



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

BRIDGES

WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG DECEMBER 10, 2021



ST. MATTHIAS FAMILY SERVICE TO THE HOMELESS

One of the ways that we can prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus at Christmas is by serving the poor and vulnerable. This is our calling as followers of Christ. The students of St. Matthias will be providing a nutritious lunch to 200 homeless persons participating in the Warm Nights Hypothermia Program sponsored by Community Crisis Services of Prince George's County. This is a faith-based winter emergency homeless shelter program. The children will be involved in making sandwiches, decorating bags, writing notes of greeting, and assembling the lunches. The Student Council is having a bake sale to raise money to provide fresh fruit in the lunch. We are asking families to donate the other ingredients that we need: sliced turkey, ham, bologna, cheese, snack size bags of chips and juice boxes. The school will provide the bread, condiments, and napkins. Each class has been assigned an item: PK3-4 — Granola Bars, Kindergarten — Chips, 1st & 2nd Grade — Meat, 3rd & 4th Grade — Cheese, 5th & 6th Grade — Juice Boxes. Families with multiple children are **not** expected to send in multiple items. These items are due on Tuesday, December 14. **Thank you for your generosity.**



CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX DONATIONS

Join the St. Matthias School Community as we spread love through giving during this holiday season. In conjunction with PJs and Pancakes, HSA is inviting each family to engage in an opportunity to give to others with the Shoebox Project. We will provide shoeboxes filled with necessities such as toothbrushes/ toothpaste, hand sanitizer, gloves, etc. to people in a local shelter. Items are designated by class and we ask that each student bring the designated items to school next week. If it is more convenient to send \$3, an HSA committee member will make purchases in time for packing the boxes. Please see the attached document for the item your class should bring. Thank you in advance. It feels good to give!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Catholic children in grades 3-8 will have the opportunity to go to confession on Tuesday, December 14. There is no better way to prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus into our hearts than to experience his unconditional love and forgiveness. Parents who are available at that time are welcome to join us.



Monday, December 13
Progress Reports
Distributed

Tuesday, December 14
Student Council Bake Sale
Confessions 9:30

Wednesday, December 15
Chick-fil-A Luncheon
Jr. Drama Club 3:00—4:10

January Hot Lunch Order
Deadline

Thursday, December 16
Gingerbread House Stem
Activity
PreK4 and 4th Grade

Friday, December 17
Red and Green Tag Day (out of
Uniform)

RAFFLE TICKET SALES

Parents who are concerned about selling raffle tickets are urged to sign up to sell after one or more Masses at St. Matthias. Tickets can be sold every weekend from now until January 2. Please call Mrs. Blackburn to reserve a Mass or Masses. Raffle ticket stubs and \$350 are due on January 3 from all families.

UNIFORM ENFORCEMENT BEGINS JANUARY 2

There have been many challenges in returning to school after over a year of virtual learning. The problem with the Flynn and O'Hara supply line is just one of them. It is my understanding from our uniform supplier that all backorders will be filled by the end of this year. Therefore, when the students return to school on Monday, January 2 they are all expected to be in uniform. Students who are not in uniform will receive an Out of Uniform Citation, which must be signed by a parent/guardian. Children with two citations may not be out of uniform on the next out of uniform free dress day. To ensure that your child complies please consult the 2021-2022 School Calendar/Handbook (pages 15, 16, and 17). Some common infractions that we see for girls are leggings of various colors rather than black, white, or red tights for girls, uniform pants that are nothing like the uniform trousers which are straight legged and loose fitting around the ankle, nail polish, unnatural color hair, jewelry. Boys are often without belts, and shirts are untucked. Many students are not wearing the uniform sweater. Uniform shoes are black. Some students are mixing PE and dress uniform parts. This is not acceptable. Next week the students who are out of uniform will be given a written warning, so that their parents can make sure that the proper uniform items are purchased over the Christmas break.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AND SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

On their birthdays our students may be out of uniform. When their birthday falls on a weekend, they may choose to be out of uniform on either the nearest Friday or Monday. Children whose birthdays fall on or between June 9 and August 29 celebrate their half birthdays. The students' names are announced and the school community members are encouraged to wish them a "Happy Birthday." Children may bring a treat (cupcakes, cookies, brownies) to share with their classmates during lunch. The lunch time is quite short, so elaborate treats are not permitted. Thank you for your cooperation.

HOT LUNCH

Remember to order January Lunches by Wednesday, 12/15, 11:59 pm., as the lunch program staff will be taking a much-needed break. Be sure to check your Inbox and Spam Folder for monthly Lunch Order Reminder Emails from noreply@boonli.com

BOOK FAIR FOLLOW UP

If you ordered books online from our Scholastic Book Fair, please know that Scholastic is swamped with orders, shorthanded, and working very hard to get orders filled and shipped. All orders will be sent directly to a person's home. Thank you for your patience.

BALANCE BIKE UPDATE

As you may remember, we received an Archdiocese of Washington Teacher Incentive Grant and we purchased balance bikes for our mini mustangs in Pre-K to learn to ride. Students are required to wear a bike helmet to participate in this activity. They must bring in this helmet from home. It should be marked with the child's name and grade. Your teacher will let you know when students will be using the bikes so that you may bring in their helmet. If a student does not have a bike helmet, it would make a great Christmas gift. Students, who do not bring a helmet on the days bikes will be used, will not ride. There will be no helmet sharing.