgy.



SHOP

With the fall season around the corner, consider purchasing gift cards to Home Depot and Menards for the home projects on your “To Do” List. In addition, with Halloween next month, consider having Target and Walmart gift cards on hand to stock up on candy and decorations. Keep in mind, Walmart gift cards are accepted at Sam’s Club! Orders are processed every Tuesday morning and are available on Thursdays each week. Orders can be placed online at www.mannaorders.net. Also, we are available on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for cash and carry purchases as we do have select gift cards on hand for purchase, and don’t forget the convenient Manna eScrip option where you can purchase gift cards online and have them emailed to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! Thank you, Your SHOP Team



Hats off to everyone using the SHOP program so far and a special “Way to Go” to families beginning to use the program for the first time.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

When your child is absent from school, he/she must return to school with a note explaining the reason for the absence. Please be sure to call your child in as absent if they are ill. Please make the call by 8:30 a.m. An explanation must be given as to the reason for the absence.

FSA News! *Where you can keep up with everything going on in our Family-School Association.*

What's happened recently? Our September Board meeting on 9/7 at Gelsosomo's: much was accomplished and a great time was had by all! Come and join us in October.

Did you know?? If you go to the school website at www.stals-stpats.org and click on the tab for "School Community", you will find a tab for Family School Association! This all-wonderful page describes our mission, has links to important forms and a VolunteerSpot button to click for volunteering opportunities, and also lists upcoming events for our organization. Also, on the same school website www.stals-stpats.org you will find our FSA calendar. Click on the tab for "Calendars", and then on the "FSA Calendar" option. Come check us out!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are looking for someone to take on the very important position of Chairperson(s) for our **Annual Pancake Breakfast**, which takes place in December. Before we can set plans for the location and the date, we need someone to work with us in organizing the event. Please give prayerful thought and consideration to being part of this team. Also, we are still looking for at least one Room Mom/Dad for 7th grade and have a few openings in other grades. Can you help in any of these spots? Please head to our page on the school website and click on the VolunteerSpot button in the upper right-hand corner to see what is needed. This same button will also reveal some additional opportunities for volunteering later in the year.

What's coming up?

Friday, 9/11: Grandparents Day Mass and reception. Our Seventh grade class will lead us in the liturgy and the fourth grade class will host the celebration following the liturgy.

Monday, 9/14: Gelsosomo's Pizza Fundraiser~ 50% of dine-in checks come back to our school! Join us for dinner.

Your 2015-2016 FSA board members are:

Julie Malone- President

Sara Ward- Secretary

Brenda Andrist- Treasurer

Kelly Murray- Room Parent Coordinator

Ann King- Marketing/Communications

Please contact any one of us with questions or concerns.

Have a blessed week!!

IMPORTANT NITTY GRITTY

UNIFORM

It may not seem like a big deal but coming in a neat, clean, proper school uniform each day says I take pride in myself. At the beginning of each year and periodically throughout the year teachers remind students about the proper uniform. When students don't come in the proper uniform, it is one more thing that teachers need to address. This takes time away from teaching. I am sure you would rather your child receive instruction as opposed to time being wasted discussing proper uniform attire with your child. If you have particular questions regarding school uniforms, please email your child's teacher. I realize sometimes it is a battle with your child to dress neatly and appropriately. Unfortunately for you, this is a battle that needs to be fought at home so it doesn't need to be addressed at school. I'm sure your child (particularly older students) will not be happy with you—it is worth the fight. It's okay to be the bad guy. Feel free to tell your child Ms. Payne said you have to come to school in the proper uniform. If you choose not to, there will be consequences. The uniform doesn't just consist of wearing the proper skirt, jumper, pants and shirts. It also includes socks, haircuts, shoes, jewelry, fingernail polish, bows, ribbons or headbands worn in the hair. It's a good idea to have the children set their clothes out the night before school. I also remind students of this on a regular basis—so you are not alone. Children may wear gym shorts until Sept. 30. On out of uniform days children who wear shorts must be dressed in walking shorts.

ABSENCES AND TARDIES

It is critical that your child be at school on time. You need to allow enough time for your child to be dropped off, get into the building, and get organized for the day. This will help your child start the day off right. **If a child is tardy three times, the child will receive a discipline slip. Three discipline slips result in a detention.** We do realize due to weather, accidents on the bridge, or something similar that many families are involved in, you may be late getting to school. Your child will not be marked tardy.

When a child is absent, they miss important classroom learning that can't be replicated with a worksheet. It is important that your child understand that you take class time as a very important part of the school experience. The only excused absences are illness, death of a family member, or school related functions. All other absences are considered non-excused. When a child returns to school after being absent, it is his/her responsibility to get the missed work. Upon a child's return, **tests missed on the day of an absence must be made up before or after school or during the child's recess period.** In this way, the child doesn't lose more instruction time.

Last Friday, nine children left early. This may seem insignificant but I assure you it isn't. When a child leaves early, not only do they lose valuable class time, it is also a disruption to teaching and student learning in the class. From now on since grades 4-8 have set class times (switching), any student leaving during class time will not take part in that particular class. They will get their belongings and wait at the front office until they are picked up. In this way, no one else is disrupted. Also, please do not pick your child up between 1:25 and 2:15 (the last class period). I know some parents like to pick their child up during that time so they don't have to wait in the car line. However at the end of the day, in addition to instructional time, many things in the office, in the classroom and throughout the school are occurring—distributing notes to classrooms, making announcements, last directions to students etc.; dismissal is interrupted for other children. If your child should leave early, it is his/her responsibility to turn in work that needed to be turned in that day (even for the class/es not attended) and to find out that night what was missed.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is one of the most important dynamics between teacher and parents. Feel free to email teachers with questions or concerns. Please understand that often teachers will not be able to respond to emails during the day. Their focus is on the lesson, lesson preparation or collaboration with a colleague. When communicating in an email, please choose words carefully to explain your concerns. No one can tell the tone of what is written and sometimes the email is full of emotion that may or may not be correctly interpreted by the staff member receiving the email. Also, if you are angry or frustrated with something that has happened and you have composed an email, it's a good idea to use the 24 hour rule – wait 24 hours before sending it. If there is a lot of emotion behind what you want to speak with the teacher about, please pick up the phone and call the teacher.

Regarding myself and communication, feel free to contact me through emails or phone calls. If you email me and it isn't anything that is confidential and you are comfortable send a copy also to Mrs. Cesario at schooloffice@stals-stpats.org. She will try to be sure that I receive the email that may need to be responded to that day. If I haven't responded to your email within a few days (I do try to do it within 24 hours.), please call me. It may be that it got missed in literally the hundred of emails I get everyday.



SCHWAN'S ISN'T JUST ICE CREAM

IMPORTANT: We have streamlined the ordering process. Simply go to **Schwans.com**. Do your shopping, create your log-in and at checkout use our school code: 22685. This is a much simpler process. Schwan's Home Delivery offers over 350 foods, flash-frozen at the peak of freshness and conveniently delivered to your door.

Of course, Schwan's isn't just ice cream. Here are a few items among many that are available: chicken breast filets, quarter pound beef burgers, spring rolls, pot stickers, potato encrusted cod, pizza, roasted baby bakers,



egg and cheese biscuits, pecan caramel rolls, French bread, lemonade, mini cake and brownie bites and of course many types of ice cream. So, you can be happily fed and help the school at the same time!



Please note change in venue.



Our 2nd Annual Celtic Open Golf Outing, is scheduled for Ruffled Feathers on Friday, October 9. Registration begins at 12:00 p.m. with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. For further information, to join us for golf (\$95 per person), or perhaps only dinner (\$30), please visit www.celticopengolftournament.com ... sponsorship opportunities are also available ... a perfect way to entertain clients and friends while supporting our parish school!



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Thank you for your support!

8TH GRADE LEADERSHIP MASS 2015



One of our most inspiring and touching back-to-school events is our 8th Grade Leadership Mass. We have watched these students grow from little children to mature students willing to accept the mantle of leadership. During the Mass on Friday, September 4, the 8th grade class pledged to use their gifts and talents to lead and serve the school this year and to help all of our students and our entire school community *Live our Celtic Mission---Powered by Love*. Throughout the year our 8th grade leaders will demonstrate with their service and leadership some of the ways that God expects us to use our gifts to help make our world a better place. The

school community promised to help our fledgling leaders along the way and to champion their successful leadership accomplishments as well. Here is the pledge the Class of 2016 took as they accepted their role as leaders of the school:



We,

*the eighth-grade class of 2016,
pledge to look for God in other people
and serve our school with love.*

We will look after the younger students in our school.

We will accept guidance from our teachers and parents.

We will ask the Holy Spirit for guidance when we have troubles or questions.

We promise to work hard in everything we do.

We pledge to live out the CELTIC mission by our example of faith, love, peace, and charity.



CELTIC LEADERS 2015-2016

