



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

# BRIDGES



WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG ❖ MARCH 30, 2017

## PREPARING FOR EASTER

During this holy season of Lent we are on a journey that will bring us closer to Jesus. We prepare to celebrate the mystery of God's great love for us. His is a love so great that "...He gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish, but might have eternal life." (John...3:16).

Through the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving we have the means to grow closer to our God. The children have collected food and are making donations to fill the rice bowls in their classrooms. They have been learning about and praying the Stations of the Cross. Parents are invited to our final two celebrations of the Stations of the Cross, April 7 (2:15 pm) and April 12 (10:45 pm). Our 8th graders will be enacting the "Living Stations" on April 12. We hope many parents and parishioners will join us for this special Holy Week devotion.

On April 4 at 1:30 the students in grades 2-8 will participate in a Lenten Reconciliation service. The focus of this prayer is an examination of conscience and a celebration of God's mercy and forgiveness. Catholic children will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As always, parents are invited to join us.

## GREAT NEWS

Our school has entered into a partnership with LET'S GO Boys and Girls, Inc. They will be providing critical materials and guidance for our upcoming summer STEAM Camp as well as curriculum support for our STEAM initiative for the coming school year. Stay tuned for more exciting news as we continue to grow and strengthen our academic program.

## REPORT CARDS

Third quarter report cards will be distributed on Thursday, April 6. Please review them carefully with your child. The teachers will be encouraging the students to set goals for the final portion of this school year. Parents play a very important role in helping their children by having high expectations for them and helping them make decisions that will enable them to be successful. We hope that all of the students will end this school year strong! Honor Roll awards will be presented on April 12 following The Living Stations.



### Saturday, April 1

Drama Dance Rehearsal  
9:00 – 12:00 pm

### Monday, April 3

Last Day to Submit April Pizza Lunch Order

### Tuesday, April 4

Lenten Reconciliation Service @ 1:30 pm  
Drama Rehearsal Act I 3:15 – 5:15 pm  
Chorus (3, 4 & 5) 2:45 – 3:25 pm

### Wednesday, April 5

Faculty Meeting 7:00 am  
Chorus (Middle School) 7:50 – 8:30 am  
Track 3:15 – 5:00 pm

### Thursday, April 6

Drama Rehearsal Act II 3:15 – 5:15 pm  
Report Cards Distributed  
Confirmation Meeting @ 7:00 pm

### Friday, April 7

Stations of the Cross 2:15 pm  
Pizza Lunch  
8th Grade Fish Fry

### Saturday, April 8

ADW Catholic High School Fair  
11:00 – 2:00 pm  
Bethesda Marriott

## Noon Dismissal Tomorrow

## **ENROLLMENT UPDATE**

To date 22% of our current student body is enrolled for next year. All families are strongly urged to re-enroll before the April 15 deadline for the discounted family re-enrollment fee. On April 16 the fee jumps to \$350. Timely enrollment will enable the administration to make informed decisions about staffing, resources and the budget. Parents will benefit by having tuition contracts and other important school information well before the start of the school year.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

There are two remaining financial aid opportunities available to our families. **No one will be considered for tuition assistance who has not completed the Financial Aid Application in TADS.** Please call Mrs. Blackburn if you need assistance with this application. Students who are parishioners of St. Matthias Church who have applied for Financial Aid through TADS are eligible to apply for a Father Hughes scholarship for next year.

## **LOTS OF LEGOS NEEDED**

If your children have outgrown their Legos or Duplos, St. Matthias would be very happy to give them a new home. Also, if you like to shop for treasures at flea markets and thrift stores, please be on the lookout for Legos or Duplos, which we need in our future Innovation Station!

## **KNOWLEDGE OF FAITH TESTING**

All of our students in grades 2-8 will be taking a standardized religion test. This assessment measures each student's knowledge of church teaching in each of 6 domains: Scripture, Sacraments, Morality, Prayer, Christian Community and Evangelization. The test takes a little less than one class period and all grades with the exception of 2 and 7 will take it during their normal computer class period. There will be a make-up time for students who are absent.

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Thanks to the students who submitted entries for our "Design the Fun-D Run T-shirt" The winning design was by 8th grader, Aikira Taylor. In addition to the honor of seeing her art work in print, Akira received a \$25 gift card to Amazon and a free dress pass. Thanks to the other contestants: Aderomoke Adenuga, Sophia Fletcher, and Lydia Kalshoven. These students also received a free dress pass.

## **THANK YOU**

Thanks to Mrs. Tay Onyewu and her Spring Dance helpers: Tiffany Averette, Veronica Onyewu, Dawn and Andre Ferguson, Liza Milton, and Pierrette Steele for a wonderful event for the children and families of The Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle. A large number of the student body attended and they all had fun! Thanks again to our amazing HSA leaders!

## **ST. MATTHIAS ALUM**

St. Matthias Alum, **Seamus Hughes**, now the deputy director of George Washington University's "Program on Extremism" and trainer of F.B.I. agents on how to identify American jihads, appeared on CBS Sixty Minutes on March 26, 2017.

**Rachel Leader**, is currently a sophomore at St. Edward's University in Texas. She was recently featured in their newsletter's article on Six Standout Students (among many). Rachel is a Sociology major with a minor in English writing and rhetoric. Rachel participated in the Holy Cross mission and done a Service Break in White River, Arizona as a leader and completed a service trip to El Paso, Texas as well. Rachel serves as a member of Hilltop Hospitality, Hilltop Leaders, and is a resident assistant. Rachel is also a McNair scholar and a member of the Honors Program.

We are very proud of our St. Matthias alums.

## **CAMP ST. CHARLES**

Ask your child about our presentation today by the director of Camp St. Charles. We will be selling chances to win 2 weeks at this great camp for the summer.

## **SUMMER SOCCER CAMP AT DEMATHA HIGH SCHOOL**

The DeMatha Soccer Youth Camp is designed to help young players develop their soccer skills in a fun and exciting environment. The camp will run M-F 9:00-3:00 pm and will include individualized skill instruction and small sided games with current and former DeMatha soccer players and staff. For more detailed information please visit [www.DeMathasoccer.com](http://www.DeMathasoccer.com).

