



# THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE MONTHLY

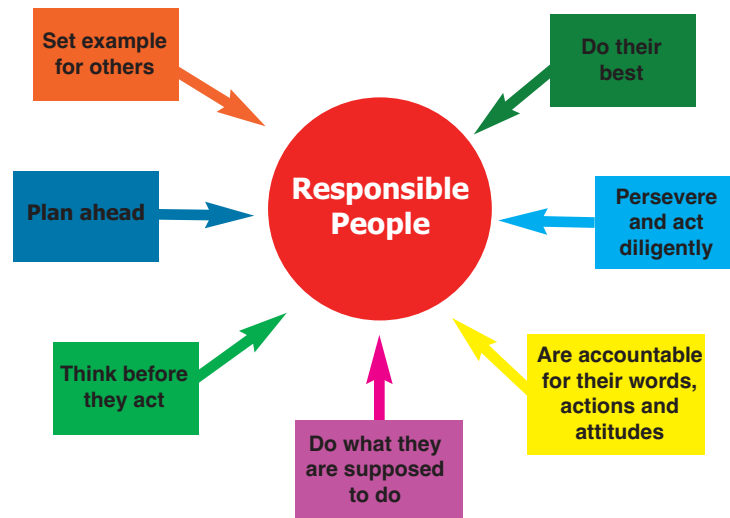
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMY OF SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE.  
CONNECTING TEACHERS, PARENTS, COMMUNITY AND PARISH.  
WWW.STMATTHIAS.ORG  
OCTOBER 5, 2017

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The first month has been one of getting to know one another, practicing new routines and transitioning back to school. The students and teachers are now settled in and we are able to get down to the business and busyness of learning. The Scantron assessments have given us a clear picture of what each child knows and we have targeted where they should be by mid-year. Getting to that target requires effort and diligence on the part of the teachers, parents and above all, the students. Our goal is for every child to be successful. However, goals without a plan to achieve them are just wishes and wishes rarely come true. The teachers have very specific goals for each student. They are working very hard to plan, assess and ensure every child's growth. However, every parent and every child also has to have a plan to achieve. For this reason the character pillar of the month is **RESPONSIBILITY**. In the classroom, teachers are modeling and teaching the students that they are responsible for themselves, their actions and their learning.

Helping our children become successful in school and in life depends on them becoming people of good character. We can do this by teaching them, enforcing our rules and expectations, advocating for them and modeling what the pillars of good character look like. As parents we model responsible behavior in many ways. Unfortunately we also model irresponsible behavior. During this month I ask you to think about the ways that you are teaching, enforcing, advocating and most importantly, modeling the character trait of responsibility.

### People who are responsible:



In the school context parents act responsibly when they get their children to school on time, read school communications and send forms and payments in on time. take care of their financial obligations and contact the school if there is a reason they cannot, respond to teachers' e-mails, make sure their children study and complete homework, persevere when tasks are difficult, are diligent about having high expectations for their children and helping them live up to these expectations, model civil and positive attitudes towards the school, teacher and other school families, do what they say they are going to do and do their best and expect their children to do likewise.

*Patricia Schratz, Principal*





### **FALL FESTIVAL THANKS**

It was very gratifying to see so many of our children and families enjoying being together, playing actively and having a good time. This great event would not have been possible without the efforts of the fall festival committee and all the parent volunteers. Parent leadership and parents who volunteer their time and resources make a huge difference in the vitality and viability of our school.

It is important to note that the Fall Festival was not a fundraiser. Its intent was to provide a fun community building activity. It certainly accomplished that goal! However, it also failed to break even, which was our expectation.

Fundraising is also an important role of the Home and School Association. It is important to note that tuition does not cover the cost of educating a child at St. Matthias. Parents with fundraising talents or experience are greatly needed on our Executive board. If you can lend your talents in this area, please contact the principal. The next HSA Executive Committee meeting is Thursday, October 19 at 6:15 pm. All are welcome at these meetings.

### **SUPPORT SAINT MATTHIAS**

Help Support The Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle School by using your TARGET RED CARD, your SAFE-WAY or GIANT Grocery Store card, and by using smile.amazon.com. If you go to the Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle webpage ([www.stmatthias.org](http://www.stmatthias.org)) and click on school and then advancement, you will see the links to these sites. You will need to register your card for Target, Safeway and Giant. For Amazon Smile, you will need your amazon.com password and you will have to search for St. Matthias School each time you purchase. Thank you! Every little bit counts.

### **HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION DUES**

Every family is expected to pay their \$25 HSA dues. To date 46% of the families have met this obligation. The dues support our efforts to provide extra cultural and learning opportunities for the children. The first HSA assembly will take place on October 31. It is a hands-on science “museum” that will engage our students in grades PK-6. If you have not done so, please send in your HSA dues at your earliest convenience.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Today was the first meeting of our Robotics Club. Thirty students signed up and it was necessary to break them into two groups for the students to be engaged and productive. Our school soccer team is winning games and having a great time. There are two St. Matthias basketball teams that are gearing up for competition and fun in the coming season. What these activities have in common is that they are the result of initiative and leadership of school parents. The excitement and opportunity that these events provide for our students is invaluable! The students are building their confidence, learning to work as a team, and strengthening their communication and problem-solving skills. If you have a talent to share and can invest some time after school or on the weekend to help our students excel, please contact Mrs. Schratz.

### **TEACHERS EMBRACE CHARACTER COUNTS!**

This past Saturday, our teachers and principal spent the day with Dr. Raquel Rasuk, a master trainer from the CHARACTER COUNTS! Foundation. They came away with a stronger understanding and appreciation of the benefits of a common language and the need to teach character intentionally and explicitly. They learned how to integrate CHARACTER COUNTS! effectively and seamlessly through the process of T.E.A.M (teach, enforce, advocate and model). They explored five fundamental practices to build classrooms of character: building relationships with students, modeling character, creating awareness of the Pillars (positive beliefs and desired behaviors), practicing character-based discipline by helping students make good choices and providing school-wide opportunities to integrate CHARACTER COUNTS! with school activities, student involvement and parental communication.

### **PROGRESS REPORTS AND BEHAVIOR**

We are at the mid-point of the first quarter. Parents of children in grades 2-8 received progress reports to inform them of how their children are doing academically. These reports also provided information regarding behavior and work habits. Both strongly influence student growth and achievement. Please help your child establish a set of goals for finishing the first quarter strong and a plan to achieve this goal!



### PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE

All parents are invited to attend the first of 4 informal gatherings with the principal. This event will take place tomorrow at 8:30 in the Hughes Center. The participants set the agenda, but Mrs. Schratz will also briefly discuss our school's Scantron results.

### HURRICANE RELIEF

Students and families of St. Matthias School have a wonderful opportunity for service to others. We have been matched with a Kindergarten through 5th grade Art teacher at Braeburn Elementary School in Houston, Texas. The school she teaches at suffered tremendous damage from Hurricane Harvey and they will be placed in a different building for an undetermined time. The teacher is in need of art supplies to teach her classes. She has asked for:

- Packages of pencils and packages of erasers
- Scissors
- Elmer's Glue
- Crayola colored pencils
- Black permanent markers
- Dry erase markers
- Invisible Scotch tape
- Crayola Bold Color Glitter Glue
- Mod Podge sealer (32 oz jar)
- Sharpie permanent markers, fine point, assorted color
- Purell Hand Sanitizer 8 oz bottles

In your shopping this weekend, if you are able, please purchase an item or two for this school and send it to school with your child next week. Donations are due by Thurs. Oct. 12, 2017. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and for reaching out to help those in need.

### ART AND MUSIC

Students have completed their Christmas card designs. They have worked hard and are excited about what they created. Your child has been given an order envelope. All envelopes must be returned to your child's teacher by Friday morning, **October 20th**. Orders will be back around the first of December. This is also a fund raiser for the art department.

The Christmas program will be on **December 20th**. All students will be involved. So that you may plan ahead, the students will be wearing their Christmas church outfits.

### HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS AND EVENTS

The HSA would like to thank all of the St. Matthias families that participated in our annual Fall Festival. The kids had a wonderful time, and we are looking forward to a bigger event next year!

Mark your calendars for Pancakes & PJ's on December 21st. Kids will have an opportunity to make holiday crafts, and we'll have a special visitor from the North Pole.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ October 11 — Family Dinner Night at Chipotle – 9301 Woodmore Centre Dr., Lanham
- ▶ October 12 — Confirmation Meeting at 7:00 pm in the Hughes Center
- ▶ October 20 — Pizza Friday (Forms due October 16)