



ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL



Newsletter
January 2, 2019

355 Grafton Street, Worcester, MA 01604 - 508.755.3209
www.st-stephen.net



HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR



From the Principal's Desk

Happy New Year!

I would like to thank you all for your generosity and kindness with the many baked goods and gifts. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated by all of us.

May God bless you and your families with health, joy and the love of family and friends throughout the coming year.

Joanne Mallozzi, Principal

Value of the Month

Tolerance is the value we will focus on this month.

"True tolerance is not a total lack of judgment. It's knowing what should be tolerated, and refusing to tolerate that which shouldn't."

IMPORTANT MESSAGES FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The brown envelope is our means of sending our school newsletter, important notices and forms home to you.

Please take time to read the newsletter as this is one of the best ways for us to keep you informed. Return the brown envelope and any forms the following day.

Please note that some forms we send home have deadlines such as lunch forms, milk forms and after school art forms.

Forms received after the deadline will not be accepted and will be returned. Please understand that we have deadlines with vendors that we must honor.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP:

It is extremely important that ALL parents follow the drop off and pick up policy in place for the school. **Please do NOT park in the Teacher Parking lot** on the Hale St. end of the School yard in the morning to drop your children off. The teachers are trying to get to work and having their parking lot filled with parent cars is not acceptable. Also, do NOT drop off, pick up or park on Caroline Street. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

This Week's Brown Envelope Inserts...

- February Lunch Order forms
- January Calendar
- Box Tops flyer
- Diocesan Tuition Assistance Information

Coming Up...

- Thursday, January 3, **Pre-K Speech/Language**
- Friday, January 4 - **Chill Out** - Gr K-8 - \$1
- Wednesday, January 9, **Magazine Drive begins**
- Friday, January 11, **End of Term**
- Thursday, January 17, **Report Cards**
- Friday, January 18, **½ Day of School - 11:15 Pre-K Dismissal - 11:30 - K-8 Dismissal - NO EXTENDED DAY**
- Monday, January 21, **NO SCHOOL**
- Wednesday, January 23 - **Magazine Drive ends**
- Sunday, January 27, National Catholic Schools Week.
New Student **Open House** from 1-3 PM
- Monday, January 28 - **SWOMP**
- Wednesday, January 30 - February Newsletter

The Gingerbread Shop was a tremendous success. A great deal of planning and preparation happens behind the scenes to ensure that all things go smoothly. Special thanks to Mrs. Mason and Mrs. Erickson for organizing this event and to all of the parents who gave so generously of their time and talents to assist. Thank you so much for making this such a wonderful experience for our students.

Thank You. We would like to thank all of our Parent/Guardians and guests for not only coming to join us for our Annual Christmas Concert, but also for your attention to the parking system on that day. We appreciate your cooperation very much, and hope you all enjoyed the concert as much as we did!

WPS Pre-K "No School" Announcements: Last Winter, Worcester Public Schools started announcing Pre-K Cancellations. Please note that although St. Stephen School follows WPS for Cancellations, Delays and Early Release - when WPS CANCELS Pre-K, we do NOT cancel. When there is a 2 hour delay in the morning, St. Stephen's morning Pre-K is cancelled. Full day Pre-K students come in with the rest of the school 2 hours late.

BOX TOPS: Congratulations to **Grade 3**, the winners for the Fall Collection! The next collection is Feb. 15th and there is a bonus for each student who brings in 2 full sheets or more! If you need more "bonus" sheets, please ask the office. Clip & Count volunteers are needed on Feb. 15th, too. More information to follow.

REMINDEERS...

Financial Aid Forms K-8

Financial Aid is distributed by the Diocese of Worcester based on need as it relates to the cost of tuition. Assessment of financial need and distribution of grants is made solely by the FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment of the FACTS Management Company. In order to be considered for financial aid, students must be enrolled and have completed their tuition agreement with their school. Applicants must apply on line. The website is <https://online.factsmgmt.com/aid>. This link is now available.

Please note the deadline for applications is Friday, March 1, 2019. If you need assistance with the application process, please contact the school at 508-755-3209 well in advance of the application deadline.

Re-registration Forms for 2019-2020

All current students need to re-register for the upcoming school year. Re-registration forms are enclosed in this week's brown envelope. We want to remind parents that the \$175.00 registration fee and the completed registration form must be turned into the school office by Friday, March 1, 2019. *After the March 1st deadline, the re-registration fee will increase to \$200.00.*

If your child will not be returning next year, please indicate that on the re-registration form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. All financial obligations to St. Stephen School must be satisfied prior to a student's transfer. Please note that any parish school and diocesan high school will not accept incoming students from parish schools whose financial obligations are incomplete.



National Catholic Schools Week begins Sunday, January 27th with our open house from 1 -3 PM. If you know of anyone who is interested in a Catholic education, please share this information. You are our best advertisement for St. Stephen School!

Calendar Raffle Donations - The calendar raffle fundraiser is coming this spring! Donations of gift cards or services, or \$25 sponsors would make our raffle even more successful. They are needed by February 16th. Sponsored squares can have a message "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone special to you.. More information about the calendar raffle will be coming soon. For donations or questions, please contact Kiera LaBonte (kierajane27@yahoo.com) or the office.

CHAIRPERSONS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The New Year is a time to think about getting involved in winter and spring events! In order to continue with our ongoing traditions, chairpersons are needed for our Mother/Son event. Not sure about chairing on your own? Get a partner to co-chair! Past coordinators are available to answer questions and help get you started. Watch the newsletter for numerous volunteer opportunities over the next few months. Don't forget to complete your CORI and Safe Environment Training. We need everyone's help to keep these traditions going and to assist with fundraisers. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Save those magazine subscriptions! Mr. Marks returns Wednesday, January 9th to kick off the 2019 Magazine Drive. Which class will win the ice cream party?

Speech and Language Screenings for Pre-K students will take place on January 3.

Sick Children - With cold and flu season around the corner, we want to remind parents about the school's policy for children who are ill. Sick children should not be sent to school. Children who have vomited within the last twenty-four hours or who have a fever must be kept at home.

Outdoor Clothing - With the cold weather now upon us, we want to remind parents to send children to school with jackets, hats and mittens. The children will go out to recess during the winter months, weather permitting. *Please label your child's clothing.*

As a reminder, our parish follows the guidelines of the national Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People approved by the US Bishops and the policies of the Diocese of Worcester in screening those who work with children in our care and in helping victims of abuse find healing. If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a Church employee or volunteer in the past, please contact Cathaleen Peloquin, Victim Services Coordinator for our diocese at 508-929-4363 (direct line and confidential voicemail). If you are concerned about a current case of abuse, please contact the local civil authorities immediately.