



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

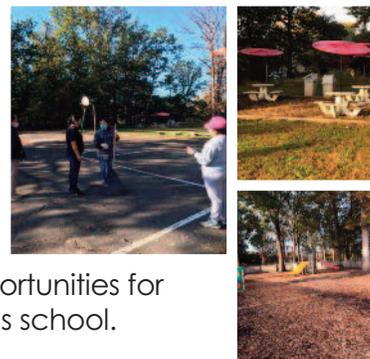


BRIDGES

WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ OCTOBER 22, 2020

A HUGE THANK YOU

Our school community is indebted to the following volunteers: Carmela Diaz, Erick Enrique Diaz, Irma Saavedra, Maria Amaguana, Melina Urrieta Diaz and Vera Nkemkeng who worked many hours last Saturday transforming our Tot Lot and the play area around the basketball court. Their hard work is very evident and greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Honorine Sirri Akwanka and Nah Ndi for their indoor organizing and straightening work. The teachers were so impressed with the tidy supply closets. After the leaves fall, there will be other opportunities for families to earn service hours. Thank you for being vested in your child's school.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

A parent or two with an SUV or Van is needed to drive old technology and electronics to the PG County tech dump. Please email Mrs. Blackburn (mblackburn@stmatthias.org) if you are interested in earning volunteer hours this way.

REOPENING SURVEY



Attached to this issue of Bridges is a brief survey to determine parent's desires to either continue virtual learning or have their children in school. This data will help us determine the feasibility of returning to a 5 day in-school option.

Although we are asking parents of children in grades 1-8 for their input, our plan is to gradually re-open the school beginning with grades 1 and 2. Some consideration is also being given to our students who have special learning

needs. Please respond to the survey as soon as possible. It would be extremely helpful to have all family responses by **Wednesday, October 28**.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

For students in grades 1-8 school begins at 8:05 with morning prayer. **All** students are expected to attend in uniform and participate in prayer. Most teachers begin their classes immediately following prayer. Parents are always welcome!



When driving on school property, please drive slowly. Our children are at risk!



Mark Your Calendar

Friday, October 23

NOON DISMISSAL

Monday, October 26

Chipotle Fundraiser
4:00 - 8:00 pm

Wednesday, October 28

Virtual Drama Club
2:15 - 3:00 pm

Thursday, October 29

Grade 7 On Campus
8:15 - 9:30 am

Virtual Junior Drama Club
2:30 pm

Friday, October 30

SCHOOL CLOSED
ADW Teacher Professional
Development



ANNUAL RAFFLE

All St. Matthias families are required to participate in the annual school raffle to support our school. The income for the raffle is more critical than ever! Yet, like nearly everything else, it will be impacted by the pandemic. We are suggesting some changes that may make it easier to sell the tickets. Each ticket is \$10 and school families are required to sell 35 tickets. The drawings will take place on the 1st and 15th of the month from March through June. The prize is \$500 and there will be no seller's prize. Families who would rather make a tax deductible donation of \$350 are welcome to do so in lieu of buying them or selling them to others. Tickets will be distributed to families as students come on campus.

FOCUS ON LITERATURE

If you drive onto the top lot of the school, you might notice a pretty evergreen tree adorned with shiny colored ribbons. These ribbons contain wishes that our staff and students in grades 3,4,and 5 have written. This activity is in response to the book "Wishtree" by *Katherine Applegate*. In the story, a young girl, Samar, who is new to the community, wishes for a friend. The WISHTREE, otherwise known as Red (short for red oak), decides after over two hundred years of just standing and holding the wishes of the community, that Samar's wish should be granted and the plan to make that happen begins. When someone carves the word "LEAVE" on the trunk of the tree (RED), its owner, Francesca, seriously thinks about cutting the tree down. What will happen to all the animals who call the tree home? Can the plan to help Samar make a friend really work? Will this community come together? Ask your child to keep you posted on the events of the story as we continue reading.

Our every other Friday COMMUNITY Reads project is sparking stimulating thought and discussion amongst our students of all ages. Parents who might be free for a short break from work are welcome to join us on November 13 at 9:45. Our next book is "Last Stop on Market Street" by *Matt De La Pena*, the first Hispanic author to win the Newberry Award. With pictures by *Coretta Scott King* Illustrator, *Christian Robinson*.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

The HSA Executive Committee, comprised of *Katie Aaron, Tiffany Averette, Emma Hadley, Michelle Hayling, Kenique Freeman, Des Grillo, Chidi Onyewu* and *Pierette Steele* met last night. Planning is underway for a few virtual family community building events. Please look for more details soon. If you would like to join our parent leadership group, please contact *Mrs. Schratz* or *Mrs. Freeman*.

SAVE THE DATE FOR PARENT CONFERENCES

School is closed for students on Wednesday, November 11. Teachers will be meeting virtually with parents to discuss their child's progress as indicated on the first quarter report cards and Scantron tests. Conferences will take place via Zoom from 8:00-4:00. Families will be receiving an email to register for a conference via Sign-Up Genius. Please respond promptly to insure that you get your preferred time slot(s).

CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER

Our first family restaurant fundraiser will be this Monday, October 26. Please see attached flier. Your support is greatly appreciated!

VIRTUAL JUNIOR DRAMA CLUB FOR GRADES 3 – 5

Anyone interested in joining the Junior Drama Club for grades 3-5 should meet virtually with Ms. Smith on Thursday, October 29th. The meeting will begin at 2:30 pm. Zoom link will be sent next week.

VIRTUAL DRAMA CLUB FOR GRADES 6 – 8!

Drama meets one Wednesday per month from 2:15 – 3:00 pm. Upcoming dates are Oct. 28, Nov. 18, and Dec. 9

To participate, have a parent email Mrs. Gillis at mgillis@stmatthias.org giving you permission to join.

SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair, usually held in the upper level library, will NOT be an in-person event this year. Rather, it will be virtual with online shopping. The fair will run from Nov. 9 to 22, 2020. More details to follow. Get some Christmas shopping done early and support our school libraries.