

# ST. LAURENCE SAINTS

SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

## PTO FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT IS HERE!



Come and enjoy the annual **PTO Family Movie Night on Friday**, November 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the school gym. Bring your own chairs and/or blankets and join us for a fun night with friends and family as we watch "The Peanuts Movie". As in years past, various clubs will be selling pizza, popcorn, drinks, and glow sticks for all to enjoy!



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Did you know that St. Laurence is leading the way in our Archdiocesan Catholic Schools in providing the most specialized services for students with needs that cannot be met in the regular classroom? We are blessed to be able to support students with pull-out or push-in services for those students that need individualized or small group instruction, in order to perform to the best of their ability and reach academic goals. Meeting this need was extremely important to us, as it fulfills our mission of serving all of God's children. Families with children who had disabilities or required more one on one instruction in the past have had to seek expensive outside resources or leave St. Laurence for public or a specialized school in order to meet the needs of their child. This often resulted in families having to forego their desire for a Catholic education or the separation of siblings. It was a dream of ours for many years to provide a program that could meet the needs of these children. We are now fortunate to be blessed with our SPICE (Special People in Catholic Education) Program that makes it possible for more students to learn in an environment of faith and inclusion. By accepting and educating students with all kinds of different learning needs, our entire student body learns important lessons on acceptance and the understanding that we are all born with different gifts. We now have 14 students benefitting from SPICE, with a dedicated staff of 2 full time, and 2 part-time teachers, a SPICE Liaison (who is also one of our teachers), an instructional assistant and the Director of Support Services.

Unfortunately, this specialized instruction comes with a cost that makes it very expensive for those families. In order to ensure that tuition costs stay affordable for all of our SLCS families, they absorb the cost of the teachers and resources dedicated to SPICE. This amounts to double the regular tuition on average! Many of the families would tell you that this is worth every penny in order for their child to receive a strong Catholic education; however, it is a huge financial burden. In case you were wondering, we do not charge for any other specialized pull-out instructional program like BLS or Enrichment offered at St. Laurence.

You have probably heard us talk about SPICE but may not have fully understood how this program works or who benefits from this type of instruction. I would like to personally invite all of you that are interested and want to learn more to our SPICE Luncheon on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 in the Parish Hall. There, you will hear more about what we are currently doing and what is still needed in order for us to fully live out our mission. You can even talk to some of the parents about the difference this program has made for their children and hear from our guest speaker, Charleen Katra from the Archdiocesan Office of Evangelization. This Luncheon is very important to us, not only as a way to inform, but to raise funds so that we can continue the important works we are called to do as a Catholic School. Please let us know if you are interested in attending or helping by contacting Suzanne Byrne at [sbyrne@stlaurence.org](mailto:sbyrne@stlaurence.org).

God Bless,

*Mrs. Barto*

### IMPORTANT DATES

11/3	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Service Project – Mamie George
11/4	All School Mass Led by 5B PTO Family Movie Night
11/6	Daylight Savings Time Ends
11/7-11/9	Classroom Spelling Bees
11/9	Jean/Spirit Day Pancakes With the Padres
11/10	NJHS Meeting NEHS Meeting 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Music Program
11/11	All School Mass Led by 6B SPICE Luncheon 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall



## SCHOOL BOARD CONNECTS



### MEET OUR SCHOOL BOARD SILAS GIRGIS



Our family was blessed with the opportunity to relocate to the Houston area nearly 2 years ago. While the choices to live and opportunities for a strong education were bountiful throughout the greater Houston region, our opportunity as a family to grow spiritually, academically, emotionally and socially were all met through St. Laurence. We have been graciously welcomed by parishioners, our host family, many of the teachers, staff and administration that all play a part in the role of a transitioning family to St. Laurence.

As Christianity is the foundation of our education at St. Laurence, so is the spirit of our community. The emphasis of our spiritual growth knowing that God lives in us and his works are accomplished through us gives me great pride in our School. It is through HIS love, mercy and compassion that our spiritual growth continues along-side the education of our children. Together as a community we are a family and this is what St. Laurence means to us.

My wife Artesia and I are blessed with three precious gifts from above, our 9 year old son Ayden who is in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, our 6 year old son Andrew who is in Kindergarten and our 3 year old daughter Sauyer-Grace who is a St. Laurence hopeful. It is these three precious gifts that continue to challenge and drive our spiritual determination to lead as an example and share in the blessings of our community. We are so grateful and blessed by St. Laurence and excited for the opportunity to serve in our community.

**LAST CALL TO GIVE FEEDBACK ON HOMEWORK, PARENTS!!**

Please take a minute and answer these questions regarding homework [HERE](#).



## A NOTE FROM YOUR PTO



### PTO FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all the students that registered for Steps for Students last Friday! It's not too late to register! All registrations both snoozers and walkers will receive a T-shirt. Unlike Yankee Candle almost 100% of the money comes back to St. Laurence. Funds raised will be used to pay for Family Rosary, Family Movie Night, Hoops and Dogs, Father Daughter Dance and much, much more. Please go to <http://steps4students.org> and register. See the flyer [HERE](#) for all the incentives for this fundraiser.

### ATTENTION 8TH GRADE PARENTS!

Please turn in your child's shirt for the 8th grade quilt to your teacher. Please send you baby/ child picture to Kristin at [Ckholy@windstream.net](mailto:Ckholy@windstream.net) ASAP!



## NEWS

### THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ANNUAL TUITION ASSISTANCE GOLF TOURNAMENT

We were blessed with amazing weather and many dedicated volunteers at our Golf Tournament for Tuition Assistance on Monday. As befitting Halloween, the morning began foggy and misty as the golfers headed out but when it burned off, we were blessed with the perfect sunny day! A huge thank you to the Haddad family and Solvay for sponsoring this year, along with

Solvay Specialty Polymers & Solvay Chemicals  
Reverend John T. Weyer Council #11343 Knight of Columbus  
Tykes to Teens Pediatrics and Allergy & Asthma Care of Houston  
Nectron International  
Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital  
Memorial Hermann Surgical, First Colony  
Merc Medical Supply Company  
Hettig Corporation  
MRP, Ventures, LLC  
Newmark Homes  
Hettig Construction  
Sun Air Conditioning  
Martha and Carlos Abello  
Bright Star of Sugar Land  
Fairway Square Apartments  
Joe Ochoa Roofs & Even More  
Southwest Surgical Associates, LLP

### HELP MAKE CATHOLIC EDUCATION AVAILABLE FOR ALL! SPICE LUNCHEON IS NEXT WEEK!

Make plans now to join us for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual SPICE Luncheon, Friday, November 11th at 11:30 a.m. Charleen Katra, Associate Director with the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston will be the keynote speaker at this amazing event, and very own Ms. Bonno will perform with our students. This is always a very special day for our school and you do not want to miss it! Tickets are \$60 and include lunch by Pappas BBQ. Please RSVP to Suzanne Byrne [HERE!](#)

### CONTACT YOUR FRIENDS! OUR ONLINE FAMILY DIRECTORY IS UP AND READY FOR USE

Our Family Directory is finally now posted on Edline! Please review your family's information and if you have changes, email Mrs. Marie Brown, [mbrown@stlaurence.org](mailto:mbrown@stlaurence.org).

### CALLING ALL CARPOOL PARENTS!!

We are still experiencing some problems with morning carpool that are holding up the line and causing safety issues. Please do not use the ECC line if you have a child that only goes to the Main Campus. You should not park and allow



your child to walk over from the ECC Campus to avoid carpool lines. The main campus line goes much faster if cars turn right out on Austin Parkway, so thank you for adhering to the cones and not driving around them!

We will be contacting parents personally from now on in order to ensure that things run smoothly for everyone and the children enter the building on time. **If we all work together and follow the rules, the line moves very quickly.**

Lastly, the crossing guard ladies who are kind enough to cross our student walkers are experiencing many of our families not following the laws pertaining to “no right turns on red” in a school zone or failing to remain at a full stop while students cross in the crosswalk. Please keep our children safe!!! If your child is a walker to the corner and not all the way home, you must get out of your car and personally meet the group at the corner. **We will not send students through the Ave Maria parking lot to find your car or enter the building without an adult.** Thank you for understanding!

### SHARE GOD’S BOUNTY

SLCS is proud to assist in this HUGE Thanksgiving food drive! Our 8th graders play a significant role as they will assist in the collection process and host the hospitality desk for this Parish wide service project. This year the school has been asked to provide all the pantry items for Share God’s Bounty! See flyer for donation requests [HERE](#). All donations may be sent to school with your child. Questions? Contact Adriana Gutierrez [agutierrez@stlaurence.org](mailto:agutierrez@stlaurence.org).

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BOX TOP\$ FOR EDUCATION WINNERS

**Congratulations to our BOX TOP\$ WINNERS! We collected 3516 box tops.** The results from the second box top collection are:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>4B</b>	<b>830</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>K1</b>	<b>521</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b>3B</b>	<b>378</b>

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Teacher receives free dress and students receive free shoe pass on Nov. 3rd.

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> get a small prize from the Spirit Store on Nov. 3rd.

A special thanks for the Catholic Daughters for helping us with our collection! We really appreciate all their help!

### 8th GRADE CALENDAR

Wow! Can you believe our kids are 8th graders? Many of our kids have been at SLCS for 11 years! This was the last class to have attended PreK 3. Well, needless to say this is an exciting year for our kids with a lot of activities and events. We need your help to make this a great year for them. Because there are so many events, we wanted to give you an 8th grade at a glance calendar [HERE](#)!

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

We are so blessed to be celebrating 25 years as a parish school! Please mark your calendars for our Mass & Celebration on January 28, 2017! It will be a fun day at the school with food trucks, activities and reminiscing! We will conclude our day with Mass with the Cardinal and our very own Father Drew! If you would like to assist in making this a day to remember, please contact the Advancement Office at 281.980.0500.



## ALUMNI NEWS

Once a Saint, Always a Saint

### SAINTS’ SCOOP

Preparation is underway for our next edition of the Saints’ Scoop. We want to know what our Saints been up to since leaving SLCS. Please send any information you might have on any alum to our Advancement Office [HERE](#)! Please be sure to include the graduation year in your description. Thank you!



## SAINTS SPORTS SCOOP



## **SPORTS UPDATE**

The Saints are finishing up a very successful fall season! Congratulations again to the Football and Cross Country teams for winning GHCAA Championships! Tennis has a few weeks left and continues to play well and improve.

Basketball games will begin next week. The schedules for girls and boys basketball will be posted on the basketball pages under athletics on Edline. The boys open at home on Monday, November 7th against St. Vincent DePaul. The girls open the next day, Tuesday, November 8th also taking on SVDP.

**BOOSTER CLUB SPIRIT STORE!** Find the Booster Club forms [HERE!](#)



## **PARISH NEWS**

### **ST. LAURENCE PARISH MISSION**

Fr. Dave Pivonka returns to St. Laurence to invite parishioners of all ages into a more profound life giving relationship with the Holy Spirit. This is a relationship marked by the love of God which breathes life into our daily existence that will take us on the greatest adventure imaginable — a journey to the very Heart of God. For more info click [HERE!](#)

### **WANT TO CONTINUE LEARNING ABOUT YOUR FAITH WITH OTHER ADULTS?**

Our Adult Faith Formation team has some amazing opportunities for our parents. Click [HERE](#) for the upcoming opportunities and speakers. There is truly something for everyone!



## **AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE**

### **INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE**

Mark Your Calendars! Incarnate Word Academy will host an Open House on Sunday, November 6th from 1:30 until 4:30pm. All middle school students and their parents/guardians are cordially invited to attend. There will be a keynote speech at 1:45pm followed by guided tours where you can see our beautiful downtown campus and interact with faculty, staff, and students who love IWA! Visit [www.incarnateword.org](http://www.incarnateword.org) and join us on the Journey!

### **ST. JOHN XXIII OPEN HOUSE**

Registration for St. John XXIII is now open on the SJ23 website under the Admissions tab. Our on-line applications are now available at [www.sj23lions.org](http://www.sj23lions.org). The SJ23 Information Night for prospective parents is Tuesday, November 8, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

### **CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL CHEER CLINIC**

Kids ages 5 thru 6th grade welcome to attend Clements Cheer Clinic. Learn proper stretching and jumping techniques, as well as a cheer and dance routine. Saturday, December 3rd from 9:30 AM -12:30 PM. Check-in begins at 9:00 & parent show-offs begin at 12:30 p.m. Clements High School Girls' Gym. \*\* For all details, contacts, and registration information, please visit our website at [www.chscheerclinic.weebly.com](http://www.chscheerclinic.weebly.com)

### **2016-2017 AFF SPEAKER SERIES**

Join Deacon Larry Vaclavik, deacon at St. Theresa's in Houston and Adjunct Lecturer at the University of St. Thomas Graduate School of Theology, for an exploration of what the bishops of the United States teach about faithful citizenship, conscience formation and voting. For more information, click [HERE!](#)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*As a pastoral instrument of the Church, St. Laurence Catholic School educates and develops the whole Christian person in body, mind, and spirit through the trinity of parent, child, and educator.*

CONNECT WITH US!



St. Laurence Catholic School

| 2630 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, TX. 77479

| 281- 980- 0500