



NEWSLETTER

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL, FEBRUARY 1st, 2023 NO.23

NOTES FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, MRS. SHARON ALLEN:

THANKS TO YOU FOR A GREAT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Thanks to all of our St. Stephen students, faculty, staff and parents who celebrate CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK and the gift of St. Stephen School. Thanks to Mrs. Peterson and our Eighth Graders for planning and preparing such a wonderful liturgy on Sunday. It is always a special gift to have our Pastor, Father Michael, celebrate Mass and share such a wonderful homily. Thank you for your support Fr. Michael! Thank you to our Cougar who made a special appearance at Mass with Father Michael. This year's theme - Faith, Excellence, & Service truly speaks to WHO we are as a Catholic School. This week, all across the nation, we celebrate the important contributions Catholic Schools have made in our families, in our communities, in our nation and in our world. We are grateful to have parents who recognize the value of a Catholic education and support our mission here at St. Stephen School. Thank you! Special thanks to our Women's Guild Leadership Naomi Kelly, Jamie Allen, Jessi Means and our wonderful Women's Guild Helpers for setting up, serving and cleaning up our coffee and donuts. You are great ambassadors of our school community. Thanks to all of our parents for your dedication and hard work on behalf of St. Stephen School. Happy Catholic Schools Week!

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Eleventh Annual Grandparents Day at St. Stephen School a tremendous success. 300 Grandparents and Very Important Seniors joined us yesterday for this special event! Heartfelt thanks to Chairs Theresa Houghton, Clarina Kennedy, and Luciene Sequeira for an absolutely wonderful event! Thanks to Eddie Naser and his staff from Toast who provided a "5 Star" breakfast for over 300 guests. Our special guests enjoyed entertainment, breakfast and a beautiful Grandparents/V.I.S. Day Prayer Service. Thanks to Mr. Francis and our students who provided the entertainment....it was spectacular! Thanks to our fabulous Students who served as greeters and guides. Thanks to the Classroom Teachers, Aides and Students who welcomed our guests in their classrooms. Thanks to our Parent Volunteers who helped throughout the event. Thanks to Father Michael who was present throughout the day. Thanks to Mrs. Acosta and our Fifth Graders who planned a wonderful Prayer Service. Thanks to everyone who made this day another special memory for all of us at St. Stephen School.

NOTES FROM MRS. ALLEN CONTINUED:

WALK-A-THON

Please remember to support our Walk-A-Thon, which takes place Friday, February 3rd. Thanks to Layla Rahimi and Carolina O'Daly who are working hard to make sure this fundraiser is fun and successful. Thanks parents - we appreciate all you do.

Walk-A-Thon Schedule:

K 8:30am - 8:50am

1st 9:00am - 9:20am

2nd 9:30am - 9:50am

4th 9:55am - 10:15am

3rd 10:30am - 10:50am

7th 11:00am - 11:20am

8th 11:30am - 11:50am

6th 11:55am - 12:15pm

5th 12:20pm - 12:40pm

THANK YOU EIGHTH GRADE

Special thanks to our St. Stephen Eighth Graders and Mrs. Peterson for planning a wonderful Parish Mass for the opening of Catholic Schools Week. The liturgy was a special gift to all who attended and certainly a HIGHLIGHT of our Catholic Schools Weeks Celebration.

THANK YOU FIFTH GRADE

Special thanks to our Fifth Graders and their teacher Mrs. Acosta for planning a wonderful Prayer Service for our students to celebrate Grandparents/V.I.S. Day on Tuesday! Each Student did their part extremely well. Thanks to Fr. Michael for a wonderful homily.

ACRE TESTING

The Fifth and Eighth Grade Students will take the NCEA ACRE test beginning the week of February 13th. This test serves as a tool for assessing the effectiveness of religious education programs in the Archdiocese. It offers insight into where our students are in terms of their basic religious knowledge, and assesses their religious beliefs, attitudes, practices, and perceptions. Each year this test is given in grades five and eight as per Archdiocesan guidelines. Thanks for your support.

NOTES FROM MRS. ALLEN CONTINUED:

STAR TESTING

Star Testing III will take place on February 8th. Results will go home on February 15th.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports will go home on Wednesday, February 15th.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK ACTIVITIES

Monday 1/30 - Pajama Day

Tuesday 1/31 - Full Uniform / Prayer Service and Musical Presentation

Wednesday 2/1 - Favorite Sports Jersey Day

Thursday 2/2 - Disney Day

Friday 2/3 - Spirit Day / Walk-A-Thon

STAY SAFE!

Mrs. Allen

TUITION

Your sixth payment is due to FACTS by February 15th. ALL ACCOUNTS MUST BE KEPT CURRENT. There is a late fee of \$25.00, if tuition is not received by the 15th. Thank you!

ACADEMIC CHESS

The next set of Academic Classes will run from 2/16 - 4/20. Chess class takes place in the Library and is open to students from Kindergarten through 8th Grade. Please see sign up in today's Newsletter Email.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Hey Cougars! I hope everyone is enjoying Catholic Schools' Week! Very soon it will be Valentine's Day and the Student Council is working on a little surprise for each class. That is all for this week!

WALK-A-THON

The 2023 Cougars Walk-A-Thon is this Friday!

Let's come together for a fun filled closing of the Catholic School Week with our "Cougars Walk-A-Thon" fundraiser. Students will be running for their beloved school, so let's support their efforts!

Tax Deductible Donations are climbing. **We are currently at \$6080.** LET'S SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR THE KIDS!

- **Top 2 Classes leading with the highest fundraising are:**

First Grade: \$1135

Fifth Grade: \$1130

- **Top 2 Students leading with the highest fundraising are:**

Dunya Tuohy (4th Grade) \$660

Oclan McMahon (Kindergarten) \$500

We appreciate your support and are looking forward to this Friday!

Online Donation Link:

<https://saintstephen.schoolauction.net/specialevents20222023/g/cougar-walkathon>

There are still a couple of slots available for volunteering, Coffee Donation, Class Escort and Cleanup help. Thank you in advance!

Signup Genius Volunteering:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044EADA62BA2FE3-20232>

The Walk-A-Thon Team

Layla Rahimi & Carolina O'Daly

sswalkathon2023@gmail.com

AMAZON SMILE UPDATE

Amazon will be discontinuing the Amazon Smile program on February 20th. Thank you to everyone who has shopped using the Amazon Smile program - it's been a beneficial program for our school's fundraising. We are sad to see the program discontinued. Shopping on Amazon can still benefit the school when shopping with Amazon Scrip e-giftcards or physical gift cards purchased through the Raise Right app.

BOARD NOMINATIONS

BECOME A WOMEN'S GUILD BOARD MEMBER

Enhance your St. Stephen experience by serving in a leadership role next year. This is a great opportunity to make an impact on our school community and enrich the lives of our students through your energy, expertise, and experience. Nominations are open for the **2023-2024 Women's Guild Board Officers**. Nominate yourself or another St. Stephen mom for a board position. Nominees who are recommended to the Board will be contacted in writing to determine if they are interested in serving. Please submit your nominations using the [Google form](#) no later than **Friday, February 17th, 2023**. Please refer to the school directory for a list of moms in the school community.

Please contact **Courtney Cassinelli and Shawna Stecher**, Co-Parliamentarian with any questions at ccassinelli@gmail.com and sfshawna@yahoo.com.

TROPICANA HAVANA FASHION SHOW SCRIP CHALLENGE

Hola! In preparation for the Tropicana Havana Fashion Show, we are starting a class Scrip Challenge to help us purchase items for the Silent Auction Baskets. The Challenge will run until Friday, March 10th. Every class that donates at least \$750 in Scrip will win a class treat chosen by their teacher. The top 3 winning classes to reach \$750+ will receive cash prizes of \$150, \$100, and \$50 respectively. The top participating class will get a free dress day. Get every student to contribute \$25 and you'll meet this goal. Remember - for EVERY \$25 Scrip donation, families receive 1 parent volunteer hour AND earn a % toward your \$200 family Scrip requirement. More specific details will follow from class room parents with a gift card "wishlist". If you would like to give us a kickstart, the following are some of the vendors we are looking for: Target, Safeway, Neimun Marcus, Saks Fifth, Nordstrom, Disney, Whole Foods, Amazon, Apple, Visa, William Sonoma and Sephora.

How To Donate: Gift Cards can be purchased at any time and are available immediately through the RaiseRight app. Once purchased, please send the e-gift card as an attachment to fashionshow@sfststephenschool.org. In the body of the email, list your family name and student(s) name/grade so that we credit your family account and your child's class. If you prefer to send cash in lieu of scrip, you can give cash or venmo @Evangeline-Mendiola with message "in lieu of scrip for fashion show 2023."

MEN'S CLUB

The next Men's Club meeting will be **Thursday February 2nd at 7pm**, Donworth Hall. Food and Beverages will be provided. Topics will Include our St Patrick's event (flier attached), Father Daughter Dance and the Golf Tournament!

The Men's Club is excited to be organizing the annual 50/50 pool for Super Bowl Squares; \$100 per square. Squares will be sold through Friday, February 10th. Please contact Christian Fernandez at (415) 806-6364 or you can email the Men's Club at StStephenMen@gmail.com if you would like to purchase a square.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 2nd - Disney Day

February 3rd - Spirit Day & Walk-A-Thon

February 8th - STAR Testing

February 13th - Archdiocese In-Service Minimum Day

February 14th - Valentine's Day!

February 17th - No School - Presidents Day Holiday

February 20th - No School - Presidents Day Holiday

Thanks to Mrs. Allen our terrific principal for being an outstanding leader. We love you!

~ The St. Stephen Faculty, Staff and Students

I love you all too! ~ Mrs. Allen

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.