

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL

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



THIS WEEK'S BROWN ENVELOPE INSERTS...

November Calendar
December Lunch Order Form
Sweetheart Dance Tickets
Save Around Coupon Book flyer
Box Tops flyer
Terra Nova Home Report



From the Principal's Desk

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES will be held on Thursday, November 2nd from 12:30 to 4 PM and 5PM to 8 PM. This will be a half day of school. Pre-K will dismiss at 11:15 and grades K-8 will dismiss at 11:30. Reminder; **THERE IS NO EXTENDED DAY.** Please be prompt with student pick-up so that teachers can prepare for conferences.

UNIFORM POLICY: The school uniform is a sign of our identity as a community. Students show pride in their appearance and school spirit by being properly attired. There have been questions regarding the school Uniform recently. Please see the Parent/Student Handbook (pages 14 through 16) for the complete Policy. Page 16 explains the uniform policy in effect through April 20th. Students will be issued a Dress Code Violation slip for failing to follow this Uniform Policy.

INCLEMENT WEATHER STUDENT DROP OFF:

Students may NOT enter the building before the bell rings at 7:40 AM. If there is inclement, (snow/rain) or cold weather (32 degrees and below) in the morning, the parking lot gates will be open for parents/guardians to pull in and line up in the same manner as for afternoon pick-up. Students may stay in the car with their parent/guardian until the bell rings at 7:40 AM.

All cars must enter through the Hale Street Gate, line up as per The Parking System (*shown on page 10 of the Parent/Student Handbook*) and exit **ONLY** through the Caroline Street gate. **Cars may NOT exit the parking area until students have entered the building after the bell.**

St. Stephen School does NOT have a before school program.

We do not have the staff available to supervise students before school. We would also like to remind parents/guardians that we do not provide school yard supervision before the morning bell. (*see pages 8 & 9 of the Parent/Student Handbook for complete drop off and pick up policy*)

SERIOUS TRAFFIC CONCERNS AT THE MORNING DROP OFF:

It is imperative that parents use extreme caution when dropping students off in the morning.

- Please do NOT park or stop your cars, even for a "minute" in ANY of the crosswalks – this makes crossing the children dangerous as it impedes the crossing guard's line of sight.
- Please do NOT make illegal U-Turns on Grafton Street, Arthur Street or at the end of Caroline Street.

As you all know, this is a very busy traffic area and our number one priority is the safety of our students. The traffic issues listed above are a serious problem and must stop as the Police are taking notice.



ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL HAS LAUNCHED A FACEBOOK PAGE.

Please feel free to head on over, give us a like, and check back often for updates on upcoming events and school activities!

<https://www.facebook.com/St.Stephen.GraftonSt/>

REPORT CARDS - EDGE

St. Stephen School's attendance, progress reports and report cards are available 24/7 electronically.

- Parents of **returning students in grades 2-8** may use the log in information from last year; any siblings in Grade 1 will be added to your current log in.
- New students in grades 2-8** will be receiving log in information in this envelope.
- Students currently in grade 1** who do not have siblings in grades 2-8 will receive log in information in this envelope as well. Grade 1 will not have a report card until January.
- Kindergarten** students will receive a paper report card in January.

If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Mangaudis at the school. Thank you.

CONNECT ED: Our Connect Ed system is used to deliver important school information to you in a timely manner. This system is also used to reach you immediately in the event of an emergency, early dismissal, school cancellations, etc. If your contact information has changed or you are not receiving the messages, please contact Mrs. Mangaudis as soon as possible.

COUPON BOOK CAMPAIGN - November 1st - 30th

The Worcester Coupon Book sale has been a success for the school, and so many people loved giving the books as gifts, we decided to offer this service to our families again this year. Included in today's envelope is a flyer and an order form for the Worcester Coupon Book. The book is filled with coupons for Worcester area restaurants, entertainment, retail and services. The cost is \$25 per book and it now comes with a code for an App for even more savings. For every book that is sold, our school earns \$12.50. Do you have family and friends who live out of state? The listing of available cities and states is on the website listed on the flyer. The form should be completed with the customer's name, address, phone number, city/state, if not Worcester, and the number of books ordered. Payment is to be collected when the order is placed. Checks are to be made out to St. Stephen School. Books will be delivered in time for Christmas. We have a limited number of books available at the school if you wish to purchase one to show your potential customers and they will also be available to view and/or purchase during Parent Conferences. We hope you enjoyed using last year's book and will purchase one this year. Thanks in advance for your support.

Turn
the Page

COMING UP:

- **Wednesday, November 1** – Report Cards available on line
- **Thursday, November 2** – Parent Conferences 12:30-4 and 5-8 PM
 - **NO EXTENDED DAY**
 - ½ Day of School
 - Pre-K 11:15 Dismissal
 - K-8 11:30 Dismissal.
- **Saturday, November 4** – Sweetheart Dance
- **Sunday, November 5**, Daylight Savings Time Ends. Set clocks BACK 1 Hour.
- **Wednesday, November 8** – Genevieve Orders will be delivered
- **Thursday, November 9** – Casual for a Cause Dress Down Day \$2
- **Friday, November 10** – NO SCHOOL
- **Friday, November 17** – Chill Out, Grades K-8. Cost is \$1
- **Monday, November 20** – Thanksgiving Mass, 8:30 AM
- **Wed.-Fri., November 22, 23 & 24** – NO SCHOOL

Terra Nova Home Report – The 2017 Terra Nova Home Reports for students in grades 2-8 are included in today's envelope. It provides information regarding your child's performance on last year's test. We value the information that we receive about both the individual student and whole class performance from standardized tests such as Terra Nova. However, as educators, we are well aware that such tests are only one measure of academic performance. Your child's work and performance every day in the classroom remains the strongest indicator of both academic performance and work ethic.

Sweetheart Dance: Please contact the office if you wish to volunteer to help out. Donations can be brought to the Church Hall, November 4, 2017 from 12:00 PM through 2:00 PM or with your child the night of the dance. We thank you all for your efforts to help make this evening extra special.

Coat Collection: We are collecting new and gently used coats, hats, gloves and scarves for men, women and children. The items collected will be given to those in need in the South Worcester area. You may place donations in the box in the front hallway of the school. Thank you for helping us to keep our neighbors warm!

St. Stephen Parish has launched their new website www.ststephenworchester.org. The beautifully designed website is intended to be a source of information and a means of on-going evangelization for the people of Saint Stephen Parish. The site will also contain information pertaining to Saint Stephen School, Holy Family Parish, the Knights of Columbus and the Diocese of Worcester. Please consider adding St. Stephen's to your bookmarked websites.

Genevieve Fundraiser – Our school earned a profit of approximately \$1,500 from our first fundraiser. Thank you to all who participated!

Extended Day Bills will be sent home with the students on Friday, November 3rd.

Thanksgiving Food Drive – Donations of canned goods, boxed cereals, non-perishable foods and toiletries are being collected for the St. Stephen's Food Pantry. Items will be used to fill Thanksgiving baskets.

Children who are ill should not be sent to school. Children who have vomited within the last twenty-four hours must be kept at home. Children who have had a fever must be fever free for twenty-four hours before returning to school.

Contact Information: Please notify the school office if there is a change in your emergency contact information. It is critical that we have current phone numbers in the event that a student becomes ill or has an accident during the school day.

DEADLINES: Please note the deadlines on forms that are sent home such as Lunch Orders, Extra-curricular activity sign-ups, etc. These forms have deadlines that **must be strictly adhered to**. As we have deadlines to meet on our end, we are no longer able to accept forms returned past the due date.



PLEASE make out separate checks for lunch, milk, extended day, book orders, etc. We realize it is easier to write one check, but at school we have to separate the money in order to pay the different vendors who provide the services.

Also, please use the envelope provided or paperclip/staple the money to the form. It is very difficult to keep track of loose money in the brown envelopes or a child's backpack. Thank you so much for your understanding and attention to this matter.

Value of the Month: Gratitude

Our school community will focus on the value of gratitude during the month of November. Gratitude is the quality of being thankful and the readiness to show appreciation for someone or something.

"To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything He has given us – and He has given us everything"

Thomas Merton

BASKETBALL



We have student interest to play basketball for St. Stephen School again this year. We do not, however, have any coaches lined up. If you are interested in coaching a basketball team, please contact Mrs. Mangaudis as soon as possible as we are running out of time to put this program together. Thank you.



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 Judith Audette, 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.