

ST. LAURENCE
SAINTS

SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

DECEMBER 14, 2016

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



See you in the hallways Tuesday, January 3, 2016!



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Families,

I want to wish everyone a blessed and joyous Christmas, as well as a wonderful start to the new year. On behalf of the St. Laurence Catholic School staff, thank you for your continuous support and generosity. We are blessed with such an amazing community of parents, staff and students, and as you celebrate and enjoy time with your family over the holidays, please keep in mind those that need our prayers. We have included a little token of our appreciation in all the students' backpacks today to help remind us of all our SLCS blessings.

As we look to the new year, I am reminded of our scripture from Revelations about making all things new!! May God refresh you and allow all of us the opportunity to be renewed in 2017. Thank you for a wonderful year in 2016.

God Bless,

Mrs. Barto



I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them (as their God). He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, (for) the old order has passed away." The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true." He said to me, "They are accomplished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water."

Revelation 21:1-5

IMPORTANT DATES

12/15	Middle School Retreat First Grade Service Project
12/16	All School Mas Led by 7A Christmas Caroling and Parties End of 2 nd Quarter Early Dismissal 10:45/11 a.m. Last Day of School in 2016!!!
1/3	Students return to classes
1/4	Steps for Students Kick Off
1/6	Class Picture Day All School Mass Led by 8A
1/7	MD Anderson Blood Drive for Mr. Stone
1/8	Pancakes with the Padres SHS Meeting Jean/Spirit Day with NFL or Football Jerseys!!



SCHOOL BOARD CONNECTS



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the Strategic Plan the School Board is working on will now include a section on Student Life? This is the first time we have solicited input from the students as part of the plan. A committee consisting of the PTO Presidents and Counselors is working on this section with input from the Booster Club and auxiliary teachers. A survey was recently conducted to find out how the students feel about overall safety, extracurricular activities and events we provide. We also asked them about the types of things they were interested in outside of school. At this time, we are going through the results and are looking forward to finding out how our students are feeling about what is offered to them at SLCS!!



A NOTE FROM YOUR PTO



PTO PRAYER GROUP TOMORROW!

Join the PTO Prayer Group for our last prayer session of 2016. With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we could all use a little extra prayer time. Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 15th at 8:15 a.m. in the St. Joseph Room (Ave Maria Center). All are welcome, even young siblings! We pray you can join us!

REGISTER FOR STEPS FOR STUDENTS

If you haven't already please register your child for Steps for Students [HERE](#). The holidays are a great time to get family to sponsor your children. With sponsors it will be easy for each child to reach the \$100 goal so they can participate in all of the incentives. Remember St. Laurence gets 100% of all the money donated unlike in other fundraisers. For all incentives please see the flyer [HERE](#).

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Following Mass, Friday, December 16th, the students will enjoy Christmas caroling and classroom parties. Elementary & ECC parties will serve snowballs (white cheese balls), a sugar cookie, candy cane, and a juice pouch. If your child has a food allergy, please click the link with photos of all of the ingredients [HERE](#) and decide if an alternative snack is necessary. Early dismissal 10:45/11:00 a.m. Have a blessed Christmas and we will see you back at school on Tuesday, January 3rd!



NEWS

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES BEGINNING MID-JANUARY

We have some very important news to share regarding arrival and dismissal procedures beginning mid-January. The City of Sugar Land has informed us that there will be a major construction project involving the complete blockage of the two Sweetwater entrances to the parish complex for several months. This project will involve closing off the northbound lane of Sweetwater and Austin Parkway closest to the Church from Stephens Grant to Hwy. 6.

The southbound lane closest to the Ave Maria Center will become two-way. You can imagine the complexity of this plan, as it affects not only St. Laurence, but surrounding neighborhoods and schools. You are asked to look for routes to and from school that will allow you to enter the north driveway off of Austin Parkway (where main campus carpool begins and ends) for arrival and dismissal. **This now includes ECC carpool families.**

We have been working closely with the city and the parish to come up with a plan that facilitates alternative procedures that ensure the safe arrival and dismissal of our students. Understandably, this will involve complete cooperation from the entire school community in order to cause less disruption to your child's school day. This project has been planned for quite some time and will take place in several phases. For more details, you can access this link [HERE!](#)

We strongly urge you to come up with carpool arrangements and have included a list of neighborhoods [HERE](#) in order for you to coordinate with SLCS families that live nearby. I would suggest that you find a common meeting place (i.e. Chick-fil-A parking lot, Starbucks, etc.) along your route and elect one person to drive the students in to the school. Look at this as a way of building community! Having less cars in our carpool will be the **best** option in order to start and end school on time. Students will still be counted tardy, so please don't plan to be late to avoid carpool! We will make adjustments, if necessary once this new procedure has been in place.

We have placed a new video with the carpool arrival and dismissal information on the website. You will need to view this and share it with anyone who may be picking up or dropping off students. Here are a few things that are **VERY** important in order for carpool to work safely:

- There is NO cutting through the parking lot or turning early in the middle to avoid driving all the way down to Sweetwater. This will only back up traffic onto the street.
- **We will now open all doors to the school at 7:30 a.m.** (including ECC) to allow students inside the buildings. Main campus students will sit quietly outside their classrooms, while ECC students will sit in the Parish Hall until 7:40 when they can proceed to their rooms. This will begin the second week in January.
- Please limit coming back up to the school unless you are asked to volunteer or pick up your child. You are not supposed to bring forgotten items anyway. **The ONLY entrance open during the school day is the Chapel Drive.** We will still close the North entrance due to students on the playground.
- You **MUST** have your carpool number prominently displayed so that the volunteers and staff can see it easily! Leaving it at home, having it laying on the dashboard or trying to hold up the correct number of fingers will only delay carpool for everyone! ☺ If you need a new number please let us know.

Please practice your new route over the break if necessary and make arrangements with families that live near you so that we will all be ready once this construction occurs. Thank you for your patience as we work together to facilitate a workable solution to this temporary inconvenience.

WATCH UPDATED CARPOOL PROCEDURES VIDEO [HERE!](#)

SLCS CHEER CLINIC

SLCS Cheer Clinic! Learn Chants, Cheer, and Dance to be performed at Catholic Schools Week Pep Rally on January 30, 2017. Registration Due By December 15th. Print attached form to register [HERE](#)!

BOX TOPS WINNERS!

The results from the second box tops collection are:

Class	Count
7B	274
3B	163
5C	138

Congratulations to our winners! First place has free shoes on Dec. 15th. Second and third place get a small prize on Dec. 15th. The total box tops collection was 1329. Thank you for all your support!

STUDENT COUNCIL SERVICE PROJECT

Super Kids-Super Sharing! Start Collecting NOW! Please donate NEW and GENTLY used books, games, school supplies, and sports equipment; also bring no longer used cell phones- these will be refurbished and donated to shelters. The Student Council is coordinating this service project sponsored by the NFL and the Houston Texans to help children in our community. As you shop for Christmas or receive new items think about donating to children in need this Christmas. Start gathering items at home and we will collect all items the week of January 9th-13th when we return from break. Thank you for your generosity!

TUITION PAYMENTS

Reminder! If you are paying tuition by semester, the second payment is due soon! All second semester payments must be received by January 6, 2017, in order to avoid the \$25.00 late charge. Contact Mrs. Brown, the Registrar, if you have questions.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE STORY!

Our Lady of Guadalupe shared at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass by Spanish Club made it to the to the following pages on th4e Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe:

National Catholic Education Association: <https://www.facebook.com/nceaorg/>

Today's Catholic Teacher: <https://www.facebook.com/TodaysCatholicTeacher/>

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicSchoolsHouston>

The children did a beautiful job sharing the story reverently and we're proud of them!

CALL FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES

Happy Holidays from St. Laurence Catholic School! As we close out the fall semester and move into the spring semester, 7th graders are busy working on their annual Science Fair projects. We are recruiting judges for our fair on Thursday January 12th and would like to invite engineers, geologists, health care experts, and community members with a background in science to consider serving on our judging panel. Parents and family members of current 6th and 7th graders are not eligible to judge. Please contact Mrs. Alexander salexander@stlaurence.org if you are interested in serving on our judging panel. Thank you for your support of our Middle School Science program.

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT FAMILY CHRISTMAS GIFT?

Consider purchasing the 4th Annual SLCS Family Retreat for your family this Christmas season! Enjoy spending quality time with your family the weekend of March 31st, 2017. The retreat brings SLCS families together to share community, fun, and practical wisdom as we endeavor together to foster the domestic church in our homes. The retreat facility holds approximately 30 families so space is limited to a first-come, first-served basis. Early Bird registration will be available through Friday, March 10th. Click [HERE](#) to print the registration form. Contact Debra Haney [here](#) with questions.

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SLCS YEARBOOK! USE THE BALFOUR APP!

Our Yearbook photographers can't be everywhere! If you've got great photos of school events, or you and your friends just having fun, please share them with us. The more photos you share, the better our yearbook will be for everyone! Download the Balfour App and share them from your cell phone. Our project number is #720467. Questions? Contact Adriana Gutierrez at agutierrez@stlaurence.org.

EARLY DISMISSAL REMINDER

Reminder! Early dismissal **must** take place before 2:45 p.m. (Page 36 of Family Handbook) Please do not contact the front office after that time and ask for your child to be sent to the office or change carpool arrangements.

IMPORTANT UPDATE! BLOOD DRIVE AT SLCS BENEFITING RICHARD STONE!

Many of you know Richard Stone, our longtime Band Director. He is currently traveling to MD Anderson each day for blood and platelet transfusions as he battles cancer. One thing that we can all do to help him and MD Anderson is to donate blood and platelets. Donations are down from their usual levels at this time. If you are willing and able to help, please consider making a blood and/or platelet donation. Mr. Maklary is organizing a local blood drive that will be coming to St. Laurence on Saturday, January 7th. Click [HERE](#) to schedule your appointment and click [HERE](#) to view the flyer that provides more details!

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE HAD AN INITIAL INTEREST SURVEY A COUPLE WEEKS AGO. THAT IS NOT THE OFFICIAL SIGN UP FORM. IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE, YOU MUST CLICK THE NEW LINK ABOVE TO SIGN UP FOR A SPECIFIC TIME.

Additionally, you may also visit MD Anderson to make blood and platelet donations year round. For more information about that, click [HERE](#).



COUNSELORS' CORNER

Mrs. Markum and Mrs. Schurman want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We are taking this opportunity to give you an update on what is going on with Positive Works Program.

- Student coalition is meeting once a month and doing a great job. The students are working on a Positive Works Student Pledge that will be incorporated into weekly announcements in January.
- Student coalition volunteers worked on a skit about a positive gaga pit with the help of Mr. Fucik. To view the video, click [HERE](#)!
- Parent coalition parents are continuing to meet to help us keep the program alive in the school community.
- After meeting with parents, students and the coaches, the +Play Well message will also be added in the spring semester. These reminders help us work as a trinity to reinforce the + Positive Works mindset. Watch for the new Positive Works +Play Well banners that will be added as well as +Play Well cards to be given out at sporting events.



25 ANNIVERSARY

1.28.17 2:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE! WE NEED YOU HERE!

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 family day at the school with scavenger hunts, photo booth, food trucks, reminiscing and fellowship! 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 advancement@stlaurence.org or 281.980.0500.

DRIVE FOR 25! Save your quarters and make plans to participate in our Drive for 25, January 25, 2017 in honor of our 25th anniversary on the 100th day of school!!! We will have a student quarter drive to assist a local school and a 25 hour online giving day! Stay tune for more details but until then save those quarters!



AUCTION NEWS

FABULOUS AUCTION OPPORTUNITY

For the first time in our 25 year history you have the opportunity to support your auction with sponsorships that will directly defer the expenses of this fabulous event and give you a tax write off in 2016! Don't delay! Click [HERE](#) to see what is still available. Please note sponsorships are separate from underwriting. Sponsorships are a great way to advertise your business and help the school at the same time. Underwriting information will be sent home to all families in January. Questions? Contact one of the 2017 Auction Chairs.



ALUMNI NEWS

Once a Saint, Always a Saint

SAINTS' SCOOP

Alumni: be in the lookout for our next edition of the Saints' Scoop. Our alumni magazine will be emailed to our alumni the first week in January! Stay connected and share your news! We always love to hear from you! Don't forget to include your name and graduation year in your description. You are welcome to share pictures too! Send them to Adriana Gutierrez at agutierrez@stlaurence.org.



SAINTS SPORTS SCOOP

BASKETBALL

- The girls' Varsity Team placed 2nd at the St. Agnes Tournament and the Girls JV Team finished 2nd at the Houston Christian Tournament this past weekend. Congratulations to all the girls!
- Both JV and Varsity girls will play in the St. Vincent DePaul Invitational January 4th-7th
- Boys Varsity Basketball is undefeated and in first place in the league going into the break.
- JV and Varsity boys will play in the Hoopin' on Hillcroft Tournament January 5th-7th

SPRING SPORTS

- Registration is now open for baseball, softball and track on the Athletic website.
- All 5th-8th grade students are eligible to participate.
- Please go to stlaurenceathletics.org to register.
- You may pay online on the website or send a check made out to St. Laurence to the office.

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



PARISH NEWS

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!

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

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