



Newsletter #23

January 25, 2019

Server Schedule:

1-26-19 – Mikayla and Oliva M.

1-27-19 – 2 Adult Volunteers

1-27-19 – Katie H. and Natalie M.

Recess/Lunchroom Monitor Duty:

Monday: Lisa Donovan and Tim Yohe

Tuesday: Lisa Donovan and Katie Lombardo

Wednesday: Lisa Donovan and Tim Yohe

Thursday: Lisa Donovan and Laura McWilliams

Friday: Lisa Donovan and Oliver Moss

Calendar

January

27 Catholic Schools Week Begins/Preschool Open House 12:00-2:00pm

February

08 **Noon Dismissal/No Aftercare**

09 Decades of Dreams Auction

12 Home and School Mtg. 7:00pm

14 St. Valentine's Day

18 President's Day/No Classes

A Note from the Principal

Inclement weather last Saturday resulted in the postponement of the SLUH Robotics Jamboree. The Jamboree has been re-scheduled for Saturday, February 23.

However, the cold and rain did not keep away the participants in the CYC chess tournament hosted by St. James. A large number of students and parents from all over the Archdiocese were in attendance. A special "thank you" is extended to Tara Murphey and Richard Keenoy for coordinating this day's activities.

The Drama Club is off to a great start. Organization and practices are now in full swing, all in preparation for a live performance in April.

Next Thursday is the deadline for the second semester of Mad Science. Two openings remain for classes that begin on February 7.

Here are the final important reminders about next week's activities planned for Catholic Schools' Week.

- Monday, January 28- option of wearing pajama pants/flannel pants; uniform shirts must be worn
- Tuesday, January 29-all school liturgy (8:15); "Muffins for Moms" at 7:35 in the cafeteria
- Wednesday, January 30-students may wear crazy socks
- Thursday, January 31-"Donuts for Dads" at 7:35 in the cafeteria
- Friday, February 1-"dress out" day for students; "Take Your Child to Lunch" (11:30-1:00); students may go to lunch, with permission from parents/guardians, with another family; no cafeteria service

Michael Biggs
Principal

Weekly Prayer

Lord, thank you for revealing your being. I prostrate myself before you, and pray that your grace flows into our humanity. Your eyes are upon all of us at all times in all places in all ways. See the tranquil eyes that are grief torn, steeped in fear and anger, groping for a new way. Let your warm and merciful spirit transform this pain into the infinite joy of your friendship. Let the light of your love pass through those of us of strength and into those of us of weakness. Amen.

Decades of Dreams Auction "Roaring 20's"

2019 Decades of Dreams Auction Update

Our Annual "Decades of Dreams" Dinner Auction will be taking place this year on Saturday, Feb. 9th, 2019 at 5:30pm. This is the 11th annual event, with a new theme each year, this one being themed "The Roaring 20's." Please click here for the auction packet: [Auction Packet 2019.pdf](#)

This is a fun-filled event that raises money for our wonderful school that goes towards advancement on school resources to further the children's education.

We have a live band, silent and live auction with Emcee's of Mike Colombo & Dan Buck. Come dressed in a 20's themed attire or any classy ensemble.

Tickets to the event are \$75/person, which includes appetizers, salad, dinner, drinks & dessert. You can purchase tickets by filling out the attached reservation form & turning it into school by Friday, Feb. 1st. You may also purchase tickets through the attached link, a service fee applies.

<https://decadesofdreams.eventbrite.com>

Follow us on facebook at: St. James the Greater's Annual Decades of Dreams Dinner Auction

1. ECHO DOT + RING PRIZE RAFFLE – Tickets were sent home with the oldest child this week. We are asking every family to sell at least \$20 in tickets. The family to sell the most tickets will receive a \$50 gift card. The Class to sell the most tickets per student will receive a pizza party. All tickets must be turned in by Friday, February 8th.
2. SOLICITATION PACKAGE – The solicitation package can be used for your secured donations, advertising and sponsorships. Click here for a solicitation packet: [Solicitation Package](#)
All non-alcoholic donations can be dropped off at school or the rectory.
3. VOLUNTEERS – We need plenty of volunteers for this major event for set-up, auction evening, and Sunday clean-up. Sign-ups are available here:
<https://www.helpcounterweb.com/ci/signup/13b69da26df>
4. LIQUOR PULL – We are also collecting bottles of alcohol for the liquor pull. Please do not send alcohol to the school. Donations can be dropped off at the rectory, at the back of church, or you can call or email to arrange pick up.
5. CLASS BASKETS – Class baskets are listed below. Please turn in your items by February 1st.
PK3 – Coffee Lovers
PK4 – BBQ Lovers
KDG & 1st – Spa & Beauty
2nd & 3rd – Date Night
4th & 5th – Luck of the Irish Lottery Ticket Tree
6th, 7th & 8th – All Things STL

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Katie Weiss (314-603-6311) or Ken Weiss (314-560-0170) or auction@stjamesthegreater.org

Catholic Schools Week Schedule

Sunday, January 27-Parishioner Appreciation Day and PreSchool Open House

Monday, January 28-Pajama/Flannel Pants Day (uniform shirts must be worn).

Tuesday, January 29- Service Day and **Muffins with Moms 7:35-8:00am** Click here to RSVP:

<https://goo.gl/forms/0IT1jWXrsEolKugq2>

Wednesday, January 30-Student Challenge Day and Crazy Sock Day

Thursday, January 31- **Donuts with Dads 7:35-8:00am** Click here to RSVP:

<https://goo.gl/forms/sUENX44EH45v9TU33>

Teacher Appreciation Day-The Home and School Association will provide lunch for the faculty and student supervision. We are in need of parents to cover classrooms, help with lunch and yard duty while teachers attend the luncheon from 11:30 until 12:30. Please click here to volunteer for your child's classroom:

<https://www.helpcounterweb.com/ci/signup/13b69f22d0a>

Friday, February 1-Student Appreciation Day-This is a "dress out" day for students and parents/guardians may take their child/ren to lunch between 11:30 until 1:00 p.m. Permission slips will be sent home with your child.

Please click here for the form:

Athletic Association Basketball Snack Bar

We are in need of volunteers to help out in the snack bar during basketball season on Saturdays and Sundays. There are multiple shifts available at various times. No experience necessary! If you are able to volunteer, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4faba92da0fc1-league>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ken Weiss at 314-560-0170 or thekenweiss@gmail.com.

Today and Tomorrow Scholarships

The online application will open for all families, new and re-applying, January 28th, 2019. Any family who would like to be considered for these programs, even if they are applying for requalification for one of these scholarships, must apply between January 28th and February 28th, 2019. Up to 140 new awards will be available in the Beyond Sunday Elementary School Program. It is important to remember that Alive! In Christ is first-come, first-served, so we are encouraging all families to apply as early as possible. Approximately 500 new awards will be available in Alive! In Christ. City residents should also apply as early as possible to be considered for Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow.

Families, please use the Forgot Password tool on the Family Log In page if you have forgotten your password and need to reset it.

Parent Support Sessions for 2019-20 Scholarship Application – TTEF Staff will guide parents through the application process. Please encourage your families who need more support or computer access to attend! All sessions are open to families from every parish and school. An RSVP is not required to attend and each session will be held from 3:30-6:30 PM.

- February 5, 2019 Our Lady of Guadalupe School (Ferguson), 1115 S. Florissant Road, 63121
- February 6, 2019 South City Catholic Academy (St. Louis City), 5821 Pernod Ave., 63139
- February 7, 2019 Christ, Light of the Nations School (Spanish Lake), 1650 Redman Rd., 63138
- February 12, 2019 All Saints School (St. Peters), 5 McMenamy Rd., 63376
- February 13, 2019 Holy Infant School (Ballwin), 248 New Ballwin Rd., 63021

PERMISSION SLIP FOR TAKE YOUR CHILD OUT TO LUNCH DAY

Dear Parents,

Beginning January 27, 2019 we will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week.

The theme for the week will be "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." In appreciation of our children, we will be celebrating "Take Your Child Out to Lunch".

On Friday, February 1, you will be able to take your child/children out to lunch. If you are unable to go, a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or an authorized adult may take your child/children for you. You may pick your child/children up beginning at 11:30 a.m. Your child/children **must** return to school by 1:00 p.m. The children will love going out to eat with you. Thank you for your cooperation.

My child/children, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____.

will be going out to lunch.

My child/children has/have my permission to go with _____.

The approximate time my child/children will be leaving for lunch is _____.

Date

Parent's Signature

MAD SCIENCE® AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- ★ Meet national and state science curriculum standards.
- ★ Are led by trained, qualified, and dynamic instructors.
- ★ Follow professional lesson plans.
- ★ Use unique equipment and original materials.
- ★ Are age-appropriate and loved by children.

Give your child a Mad Science birthday party!

\$15 off
Mad Science
Birthday Party



Mad Science of St. Louis
stlouis.madscience.org
314-991-8000

Expires January 31, 2020

St. James

OUR MISSION

Mad Science® is on a mission to spark the imagination and curiosity of children by providing them with fun, interactive and educational programs that instill a clear understanding about science and how it affects their world.

MAD SCIENCE PROGRAM POLICIES

- ★ If your child will be picked up after Mad Science, you must meet your child at the room location.
- ★ Failure to pick up a child within 30 minutes of dismissal time will result in a call to the Police Department, to assist in locating the child's parent or guardian.
- ★ For refund requests made prior to the start of the program, a \$10 processing fee will be deducted. Payments made directly to your child's school are subject to the school's refund policy.
- ★ No refunds will be issued once the program has begun.
- ★ All children are expected to maintain proper behavior while attending the program. If a child displays disruptive, disrespectful, or inappropriate behavior and repeated warnings by Mad Science fail to yield results, parents will be contacted. If the behavior continues, the child will be dismissed from the program and no refund will be given.
- ★ Space is limited. Registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis.
- ★ If a minimum number of students is not reached class will be cancelled, and a full refund will be given.
- ★ The nature of Mad Science programs allows for grades K-6 to participate in the same classroom with one instructor.
- ★ Mad Science's average class size is 12-20 students per one instructor.
- ★ A \$25 fee will be charged for checks that are returned unpaid.

The Parents' Corner

★We're In your Corner★

This month we dive into *expectations*:

Happy New Year, and welcome back! January is a new beginning and a great time to remind ourselves—*we're all human*. It is also a good time to reflect on how that new-year reminder relates to our kids. As parents, we have expectations of our children—**and we should**. But what is developmentally appropriate? What should we expect from them, and what should we acknowledge and respond to as a teachable moment?

We are all born with emotional *reactions*. As your child gets older and has more life experiences, they can understand different emotions and learn self-regulation methods. This helps them deal with difficult situations. One thing we know to be true is that as *humans*, we have *grumpy moods, bad days, disrespectful tones, and bad attitudes*. **None of us are perfect, including our kids**. We have to be careful not to expect their underdeveloped brains and limited life experiences to guide them. They need our help and empathy as we figure this life thing out together.

As we watch our children grow and learn, it's easy to forget the trials and errors of our own childhoods. Emotional intelligence is learned...and not always attained. We all know adults who still struggle with emotional regulation! The development of a child's emotional intelligence is impacted by our reactions to their emotions. Teaching kids to identify their emotions gives them a framework to explain their feelings. This helps them deal with emotions in a socially appropriate way. Children also learn about managing their emotions by watching us. **Children learn what they live**. Helping kids manage their emotions begins by validating those emotions and providing an environment in which they feel safe to express them. When we teach kids that their emotions are valid, we help them view what they feel as normal and manageable. The best way to teach your child how to react to big emotions appropriately is to show them how.

Next Steps

1. **Reframe**: Rather than thinking of behavior as “bad,” reframe to think of behavior as a message that your child is struggling with something. This encourages empathy rather than punishment.
2. **Teach**: Hold children accountable for their behavior by teaching and modeling. Teach them that all choices have consequences. Teach them how to handle frustration, anger, fear, sadness, and disappointment. Teach them that it's not acceptable to be rude to people. Teach them that they don't have to react to every feeling. The best way to teach your child is to show them how to respond. If there needs to be a consequence, let it be for what they *did* while they were upset, not *that* they were upset. Let them know all feelings are okay, but not all behaviors are.
3. **Practice empathy**: Empathize with the feeling but reject the behavior – “I know you're upset that she didn't play with you, but you can't hit her.” Make them accountable for their behavior but let them know that you understand how they're feeling.
4. **Validate**: Separate emotions from behavior. It may not make sense to us, but that doesn't make the feeling invalid. The emotion is valid. The way they're expressing it is not. If your child doesn't feel heard, they won't hear you, either. They'll be too busy trying to figure out how to make you see their sides of things.
5. **Show compassion**: We aren't robots. Despite our best efforts, sometimes we mess up. Sometimes life is just plain hard, and we need a break, not a lecture. We need a hug, not a scornful look. We know we did wrong, but we're having a hard time. We just need grace. The same goes for our children.
6. **Cool down**: Times of high emotion are not the time to instill wisdom, lectures, explanations or problem-solving. Don't try to make your point then. During high emotion, kids are, quite literally, out of control of their brains. Acknowledge the emotion. “I know you're angry/sad/worried right now.” Then wait until things settle down to continue the conversation.

Kids are going to get it wrong. So will we. But mistakes help us learn. Give yourself a little grace, too—you're doing your best. After all...we're only human.

If you continue to have concerns, contact your school counselor to make a plan for a success—they're full of ideas, and are always in your corner!