



NEWSLETTER

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL, NOVEMBER 23rd, 2022 NO.15

NOTES FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, MRS. SHARON ALLEN:

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

On behalf of all the St. Stephen School Faculty and Staff, I would like to wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you for everything you do each and every day to support St. Stephen School. Thank you for the gifts of your time, talent and treasure. Most of all thank you for the gift of your children - your most precious gift. May God continue to "gift" you and your family with HIS blessings.

WOMEN'S GUILD NOVEMBER MEETING

Thanks to all the wonderful moms who attended our festive November Meeting last week. Special thanks to the Fifth Grade Moms who hosted this fun gathering! I am most grateful to Naomi Kelly for her leadership. Moms please know how much I appreciate all you do. Thanks to the Fifth Grade Moms for hosting the fabulous FEAST that was provided. St. Stephen School is a wonderful place to learn and grow because of your tremendous support. Thank you!

THANKSGIVING MASS NEWS

Special thanks to our wonderful Fourth Grade Class who prepared and presented a beautiful Thanksgiving Mass. Each student did their part well. Thanks to Mrs. Hammel who planned the Liturgy and practiced with our Fourth Graders and thanks to Father Michael who celebrated this special Liturgy.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports were given out today to all students at school. Please contact the school office if you did not receive a Progress Report for your child.

STUDENT COUNCIL FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to our wonderful Student Council who organized a canned food drive for There With Care. We sent over 3,400 cans to There With Care. You bought in more this year and filled more boxes with canned food than any previous year. Thank you so very much for your generosity! Thanks to our families for their support of this Food Drive and to our parents who allowed our St. Stephen Students to empty their cupboards. Thanks to Mrs. Ferry who worked with our Student Council. Many families in need will enjoy a wonderful holiday because of your generosity and kindness.

MRS. SHARON ALLEN'S NOTES CONT'D:

MEN'S CLUB MEETING

Please join our fantastic Men's Club for a meeting on Thursday, December 1st at 7 p.m. Contact Marty Murphy ststephenmen@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Get your reservations in for the Men's Club Pancake Breakfast. Don't miss out on the fun. The Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, December 11th after 9:30 a.m. Mass. Please email ststephenmen@gmail.com with any questions. Please remember to bring an unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots program. Thank you!

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Miss Harty and Mrs. Weinman invite Kindergarten Families to join them on December 13th at 7 p.m. for a special play presented by our kindergarten students in Donworth Hall. Students in Grades 1-8 will be participating in a fabulous Advent/Christmas Music program on December 13th at 7:30 p.m. in church. Thanks to Mr. Francis who is preparing our students for this special celebration! The Advent/Christmas Program is a wonderful tradition at St. Stephen School.

MINIMUM DAY - CHRISTMAS VACATION

Christmas vacation begins with a minimum day Thursday, December 15th. School will be dismissed at 12:15 p.m. School will resume on Tuesday, January 3rd. Please mark your calendars so no child is left in the office with a sad face. Thank you!

THANK YOU GRADE SIX

Thank you to our Sixth Graders and Ms. Garcia who planned and prepared the Family Mass on Sunday. Everyone did a wonderful job. As always thanks to our Pastor Father Michael.

PRESCHOOL TURKEY TROT

Our Preschool Students participated in their annual Turkey Trot Fundraiser. Three time Olympic Medalist parent Shannon Solares-Rowbury led laps with our small students with great enthusiasm.

GELLERT FOUNDATION GRANT

St. Stephen School applied for a grant from the Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation to pay for schoolyard resurfacing and a new roof needed on the building housing grades 5-8. Thanks to the generosity of the Gellert Foundation we received a grant for \$125,000.00!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Allen

STUDENT COUNCIL

Hello Cougars! Thank you for bringing in so many cans for the Canned Food Drive! In total, the entire school brought in 3,435 cans! Congratulations to our top three classes, 7th Grade with 470 cans, 8th Grade with 440 cans, and 2nd Grade with 431 cans! The next charity event coming up is the Toy Drive, which begins on November 28th. Please keep this in mind when you do your Christmas shopping. Toys must be new, unopened, and unwrapped. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

TEACHER HOLIDAY FUND

Need help with your holiday shopping list? Contribute to the **Teacher Holiday Fund** and take the stress out of shopping for our wonderful teachers and staff at St. Stephen. Any amount is appreciated! You will be acknowledged in a list of contributors that the teachers and staff will receive. Contribute before **Monday, December 5th** and click on the **CONTRIBUTE NOW!** button to proceed. Thank you for your generous support! Please contact **Courtney Cassinelli** ccassinelli@gmail.com or **Shawna Stecher** sfshawna@yahoo.com, **Parliamentarians**, with any questions.

MEN'S CLUB

The annual pancake breakfast is Sunday, December 11, 2022, following the Sunday Mass. Following this newsletter is the flier with all the information. The Pancake Breakfast is a super fun event for all the kids. We hope to see everyone there!

GRANDPARENTS / V.I.S. SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for this year's "Hearts of Gold" Grandparents and Very Important Senior Celebration on Tuesday, January 31, 2023. Invitations to follow.

WINTER AUCTION UPDATE

Who shall rise as the Diamond of the Season?!

SHOP AT THE EVENT: Look no further than the Olympic Club on December 3rd to get your Christmas Shopping done! The Auction Team has crafted top gifts of the season!

Why WAIT in line? Purchase your drink tickets online now! Drink tickets are on sale. Save time and avoid the lines by purchasing ahead! <http://www.thequeensballauction.com/>

"Swinging Good Time" Croquet Game

Be the first to move your ball from the stake, through the wicket!

Winner: A bottle of wine and a chance to be crowned as Duchess or Duke of Croquet!

Game Price: 2 for \$50.

RAFFLE TICKETS

Submit your Raffle Ticket Stubs you received in the mail with payment and send to the St. Stephen School Office Attn: Auction Raffle.

1 st Prize is \$1,000!

2 nd Prize is \$500!

3 rd Prize is \$250!

If you need additional raffle tickets, please reach out to auction@sfststephenschool.org.

Pass along the tickets to your friends and family! Tickets cost \$10 each or \$50 for a book of 6. You do not need to be present to win.

OFFICE NEWS

- Reporting an absence, early pick-up or dismissal please email your child's teacher **AND** attendance@sfststephenschool.org.
- **CHESS** - Chess classes will begin again on 12/01 in the school LIBRARY. Please note time adjustment (**2:50 p.m. - 3:50 p.m**)
- **Lost 'n Found** - if your child is missing a school sweater, water bottle, lunch bag, food container, please have him/her check the Lost 'n Found located outside the 2nd Grade Classroom. All unclaimed items will be donated before Christmas Break. Remember to please clearly label **all items** brought to school with your child's first and last name, so it is possible to return to the rightful owner. Thank you!

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP...

11/23 - Minimum Day 12:15 p.m. Dismissal / NO E.C.

11/24 - Thanksgiving Day Parish Mass at 9:30 a.m.

11/25 - Thanksgiving Holiday OFF; December lunch orders due!

11/28 - Minimum Day 12:15 p.m. Dismissal

12/1 - Men's Club Meeting @ 7 p.m.

12/3 - SSWG Auction

SCHOOLWIDE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

Prayerful Christians

Effective

Communicators

Accountable Citizens

Confident Learners and Problem Solvers

Empathetic Individuals



SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of St. Stephen School community to educate children in a nurturing faith-filled environment that addresses the whole child, spiritually and intellectually. Parents are recognized as the primary educators of their children and we collaborate with them in our role as their children's teachers. It is our mission to provide students with an opportunity to grow in their relationship with God as they pursue academic excellence. Students in this community are encouraged to be mindful of the dignity of all people and to actively work for peace and justice in the world and reflect justice in the world. Instructional programs designed to reflect the Gospel teaching of Jesus Christ to prepare students to become empathetic, responsible members of society who are committed to working within their diverse community and the global society.