

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 7 - 14, 2017

Dear Parents,

EQUIPMENT INSTALL DAY! *What a success! We just about beat the rain today, having the equipment put together and cement footings almost poured before it started. A great big thank you to the parents and grandparents who braved the cold, rainy weather to assist with the installation of a new piece of playground equipment and the gaga pit! Special gratitude is extended to Ben Fisher and alumni Matt Brenteson who organized and equipped us with the heavy equipment for a job of this size. I think it looks great, and the kids are going to love it! How blessed we are to have volunteers to enrich and support all of the wonderful happenings in our school! Thank you all!*

NEXT PARENT VOLUNTEER EVENT:

WORKATHON CLEAN UP – OCTOBER 13

Volunteer sign up can be found here:

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

The clean up project will take place throughout the afternoon – from 12:30-2:00 (or so). Children in grades K-2 will be taking the bus to Dave Anderson Park to clean our “Adopt A Park” area, and grades 3-5 will walk to Lions Park and clean up there and along the way. **PARENTS ARE NEEDED FOR BOTH EVENTS - Grades K-2 need parents to meet them at the park and assist with supervision/clean up. Grades 3-5 need parents to walk with them to the park, and also to drive there and take garbage back as needed.**

HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION – OCTOBER 31

Volunteer sign up can be found here:

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

At this time all I’m sure about for the Halloween celebration is that it will be in the afternoon (probably from 1:00 – 2:00 or so). Watch this space for more details.

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS
LEAD THE SINGING AT THE 5:00 p.m. MASS
ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7th.

All students in grades K-5 are invited to participate at this Mass where we will lead the congregation in singing praise to our loving and gracious God. Students should wear their best uniforms, and arrive at the church at/around 4:40 to meet with Mrs. Olinger in the choir area.

Know that we uphold you and your children in our daily prayers, and invite you to do the same for us. May our good and gracious God lead us to be the community of believers that we are called to be. We are blest!

Ms. Scipioni

**SCHEDULED PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES FOR THURSDAY, OCT. 12
AND TUESDAY, OCT. 17**

In your office envelope that you received yesterday (10/5/17) you should have received a scheduled appointment for you to attend conferences with your child/ren teachers. Please do all you are able to attend the meeting as scheduled.

- **Fifteen minute conference appointments have been scheduled for all children in grades Preschool – 5th. Remember that in fairness to all parents it is important to stay within the scheduled conference time. If you do have an issue that requires additional time for discussion, please set another time when you and the teacher can meet.**
- **Child care in the Tackle Box room will be open to enable you to give full attention to the conference. Childcare is offered free during conference appointments. Siblings in grs. K-5 are requested to NOT attend conferences, and may sit in the hallway outside the classroom if Tackle Box is not chosen for childcare. The teacher will inform you if your child is expected to attend the conference.**
- **If you would like to visit with our specialist teachers you do not need an appointment. Mrs. Reemts (PE) will be available Thursday 10/12, with Mrs. Olinger (Music) and Mr. Johnson (Technology/Media) available both nights.**

OCTOBER 7 - 13, 2017

National Fire Safety is this week. Fire Safety is a great time to review your personal safety plans should there be a fire in your home. Take the time to devise and practice escape routes from the children's bedrooms, and don't forget to emphasize the all important "meeting spot" for your family to gather outside your home should an evacuation be necessary. This is also a good time to change the batteries on your smoke detector, check your fire extinguisher, and have all safety equipment in good working order.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 –

All students in grades K-5 are invited to participate at this Mass where we will lead the congregation in singing praise to our loving and gracious God. Students should wear their best uniforms, and arrive at the church at/around 4:45 to meet with Mrs. Olinger in the choir area.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 –

- Knights of Columbus Breakfast following every Mass today. Join our parish community for a great breakfast and social time with other church families. A free will offering will be accepted for a wonderful breakfast with much variety! Please come!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9 –

At this time we have collected \$16,210.99. We're about \$12,700 short of our goal of \$28,000 for the WORKATHON. Please check the note section for more specific information. Let's see if we can get a few more pledges, call a few more relatives, and meet our HIGH financial goal.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10 –

- Please continue to bring in donations for the WORKATHON! Permission slips need to be signed and returned by 10/9/17 as well.
- Fourth grade band and instrument lessons

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 –

- **10:00 – Mass and PET BLESSING**, assisted by grade 2. Join us as we celebrate Eucharist as a school and parish community. **Students may bring a stuffed animal or a picture of a beloved pet. Parents are welcome to bring a “live” animal to the blessing following the mass (outside) provided that the pets are on a leash or in a traveling container.** The blessing will be held outside in front of the church AFTER MASS – about 10:45.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 –

Kindergarten visits the Fire Department today at 8:45 Kindergarten students visit the Elk River Fire Station as part of Fire Safety Week. Students must have signed permission slips on file to attend this field trip.

- Fifth grade band and instrument lessons
- **Scheduled Parent Teacher conferences from 3:00 – 7:00 TONIGHT**
Childcare available (see note regarding conferences)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 –

- **SPIRIT DAY! SPIRIT WEAR FOR TODAY WITH THE WORKATHON!** No uniform necessary.
- **WORKATHON! All parents and family members are invited to join us as we clean and play today:**
 Grades K, 1, 3 – (12:30-2:00) Dave Anderson Sports Complex
 Grades 2, 4, 5 – (12:30-2:00) Lions Park
Permission slips must be returned for student participants. Please check the note at the front of the newsletter for information and to participate.

NOTES

WORKATHON UPDATE

Our total collected to date is \$16,210.99. That total includes matching grant paperwork and parish donations. I am hopeful that we will make our goal of \$28,000, and am confident we will do so when everyone returns what they have collected from family and friends. *We don't have 100%*

participation as of yet, and really need all families to do their share in this – and the other – main fundraiser that we have during the school year. Fundraising really is a necessary part of school life, even at a school that is supported through tuition payments. **Our tuition covers only a percentage of our school operating costs, and fundraising assists with that as well. Our parish (St. Andrew) makes up the difference – which averages about \$15,000 a month.** That money comes from parishioners who support the parish with their envelopes, and is used to support ALL parish programs – not just the school. If you have not yet given your financial support to this fundraiser, it is not too late. Please return your collected monies / donation to the school by October 23rd.

UNIFORM REMINDERS – COLD WEATHER. Now that the weather is getting colder and the classrooms are a bit cooler inside as well, a few reminders about uniforms: **Students MUST have a uniform sweater** to wear if they are cold in the classroom. **Uniform shirts must have a collar.** If it is a **Tshirt it must have an embroidered logo.** Plain Tshirts or plain long sleeved T's **are not acceptable unless worn under a uniform**, collared shirt (white, powder blue, navy blue). Pants, sweaters, cardigans **MUST be plain.** They may not have ruffles, sewn decorations, hoods, etc.

PET BLESSING – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Our annual “Blessing of the Pets” in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. We will gather after Mass on 10/11/17 in the front parking lot of the church to hold this special blessing. Parents/Adults must bring the pets to the blessing and take them home after. We can't have pets come with the kids in the morning, so we encourage kids to bring a picture of their pet or to bring their favorite stuffed animal to share in this special blessing if you aren't able to bring their pet. All the children typically walk around after the blessing and check out all the pets, so all pets need to be leashed and in control by their owners. Children with pet dander allergies should make arrangements with their teacher or Ms. Scipioni. Children who are afraid of animals will stay with a teacher.

FINANCIAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR THOSE WHO DRIVE YOUR CHILDREN FROM OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL –

If you have a K-5th grade child, and live in an area outside of the Elk River/Rogers District 728 (i.e. Big Lake, Ramsey, Monticello, Anoka, Princeton, St. Francis, and some areas of Zimmerman) you may be eligible for transportation reimbursement. This is paid back to parents at the end of the school year, and based on the number of school days that your child is in attendance. Contact me (Ms. Scipioni) at the school if you have received this reimbursement last year or prior, and want to be eligible again. However, if you have never received this reimbursement, or are new to St. Andrew and fall into this classification, please call. You have a right to receive this reimbursement that often amounts to between \$10-\$250. Please call Ms. Scipioni if you have any questions. **LAST CALL ON APPLICATIONS NOW -**

DIOCESE OF ST. CLOUD SEXUAL MISCONDUCT / PROTECTION OF YOUTH POLICY:

The Diocese of St. Cloud, and all dioceses across the United States have put into place a policy for the protection of all children, youth and vulnerable adults. As you might expect for a policy of this nature, there are many expectations for “church personnel” regarding background screening of those who would work or have significant contact with minors/vulnerable adults. What you might not expect is the definition of “church personnel” for this policy includes priests, deacons, paid personnel of the church and school, **AND ALL THOSE WHO VOLUNTEER AT CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.** In a school like ours where parental involvement is high, each of you have some degree of involvement with children whether through field trip chaperoning, volunteering for events, helping in classrooms, etc.

Anyone who spends time with children in programs associated with St. Andrew School must comply with a background check or you will not be able to chaperone field trips or volunteer to work in our classrooms or with our young people. You must also complete the online safe environment training each year from the Diocese of St. Cloud.

The online training can be done in a minimal amount of time (under an hour), but the BACKGROUND CHECKS MUST BE IN PLACE AT THE ONSET OF THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR PARENTS TO VOLUNTEER/PARTICIPATE IN FIELD TRIPS, ETC.

Monitoring this program is a frustrating process, as many of our parents do not chose to follow through with either expectation until the very last minute of wanting to chaperone a field trip or volunteer in a classroom. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW THESE “LAST MINUTE” FILINGS FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS and are therefore requesting that all parents who want to volunteer or participate at school in any way FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS NOW – BEFORE NOVEMBER 10.

Both Mrs. Stefano and Ms. Scipioni have a listing of all parents with current background checks in place as of September, 2017. If you have a question, or want to know when your background check expires, call or email either of us.

VOLUNTEERS – THANKS AGAIN!

As a school community I can't express strongly enough how grateful we are, and how much we need and appreciate the volunteer assistance that all of you parents so graciously and willingly offer and give. From the Golf Classic to Grandparents Day, the Equipment Installation to the Workathon, you truly are making a difference in the lives of our school by providing our kids with the funding and the extras that bring vitality, excitement and opportunity to our spiritual and academic program. A grateful and humble thank you to all who have volunteered thus far --- we couldn't do it without you!