



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ MAY 13, 2021

THANK YOU, ST. MATTHIAS PARENTS

The teachers enjoyed the special treats and kind words of appreciation during last week's National Teacher Appreciation Week! The week began with an amazing lunch provided by one of the parents, and ended with a lovely gift box for each of them from the Home and School Association. In between, they enjoyed bagels, pizza luncheon, a Mission Barbecue lunch, and a healthy and delicious fruit platter. A teacher appreciation video which featured children describing what they liked about their teachers was touching as were personal notes from students and parents. This year has certainly challenged all of us. Parent support means more than ever. Thank you, St. Matthias parents. You mean the world to us!



LOOKING AHEAD: BEFORE AND AFTERCARE

Plans are underway to open school under more normal conditions. Although at this time we are prepared for masking and three feet social distancing, all instruction will take place in the classrooms.

Students will have art, music, physical education, and Spanish in addition to their core subjects. They will once again go to the library, have assemblies, and share classroom materials. We also expect that more and more parents will be returning to their jobs in the work place.

Attached to this edition of *Bridges* is information regarding before and aftercare services. The St. Matthias extended school program (ESP) is licensed by the Maryland State Child Care Administration. Most of our aftercare personnel are teachers. Snack is provided daily and the children have both indoor and outdoor play in addition to time to complete homework. Before and aftercare is offered every full school day beginning on September 1. There is no aftercare on the 10 early dismissal days. This year we are anticipating a drop-in service in addition to daily before and aftercare attendance. Because it has been so long since our ESP was offered due to the pandemic, it would be extremely helpful to know what St. Matthias families will be using this service. **Please review the information attached and register as soon as possible.** We expect to be enrolling new families during the summer and often they sign up for ESP as well. We don't want to turn our current families away because the ESP is full. Please note, families must be registered in order to use the drop-in service.



Mark Your Calendar

Friday, May 14
School Mass 9:45
NOON DISMISSAL

Monday, May 17
New Kindergarten Testing
9:30 - 11:00
Scantron Math Grade 2
Rosary at Noon

Tuesday, May 18
Scantron Math Grade 7

Wednesday, May 19
Drama Club 2:30 - 3:15

Thursday, May 20
Scantron Math
Grade 4 & 5
Jr. Drama Club 2:45 - 3:30

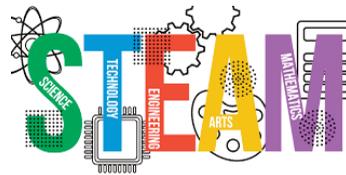
HSA Executive Committee
Meeting 6:30 pm

Friday, May 21
CommUNITY Reads 9:45
Scantron Math K

NOON DISMISSAL

STEAM PROGRESS

This Friday from 1:00-4:00 P.M. the teachers are participating in one of two after school training sessions as part of our STEM certification and implementation. The goal is to plan one integrated STEM unit per quarter per grade. We are very excited about the potential for this instruction to engage the students, increase class cooperation and collaboration and heighten students' curiosity and creativity. STEAM education incorporates the 4 Cs of 21st Century learning skills: communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. The second part of this professional development will take place on Wednesday, May 26. Please note that dismissal on this day is at Noon.



PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS



In last week's *Bridges*, a call went out to enlist parent help to expand after school programs and opportunities for our students. We are looking for cross country, soccer, basketball and track and field coaches, as well as parents to share a specific talent for a 4-6 week club. The school has enough guitars for a free afterschool guitar class, but we need a parent who plays guitar to teach the children. Is that you? Please consider sharing your time and talents with our wonderful students. Do you like to sing, dance, act, sew, knit, garden, cook, and play chess? Some of the students would like to do so as well. We are especially in need of someone to form and lead one of our robotics teams. If you are interested and able in any of these or other activities, please call or see Mrs. Blackburn or Mrs. Schratz.

USED UNIFORM COORDINATORS NEEDED

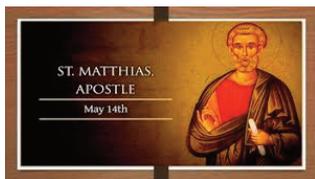
Two or three parents are needed to prepare for our used uniform sales. We hope to have uniforms available for pick up whenever the school office is open during the summer. The used uniform coordinators can work on this project anytime. Interested and available? Please contact Mrs. Blackburn.

SAVE THE DATE

The first day of the 2022 school year is Tuesday, August 31. It is a noon dismissal day. We are very committed to starting the year strong and engaging the students from the minute they arrive at school. In order to do this, the teachers must know the students and their parents, prior to the first day. Therefore, all parents and children are invited to meet the teacher on August 26. Appointments can be made between 8:00 and 3:00 on that day.



PATRON SAINT DAY



May 14 is the feast of our school's patron saint, St. Matthias the Apostle. Matthias was the apostle who replaced Judas Iscariot. This was stated in the Acts of the Apostles. Unlike the other apostles, his appointment was not made personally by Jesus. After the betrayal of Judas, the disciples of Jesus needed to choose a new apostle. To do this they nominated two men – Joseph called Barsabbas and Matthias. After praying each Apostle cast a vote, and "the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven." Acts 1:26. A patron saint, is a saint who in Roman Catholicism, Anglicanism, or Eastern Orthodoxy is regarded as the heavenly advocate of a nation, place, craft, activity, class, clan, family, or person. St. Matthias is the patron saint of carpenters, tailors and our church and School! We will celebrate his feast day with mass, ice cream treats and extra recess. Our PK and kindergarten students will learn about St. Matthias through video and class activities.

PRAYER FOR AN END TO THE PANDEMIC

May is the month of Mary and Pope Francis is asking everyone to call upon the intercession of the Blessed Mother this month, for an end to the Covid pandemic. On Monday, May 17 Cardinal Wilton Gregory will be leading the archdiocese in the recitation of the rosary from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Our students will be participating in their classrooms. On that day lunch will be at 11:30 and recess will occur after the prayer is over. This prayer event will be broadcast over WETN and all parents who are able to are urged to join us.