

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 17 - FEBRUARY 25, 2018

Dear Parents.

CATHOLIC UNITED FINANCIAL SALE ENDS ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

Raffle tickets must be returned this week ... sold or unsold. We have to account for all tickets we received **(2,000)** and return all the tickets to Catholic United Financial on Monday, February 26th. Not returning tickets could keep us from participating in the fundraiser next year, so PLEASE return your tickets as directed in this newsletter.

At this point we have sold 1,060 tickets, with a profit of \$5,300. You can still ask for and purchase any additional tickets. Also, tickets will be sold following all of the weekend Masses this weekend. I'll give you the full update at the official conclusion of this raffle, but in the meantime – thank you so much for your participation!

Please buy or sell your tickets. We need the fundraising dollars, and don't want to leave this much free money unclaimed when the tickets are so easy to sell!

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES – Appointment's sent next week!

A fifteen minute conference appointment has been set with your child/children's teachers for either March 1st or 7th as you requested. You will receive your scheduled conference appointment in next week's (February 22) office envelope. Please be looking for that appointment time, and make it as a priority in your day to attend the conference as scheduled. **Report cards will be given to parents at conferences.**

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE INFO – AT A GLANCE

- Conference appointments will be sent home on 2/22/18 in the office envelope.
- Tackle Box will be open and available for **FREE childcare** during your conference appointments. Please take advantage of this service.
- Conferences are 15 minutes in length. Anything that requires additional time will be rescheduled to another conference appointment.
- ***Report cards will be given to parents at the school conference.***
- Specialist Teachers will be available for conferences at the following dates/times:
 - Mr. Johnson- (Tech/Title One) March 1 and 7 throughout both evenings (he'll be located at the bookfair)
 - Mrs. Reemts(PE) – March 1 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. She will be in the gym.
 - Mrs. Olinger (Music) March 7 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. in the music classroom.

SCHOOL BOOKFAIR

Mr. Johnson is organizing a spectacular Book Fair to be open and ready during Parent Teacher Conferences, and throughout the week of March 1 – 7th. Please check the daily schedule that will be included with the newsletter next week for days and times. However, as a quick time table, the Book Fair will be opened every weekday between March 1 - 7 from 8-8:30 and 2:45-3:15. The Book Fair will also be open on Thursday, March 1 and Wednesday, March 7th from 2:45-7:00 p.m.

DON'T FORGET THAT FRIDAY, MARCH 2ND IS AN EARLY RELEASE DAY (School dismisses at 12:45 for bus, parent drive and Tackle Box).

YEARBOOK ORDERS ARE DUE NOW!

Our school yearbook is a beautiful 48 page, full color review of the 17-18 school year. It contains individual, classroom group, and an all-school picture, and so much more! Yearbook order forms and on-line orders are now due. **All yearbook orders need to be returned by February 22nd.** The cost of the yearbook is \$25.

Order online at: ybpay.lifetouch.com Our ID code is: 9988918

INFLUENZA UPDATE -

I sent an email yesterday with the information that over 10% of our school population was absent, most due to flu-like symptoms. **Today's absence percentage is 19%, however about half of that amount (9%) are staying home to avoid flu or on a family trip or attending a student sporting event.** I won't be sending an attendance percentage every day, but do want you to know that if the percentage of student/faculty absence gets too high, we are encouraged to close school to stop the transmission of illness as much as possible. This, of course, would be a drastic measure, and something I hope we would not have to take, so use this long weekend to rest so that school closure can be avoided.

On any given day we have students absent, and rarely have 100% attendance in all classrooms (although everyone was here on the pig race day ...) If your child is absent and has been diagnosed with Influenza A by your physician, please let us know for record keeping purposes.

SKATE TIME and BOOK FAIR – WE NEED MORE HELPERS!

To continue scheduling all of the events the kids love – such as Skate Time and the Book Fair – we really need parent volunteers to make it happen. Our Parent Engagement Committee will meet at the end of the year to review our current practice of soliciting volunteers to see if it has been effective, and if enough volunteers have come forward to make events like these possible. Please help. You really are needed.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044fafad23aafe3-standrew1>

Thanks for all of the Valentines and treats! Know that you are in my daily prayers as we work in partnership for the spiritual and academic benefit of your child.

Ms. Scipioni

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 –

- Blue and Gold Banquet for Scouts and their families. The banquet and award session will be held in the school cafeteria. Scouts and their families should have the information regarding this special event. -
- **Lenten Soup and Sacrificial Meal** – Every Saturday in Lent following the 5:00 p.m. Mass all parishioners and families are invited to share in a sacrificial meal. Soup and Sacrifice is an opportunity to have a meal of soup and bread – a small, sacrificial meal, and donating the amount you would have spent to make our purchase dinner for you/the family.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 – First Sunday of Lent

- 8:30 a.m. -Fr. Mark and a delegation of parishioners from St. Andrew will begin their mission trip to Agua Prieta, Mexico – and have a blessing to send them on their way at today's 8:30 Mass. Please keep him and all those participating in this mission in your prayers.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19 –

Presidents' Day! No School! Enjoy the long weekend with your family. Maybe we'll have enough time away from each other to beat the flu!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 – School resumes at regular hours.

- **CATHOLIC UNITED FINANCIAL RAFFLE tickets – please return all tickets that are sold or unsold now. Please buy or sell the 10 tickets you were assigned. Make checks payable to St. Andrew Catholic School.**
- **SkateTime begins** – Our roller skating unit for Physical Education that is one of the kids' favorites! *IF you are able to help tie skates or assist in any way, please come –and stay longer than you planned!*
- Band and Instrument lessons for grade 4

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 –

10:00 – Mass, assisted by Grade 1. Join us as we celebrate Eucharist as a school and parish family. The First Grade always assists beautifully at Mass, and sings and prays with their whole heart and soul! Please come!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 –

- Preschool is not in session today. It is a licensure day to work on requirements.
- Band and Instrument lessons for Grade 5
- You will receive **conference appointment** information in your school "office envelope" today. Please mark the date on your calendar.
- **Today is the LAST DAY we will accept YEARBOOK ORDERS.** Online yearbook orders can be placed at YBPay.lifetouch.com ID code 9988918 or

ordered with a check/cash and school order form. Make payment to St. Andrew Catholic School. Yearbook price \$25.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 –

- Today marks the end of the 2nd Trimester.
- **We scheduled an additional SKATETIME** for PE to take full advantage of our opportunities to skate! Dates/times on sign-up genius.
- **1:45 – STATIONS OF THE CROSS. Join us as we “Step Up Close to Jesus” and pray the traditional Lenten prayer of the Church, the Stations of the Cross. Grades 1-5 will be in attendance, and lead us in this special prayer. All are welcome to join us at St. Andrew Church.**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 –

- **Lenten Soup and Sacrificial Meal** – Every Saturday in Lent following the 5:00 p.m. Mass all parishioners and families are invited to share in a sacrificial meal. Soup and Sacrifice is an opportunity to have a meal of soup and bread – a small, sacrificial meal, and donating the amount you would have spent to make our purchase dinner for you/the family.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 –

- **The Catholic United Financial Raffle ends today. We must have all raffle tickets – sold or unsold - returned to the school on/before February 27th.** The sale officially ends on Sunday, February 25th, and all tickets must be Fed Ex'ed to Catholic United Financial's corporate office within the expectation of the sale to be valid. If you haven't bought your tickets, please **BUY THEM AND SEND THEM BACK ON 2/26.** You can't win if you don't have a ticket, and this could be your year! We may not sell any tickets after today, and must return all unsold tickets to the school.
- **Coffee sales and hospitality after all Sunday Masses this weekend.** Hospitality includes coffee/juice with cookies held in the church's gathering area. These are donated cookies, etc., so could contain nuts.
- **Quilt Bingo! 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Sponsored by St. Andrew Quilts and Crafts group.**

GALA 2018 –We are Called. Called to Serve.

St. Andrew School will be holding its 7th annual Gala fundraiser on **Friday, April 27**, at Rockwood's Event Center in Otsego. The evening includes a silent auction, games and dinner, followed by a live auction, our Fund-A-Need rally and fun! Tickets are \$70 each.

"Gala tickets for sale! Get your Gala tickets!" That's right – starting March 3rd and 4th tickets for the 2018 Gala will be available for

purchase after each of the weekend masses, in the school office, and via the '[Online Giving](#)' tab on the parish Website. Please consider joining together with a great group of school parents, parishioners, alumni, and community members for dinner, dancing, and a fun-filled evening of fundraising for St. Andrew School.

www.facebook.com/SACSGala

HOW DO YOU MAKE SURE YOU ARE PART OF THIS FANTASTIC EVENT?

When Gala tickets go on sale you can purchase tickets at the school office or on the parish website for \$70 each. Get your tickets early – this event usually sells out! If you want to guarantee your seats and sit next to family and friends, you could consider a **FRIENDS AND FAMILY TABLE SPONSORSHIP to reserve a table of 12 for \$1,200**. Contact John and Melinda Wareham, Gala Chairpersons, at standrewgala@gmail.com for more information.

RAFFLE TICKET – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We have about 2 weeks left in this sale, and have sold roughly half of our tickets. We are leaving \$5,000 of free money on the table by not selling the few tickets we have all been assigned. Parents, we need the money from this fundraiser. I ask that you sell your tickets and ask for more this week, so that we can realize the full potential of this sale.

We were able to sell about 100 tickets after the weekend Masses last weekend, so our parishioners are interested in helping the school with this raffle. ***We will lose money on this sale if your tickets go unsold, and get returned unsold. Therefore, if you plan on selling your tickets – or buying them yourself – please do so now, and return your tickets and money as soon as you are able. If you don't plan on buying or selling your tickets, please return them so that we can sell them.*** Our target amount we will receive from this sale is \$10,000 – that is the profit we will make if all 2,000 tickets are sold. The sale ends on Sunday, February 25th. All tickets must be returned on/by that date.

Lent 2018

A Season of Change; A Time to Grow

With the ashes we received on Ash Wednesday, we were reminded to turn away from sin ... to leave the past in ashes ... and to once again give our lives and hearts to God. The St. Andrew Catholic School community has taken as its theme “Lent: A Season of Change, A Time to Grow” to support our focus of growing in Gods love. We will use the symbol of a garden to help develop this theme, and will gather at our Monday Meetings each week to focus on following Christ more deeply as a school community.

Murals and window paintings will be added to each week to support our theme of the spiritual growth we are making during Lent to unite ourselves with Jesus. The

end result should be a beautiful, thriving garden nurtured by prayers, penance and good deeds.

The students have been asked to write those things about themselves that they wish to change, and those papers were burned to ash. The ashes were then mixed into the soil they used for their classroom planting with the hopes that our spiritual growth will produce beautiful flowers – both in our planters and in our lives.

A Lenten Activities sheet was sent home to each family with ideas for kids/families to do to make Lent more meaningful. Keep that sheet on your refig as a reminder of the outward ways we work toward inner change.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays of each week that school is in session at 1:45 in the church. Everyone is welcome. Stations are attended by grades 1-5 only, as Kindergarten does their own version.

Almsgiving: Since we have just completed a very generous giving opportunity to Heifer International, we are going to focus on our local community for giving and sharing of our resources. All local schools are joining together to stock the shelves at CAER. Our collection is as follows:

- Week #1 - Canned Fruit
- Week #2 - Canned Vegetables
- Week #3 - Juice boxes, canned or bottled (not cold) juice/pop
- Week #4 - Boxed Dinners (Hamburger Helper, soup mixes, pasta, rice, tacos,)
- Week # 5 - Canned Soup / Condiments
- Holy Week - Desert/Baking items (flour, baking soda, oil, sugar, etc.)

You don't "have to" follow the collection in this order, but it might make it more manageable when shopping/donating. All items will be accepted, regardless of the plan for the week. More about this in upcoming newsletters.

Holy Thursday – March 29th - Student Seder Meal day. More about this as the date nears. This is truly a highlight for the kids during their years at St. Andrew, and a beautiful ceremonial dinner on its own. Kids will be asked to wear "floral" clothes to this dinner (if they have something with flowers) to demonstrate what a beautiful garden we have become through our Lenten practices. Kids are also asked to eat hot lunch on this day as we eat "family style" and share in this special menu.