

# ST. LAURENCE SAINTS

SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

APRIL 26, 2017

**CONGRATULATIONS SLCS!**

SLCS was honored to receive a national award last week!

Our school was awarded the Innovation in Education Award (ICE) for Community Involvement. This was announced at the National Catholic Educational Association Conference (NCEA) in St. Louis, Missouri. We were recognized by Today's Catholic Teacher for contributions in the areas of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) for staff working together to improve students' instruction and implementation of the +Works program, which involves using positive communication.

**Faculty and staff, families, students, benefactors, and community all are a part of this award!**

**WAY TO GO, SAINTS!****IMPORTANT DATES**

4/27	STUCO Meeting ECC Oratoricals and Showcase 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip
4/28	All School Mass Led by 5C First Friends/New Parent Coffee after Mass Anniversary Ordination Father Drew
4/29	<b>AUCTION GALA</b>
5/1	PTO Meeting and End of Year Luncheon
5/2	Leo Officers Meeting 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Art Field Trip Finance Committee Meeting
5/3	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip
5/4	Elementary Field Day Band Concert

	<b>Chick-Fil-A Spirit Day</b> Read more <a href="#">HERE!</a>
5/5	All School Mass Led by 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade May Crowning
5/6	First Communion Group Mass 10:00 a.m.



Dear Parents,

The four of us that attended the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) workshop in St. Louis last week had a wonderful time meeting other Catholic educators, reviewing resources and learning about all current trends in education. What a gift to see so many other Catholic schools representatives together and to be recognized for our work in Community Involvement. We all agreed that the highlight of our trip was attending Mass in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis one morning! This is definitely something I would recommend if you have a chance to visit that city.

While looking through the many opportunities for professional development, we noted that we were on track with our goals of implementing more Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) into our lessons. The added subjects of Religion and the Arts create the term STREAM and you will be hearing a lot more about that as we continue to work on improving our instruction and challenging our students.

As part of our effort at meeting the needs of our students, we began conducting weekly classroom meetings last Friday in order to address some of the concerns that have come up regarding negative behavior and constant teasing and/or bullying that occurs in and out of our school. Please see the **Counselors Corner** below for a definition of bullying and some tips for you as parents. As part of the trinity, we need your help in staying up to date on the technology and social media your child is using. This is where a lot of the problems are happening and you would be amazed at what students are saying to each other without your knowledge. I challenge every one of you to check your child's phone and accounts and consider not allowing these devices be used without some supervision. I know it is hard to resist the temptation to purchase these things for your child when "everyone else has one", but it is important that you monitor them and limit their use. Our young students are exposed way to early to inappropriate shows and information, when they don't have the maturity to resist temptation. We are planning to hold some meetings and workshops in the fall to address the issues with social media and technology, so I hope you will attend!

Have a wonderful week and I hope to see you on Saturday for our exciting Auction Gala!

*Suzanne Barto*



**PLEASE CONGRATULATE YOUR NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2017-2018**

Nora Sessions	Shawn St. John
Jackie deGroot	Silas Girgis
Tish Cox	<u>Newest Members</u>
Marlene White	<b>Tunde Cardozo</b>
Svenya Elackatt	<b>Maria Jorissen</b>
Christina Hinojosa	



## A NOTE FROM YOUR PTO



### PTO PRAYER GROUP

We meet this week, Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. in the Ave Maria Center, St. Joseph Room. After you drop your kids off, come grab a cup of coffee, and start your day in prayer. You will be glad you came! All are welcome!

### WE HAVE A FEW REMAINING SPOTS REMAIN OPEN ON OUR FABULOUS PTO BOARD FOR NEXT YEAR

If you have an interest in helping our school and be a part of this great group that supports our students and staff so well, please let us know. We can use your talents in several areas and are always looking for great volunteers. The following area has spots open at this time:

- Co-Fundraiser - Work on Steps for Students

Meetings are held once a month on Tuesday mornings! Please email Kristin Holy at [ckholy@windstream.net](mailto:ckholy@windstream.net)

### LUNCH ROOM DUTY, WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!!!

Parents we are in immediate need of lunch room volunteers. It is a great way to see your child and all their friends. It is also a great needed and appreciated role. If you are interested in even doing a day a month or more please email Crystal Helcel at [cfh102198@gmail.com](mailto:cfh102198@gmail.com).



## NEWS

### ELEMENTARY FIELD DAY

Elementary Field Day (Grades 1-4) will be held Thursday, May 4th at the Main Campus. Teams are designated by Colors. Therefore, we encourage your child to wear something to show his or her team color and spirit, for example: T-shirt, cap, hair accessories, and socks. Be creative, you may have soccer, basketball, dance or baseball shirts in the appropriate color or trade with friends. Students must wear the uniform shorts and appropriate footwear. Shirts should meet handbook requirements.

Field Day is a fun, non-competitive, outdoor activity. Please be sure that your child will be comfortable and protected while participating in Field Day. SUNSCREEN SHOULD BE APPLIED AT HOME. Water bottles, hats and sunglasses are recommended IF the child will keep them on. We do ask that parents NOT follow their child from station to station. Thank you. This year, children may purchase a sack lunch from Sami's cafeteria. Sack lunch will include a ham or turkey sub, chips, drink and a cookie. Cost is \$3.75. Students wishing to purchase the sack lunch must preorder by Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> [HERE](#). Students not purchasing lunch will need to bring a sack lunch for a picnic after the morning activities. We need volunteers and we are especially in need of donations of oranges, water bottles and coolers of ice.

[CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER!](#)

### STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICER ELECTIONS

The St. Laurence Student Council is looking for dedicated students who want to make a difference in the school. Becoming a Student Council Officer is a great way to learn leadership skills and help your classmates. The elections for the 2017-2018 officers will be on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Campaigning will begin on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Officers elected will be President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Publicity Chair. Click [HERE](#) for more details. Please turn in the intent to run form by Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have questions contact; Mrs. Betsy Brown at [bbrown@stlaurence.org](mailto:bbrown@stlaurence.org) or Mrs. Suzanne Garcia at [sgarcia@stlaurence.org](mailto:sgarcia@stlaurence.org).

### KINDERGARTEN CELEBRATION

What a year it has been! Please join us Friday, May 26th at 10:00 a.m. as we celebrate our kindergartners and their accomplishments. Come and listen to their joyful voices in song that day after Mass!

### GRADUATION INVITATION

We would like to invite our parish family to the graduation of the Class of 2017! Please join us at Mass at 6:00 p.m. on May 26th as we celebrate our 8th graders! It is such a joyful celebration and we love for you to be part of it! We wish them all many blessings as they move forward into their high schools and we will miss them on campus!

### **ATTENTION! TALENT SHOW AUDITION INFORMATION!**

It is that time of year to sing, play instruments, dance, juggle, joke or tumble your way into the 2017 Talent Show on Tuesday, May 30th! We love unique acts too! Auditions are open for grades 2nd - 8th grade. Once again we are using the same format for the audition process because so many of the students have busy after school schedules. Instead of holding live auditions in the gym on a certain day, each student wishing to audition will send in an audition video of no longer than 3 minutes by Tuesday, May 2nd. The audition video may be dropped off at the front office as a DVD or flash drive labeled with the student's name and marked TALENT SHOW AUDITIONS OR email Ms. Bonno at [jbbonno@stlaurence.org](mailto:jbbonno@stlaurence.org) with a video or youtube link attached. A group of performance experienced judges outside of St. Laurence will then view the audition videos and acts will be chosen for the show on June 2nd. The results will be posted at end of day on Monday, May 15th. An audition form **HERE** must be filled out, signed by a parent and turned in may be found below or on the Music bulletin board located by the Music Room 112. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Bonno.

### **YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW**

Order your 2017 yearbook today! Yearbooks will only be sold online for a limited time at \$55. Order now before it is too late. Yearbooks will be delivered in late August. Go to [www.balfour.com](http://www.balfour.com) and type St. Laurence, and purchase using a credit or debit card.

### **CLOROX WIPES NEEDED**

Spring has sprung, and we have lots of saints with the sniffles! If you can, please send a container of Clorox Wipes to the ECC and/or the main campus to be used to wipe down desks and door handles. We would like to keep everyone HEALTHY and HAPPY...THANK YOU!

### **CHICK-FIL-A THURSDAY!**

No Dishes! Great Dinner! Easy Fundraising! Just plan to go to Chick-fi- A on May 4th! While you are there, please ask the cashier for your receipt and place it in the labeled containers provided either inside the dining room or at the drive-thru. Chick-fil-A will graciously donate a portion of the sales to the Booster Club!

### **SERVE AS A "HOST FAMILY" FOR NEW FAMILIES ENTERING SLCS!**

Would you like to serve as a "Host Family" for new families entering SLCS? Our First Friends Program can use your help! Please email Nora Sessions **HERE**, for more information or if you would like to volunteer!

### **VIRTUS TRAINING AT ST. LAURENCE**

If you would like to volunteer for the school and have not received VIRTUS training, visit [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) and register for an upcoming training session. Now it the time! VIRTUS sessions are scheduled at St. Laurence soon!

-Protecting God's Children Classes being offered: May 27th from 8-11 a.m.

-Keeping the Promise Alive (Refresher): June 5th from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Both classes are being held in Marian Hall at the AMC. Register now!

### **STAYING ON TRACK DURING THE SUMMER**

We sent home flyers from the Summerbook Company. This is a way for your child to stay on track and not lose valuable academic progress over the summer. There is one page a day with math/science on one side and Reading/Social Studies on the other. These workbooks are grade specific and many of our parents have found them helpful. As usual, we will honor completion with an automatic grade of A in the first quarter if your child brings in the certificate of completion! For online access, please use [summerbookcompany.com](http://summerbookcompany.com).

We are also including a flyer from the University of St. Thomas regarding a Reading Skills Program Camp offered over the summer. Classes take place in Missouri City and Richmond. If you feel like your child needs the reinforcement, please contact them at 800-903-0162.

Check our website for **SUMMER READING LIST and SUMMER CAMPS!**





## AUCTION NEWS



**OUR AUCTION GALA  
IS THIS SATURDAY!**

**THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**READ AUCTION WEEKLY NEWSLETTER  
[HERE!](#)**

**FOLLOW SLCS AUCTION FACEBOOK PAGE  
[HERE!](#)**



## COUNSELORS' CORNER

### **INFORMATION ON POSITIVE WORKS / BULLYING-WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IS NOT**

We continue to implement the Positive Works mindset to help promote positive communication and support for one another. To ensure that this mindset is extended throughout the entire SLCS community, we need to work as a trinity. The staff can only address student concerns that are brought to their attention. To help with this process, teachers are conducting class meetings in order to help students realize the importance of kindness towards one another, as well as an avenue for the students to discuss concerns and inappropriate behaviors.

The counselors meet with student and parent coalitions during the school year, to communicate ideas in order to prevent and address areas of concern. The counselors and teachers work with students individually and through guidance lessons. [HERE](#) is a pamphlet with some tips for preventing and addressing student concerns regarding bullying and how to handle this at home.

### **CAUTION REGARDING NEW NETFLIX SERIES**

Parents, we also wanted you to be aware that some students have been discussing the Netflix show, "13 Reasons Why", based on the novel by Jay Asher. According to some sources such as Common Sense Media, the content of the show contains mature issues and disturbing scenes. Concerns shared are that there is no mention of seeking help by the teens, no mention of behavioral health and treatment options, and the teen's suicide is glamorized and very graphically portrayed. Please check out this information from the Catholic News Agency regarding this series [HERE!](#)



## SAINTS SPORTS SCOOP

## TRACK

The qualifiers from the track team will compete in the GHCAA Championship meet this Saturday, April 29th at Strake Jesuit. Below are the results from the Preliminary meet last Saturday. The TEAM did an outstanding job this weekend. **The Boys Team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Girls finished 5<sup>th</sup> ~WAY TO GO SAINTS!** The team set 3 GHCAA Records in the Girls 6<sup>th</sup> grade 800m Relay (Arielle Caranto, Melissa Coppedge, Jaelyn Rodriguez, Sydney Messersmith) and Reese Vannerson broke his own GHCAA records in the 800m and 1600m and 7 School records. In addition, many athletes set personal best at this meet.

Congrats to our 7 new school record holders: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls 800m Relay team listed above, Reese Vannerson (6<sup>th</sup> grade Boys 1600m & 800m), Luke Botard (8<sup>th</sup> grade Boys Shot put), Bryce Fucik (6<sup>th</sup> grade Boys 100m Hurdles), 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls 400m Relay (Bailey Brzezinski, Ana Garcia, Arielle Caranto, Jaylyn Rodriguez), and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls 800m Relay (Abby Fiedler, Alyssa Rodriguez, Abby Canal, Gianna Pane). Attached are the Team's Prelim Meet results by events. Yellow (GHCAA & School Record), Blue (School Record). Complete meet results are located at [www.ghcaa-track.org](http://www.ghcaa-track.org).

The team had 29 individual event qualifiers in the running and field events and 13 relays teams qualify for the GHCAA Championship meet. (GHCAA rules allow only one relay team from each school to advance to the Championships. We had 2 teams in the Girls 800m Relay in the top 8! Outstanding job and congrats to both teams. Unfortunately, only the A Relay Team will advance.)

## BASEBALL

The baseball team lost to St. Vincent DePaul in the semifinals of the GHCAA playoffs. The boys finished the season with an 8-4 record.

## SOFTBALL

The softball team won their first round playoff game over St. Rose of Lima 14-6. The team lost to St. Vincent DePaul in the GHCAA semifinals. The girls finished with a record of 10-5.

## TENNIS

Tennis completed their season. The 3 teams C, JV and Varsity all had successful outings and the players continued to improve and develop.

## CHEERLEADING TRYOUTS

Show your school spirit by being an SLCS Cheerleader or Leo the mascot! Open to girls and boys currently in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades. All interested cheerleaders or mascots must attend a meeting with a parent on Monday, May 8, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m. in the school gym. A parent must be present. Try-out practice will be held Monday, May 8th from 4:00-6:00pm. Tryouts will be on Wednesday, May 10th from 1:00-3:00pm. Please click [HERE](#) for additional information and print the forms that need to be turned in.

Summer Camp information will be coming out in the next few weeks.

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



## HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER THAT GRADUATED FROM SLCS? SHARE THIS NEWS!

Attention all SLCS Alumni! Join your alma mater for an end of the year Mass on Friday, May 26th, at 8:15 a.m. Be there to send off the 8th graders. Fr. Drew will bless the SLCS Class of 2013 (2017 graduating seniors) and afterwards, the PTO will host a small reception in your honor! Parents are most welcome, too. It's a great chance to reconnect with SLCS friends and teachers, tour the school to see how it has changed since you walked the halls, and (who knows?) you may even record a segment in the new TV Studio! Please RSVP to [advancement@stlaurence.org](mailto:advancement@stlaurence.org).

**JOIN OUR ALUMNI FACEBOOK GROUP [HERE!](#)**



## PARISH NEWS

VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE [HERE!](#)

### MINISTRY FOR FOSTER FAMILIES

Are you a foster or adoptive parent? A new ministry to support, educate and nurture families who are called to foster or adopt is being formed at St. Laurence. If you are interested in learning more or becoming a part of the core team to lead this new ministry, please contact [Martin Nguyen](#) at 832-419-4677.

### 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

### TIME FOR A CATHOLIC FAMILY NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK! GET YOUR TICKETS!

Celebrate Catholic education and come out to the ballpark on Sunday, April 30 @1:15pm for Catholic Family Day at the Astros. A portion of each ticket sold goes to Catholic education. Groups of 20 or more can contact Christian Liebenow [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) for additional information!

### BODIES IN MOTION SUMMER PROGRAM

Bodies in Motion Summer Program is designed to educate students and their families on the importance of an active lifestyle and healthy eating. Read more [HERE!](#)

### SUMMER VOLLEYBALL CAMPS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

Join IWA this summer to experience team-building fun at Incarnate Word Academy's Falcon's Nest! We offer volleyball camps to help middle school students develop leadership skills, practice athletic fundamentals and connect with other students! Register [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

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