



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."

Catholic Schools Week begins Sunday, January 28th 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!

READ PLEASE



Late Dismissal Pickups and Extended Day Charges: There has been some confusion regarding Extended Day Bills that have been issued to Parent/Guardian(s) for students who are picked up late at the end of the day (after 2:10 PM). This issue is addressed on Page 9 of the Parent/Student Handbook as follows...

"A person with an emergency situation regarding student's transportation at the end of the day must speak with the principal as soon as possible. Students will be placed in the Extended Day Program while waiting for their parent/guardian(s). Please refer to the Extended Day portion of this Handbook for more information regarding fees and policies."

It is impossible and unsafe for students to be "held" at the office for parent/guardian(s) who are late, for any reason, in picking up their child(ren). **We do not have after school supervision for students other than the Extended Day Program, therefore, you will receive a bill for this service which you are required to pay promptly.**

All Parent/Guardian(s) were required to sign an agreement upon receiving the Handbook at the beginning of the school year. This agreement states... *"By signing below, I/we confirm that I/we have carefully read and fully understand the provisions, policies, procedures and regulations set forth in this Handbook, which St. Stephen Catholic School has formulated so as to enable my/our child(ren) to take advantage of the unique educational experience provided by the School, and that they constitute essential terms of the contract between me/us and the School."*

We appreciate your cooperation, attention to this matter and prompt payment of outstanding charges.

This Week's Brown Envelope Inserts...

- February Lunch Order forms
- January Calendar
- Box Tops flyer
- Letter regarding Morning Drop-off
- Pre-K Speech and Language Permission Slip
- Extended Day Bills

Coming Up...

- Thursday, January 11, **Magazine Drive begins**
- Friday, January 12, **End of Term**
- Monday, January, 15, **NO SCHOOL**
- Tuesday, January 16, **Pre-K Speech/Language**
- Thursday, January 18, **Report Cards**
- Friday, January 19, **Pre-K Speech/Language**
- Friday, January 19, **Parent Forum 9AM** in the school
- Friday, January 19- **Chill Out** -Gr K-8 - \$1
- Monday, January 22 **-SWOMP**
- Wednesday, January 24 - **Magazine Drive ends**
- Sunday, January 28, **Catholic Schools Week Begins. Open House** from 1-3 PM
- Monday, January 29 - Catholic Schools Week **Mass** - 8:30 AM. All are welcome!
- Wednesday, January 31 - February Newsletter

WPS Pre-K "No School" Announcements: Recently, Worcester Public Schools have 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. We apologize for any confusion this has caused.

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 Family Night (by February) and the 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.

Catholic Schools Week: Volunteers are needed to cover classrooms for the Faculty/Staff Luncheon during Catholic Schools Week on Friday, February 2 from 11-12. The Volunteer Luncheon will directly follow from 12:00-1:00. We would also like to ask Parents to come in to speak to classes about their careers on Thursday morning, February 1st. If you are interested in helping out on either of these days, please call Mrs. Mangaudis at the school to sign up. Thank you!

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!

A Note from Mrs. Lorusso: Thank you to all who have donated coats. It is heartwarming to see someone put on a coat or to put one on their child and the smile it brings to their faces! It is truly a blessing!

We will continue to collect throughout the winter so if you have gently used adult or children's coats, hats, mittens, scarfs we will take them. *(The coats we have collected have been given out to people in the South Worcester area.)*

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. Capalbo 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.

Save those magazine subscriptions! Mr. Marks returns Thursday, January 11th to kick off the 2018 Magazine Drive. Which class will win the ice cream party?

REMINDEERS...

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.

Speech and Language Screenings for Pre-K students will take place on January 16 and 19. Permission forms are included in today's envelope. Please return them by January 10th.

BOX TOPS Congratulations to Grade 2, the winners for the Fall Collection! The next collection is Feb. 16th 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. 16th, too.



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 10th. 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 Kerrie Sacovitch (kls@wpi.edu), Kiera LaBonte (kierajane27@yahoo.com) or the office.

Family Night - Date to be determined. Family Night is a St. Stephen tradition of community-building and spirit-raising where families come together for an evening of food and fun. We are seeking 1 or 2 chairpersons and volunteers for the Planning Committee. Beginning in February, help choose a theme and program for the evening. New ideas and new parents are always welcome. If you want to help, but cannot meet in person, phone and email are great planning tools. Please contact the office to have fun being part of this special event.



GRADES 6, 7 & 8 MID-TERM TEST DATES

Grade 8:

Monday, Jan 8	Science
Tuesday, Jan 9	Social Studies
Wednesday, Jan 10	Religion
Thursday, Jan 11	ELA
Friday, Jan 12	Math

Grade 7:

Monday, Jan 8	Social Studies
Tuesday, Jan 9	Science
Wednesday, Jan 10	Religion
Thursday, Jan 11	ELA
Friday, Jan 12	Math

Grade 6:

Monday, Jan 8	Religion
Tuesday, Jan 9	ELA
Wednesday, Jan 10	Math
Thursday, Jan 11	Science
Friday, Jan 12	Social Studies

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.