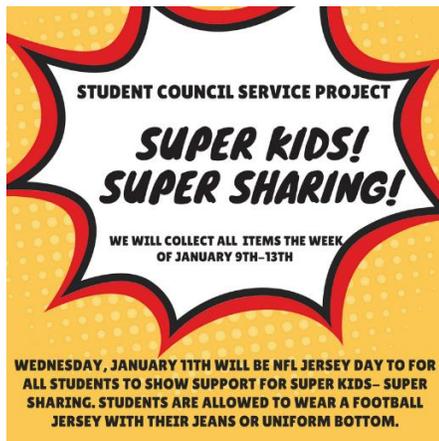


ST. LAURENCE

SAINTS

SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

JANUARY 4, 2017



STUDENT COUNCIL SERVICE PROJECT SUPER KIDS - SUPER SHARING!

Get Ready for the Super Bowl in Houston and donate to Super Kids-Super Sharing! Do you have too many things in your house? Do you have gently used items you can donate to schools and kids who need sports equipment and school supplies? Please Support Student Council Service Project Super Kids-Super Sharing!

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 who do not have all the supplies and equipment they need.

Start gathering items at home and we will collect all items the week of January 9th-13th. The Student Council members will be in carpool line next Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to collect any items you are able to donate. New and used items will be accepted.

There will also be collection bins in the main hallway in front of the library so donations can be dropped off any day next week. Please bring sports equipment, games, books, and school supplies. Used cell phones will also be collected for recycling and reuse.

Thank you for your generosity!



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Families,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas holiday and are enjoying a great start to 2017. It's so good to see all the students again and we are looking forward to a very busy and exciting January with both our 25th Anniversary Celebration and Catholic Schools Week. There is so much going on this month that you will definitely need to keep checking your calendar and reading the newsletter carefully. I know I am struggling to keep up! We begin with Steps for Students registration kick-off this week and I challenge all of you to "get in shape" both physically and spiritually by joining us that Saturday, February 18th. If you have not attended this wonderful family event in the past, you need to make it a priority this year. Come and join with our fellow Archdiocesan schools as we work together to raise money for Catholic education.

Monday, I reminded the staff of our scripture passage theme that we chose at the start of this year from Revelations, Chapter 21. The idea of God making all things new and a fresh new start is a wonderful reflection for the beginning of the year. I truly hope that you had a blessed time with your family during the holidays and are ready for a fabulous 2017.

God Bless,

Mrs. Barta

IMPORTANT DATES

1/5	Classroom Geography Bees
1/6	Classroom Geography Bees Epiphany / All School Mass Led by 8A Class Pictures Day
1/7	Blood Drive for Mr. Stone in the Dining Hall Group Reconciliation 10 a.m.
1/9	First Communion Parent Meeting 5:30-6:30 p.m. Happy Birthday Ms. Landrito!
1/10	Leo Club Meeting PTO Meeting Finance Committee Meeting
1/11	SHS Meeting Pancakes with the Padres First Communion Parent Meeting 1:00-2:00 p.m. NFL Jersey Day
1/12	NJHS Meeting NEHS Meeting MS Science Fair First Communion Parent Meeting 7:00-8:00 p.m.



SCHOOL BOARD CONNECTS



A Prayer for the New Year

Lord,
Whether I leave behind
a year of joy or of trials and difficulties,
I pause to *give thanks*.
Thank you for being with me
every day of every year.
Thank you for making all things **new**
and for giving me the grace of
fresh starts
and *new beginnings*.
Remind me of your presence in the days to
come,
even when I feel pushed and rushed by
busyness.
Be glorified in my life this year.
Amen

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM
YOUR SCHOOL BOARD!**



A NOTE FROM YOUR PTO



REGISTER FOR STEPS FOR STUDENTS!



Now that it is the New Year, it's time to start our fitness goals. What better way to start our fitness goals and teach our children about the importance of being active than with Steps for Students. Steps for Students is the 5k walk the Archdiocese does every year to help Catholic schools raise funds. All of the proceeds go back to the school the funds were raised for. This year Steps for Students is the PTO fundraiser. That means 100% of the money donated will go to funding fun PTO events like movie nights, PTO rosary, father/daughter dance, hoops and dogs, middle school dances, teacher wish lists and much, much more. Please register by January 31, 2017 at <http://steps4students.org/>. The race is on February 18, 2017. All incentives will be completed on the week of February 21, 2017. See the attached incentive flyer [HERE](#) for details.

IMPORTANT

- Click on St. Laurence to make sure the funds go to our school.
- Click on the name of the child to get the donation counted for their incentives.



NEWS

CLASSROOM GEOGRAPHY BEE

This week, our students are participating in classroom geography bees. We are consistently amazed at how much our students know about their world and the way our different countries work together for global awareness. The school-wide Geography Bee is next Friday! Good luck to all of our students!

PRAYERS FOR OUR STUDENTS

Please keep our 8th grade students in your prayers as they enter their last semester as SLCS Saints. Many of them will be taking a high school entrance test on January 21st, and we know they and their families would appreciate the extra prayers for them! It is an exciting time for all our students, no matter what their decision is for their high school years. We know they are prepared to represent St. Laurence wherever they go!

CALL FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES

Happy New Year from St. Laurence Catholic School! As we 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.

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.

4TH ANNUAL SLCS FAMILY RETREAT

Join us for the 4th Annual SLCS Family Retreat! 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.

REMINDER ABOUT ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES BEGINNING JANUARY

Latest information has this construction beginning the last week of January

This is an important reminder regarding arrival and dismissal procedures beginning in 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](#)!

CARPOOL/WALKER SAFETY AND PROCEDURES

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR CARPOOL VOLUNTEERS! WE APPRECIATE YOU SO MUCH! January is always a good time for a few reminders and with the construction coming up at the end of this month, it is necessary to reiterate a few things about our carpool and walker procedures. First and foremost, please slow down and get off of your cell phone in the parking lot. Not only is it illegal during school zone hours to operate your car while holding a cell phone, it is not a good way to depart from or greet your children for the day.

In the morning:

1. Those drivers using the ECC carpool line **must** have a student on the ECC campus and enter the line off of Sweetwater Blvd.
2. Those using the main campus carpool line must enter the parking lot from the north entrance of the school off of Austin Parkway and need to follow the carpool procedures all the way to the end of the church parking lot to turn around before getting into the line for drop off (**please** do not short cut even if the line is not yet backed up). I see this happening every morning!!
3. If you are dropping off at the main campus, please go all the way through the carpool line and don't drop off your child in the parking lot or park and allow them to walk by themselves.

In the afternoon:

4. Students should only be "walkers" only if they are walking to or from their home or riding their bicycle to or from home. Using "walkers" as a way to avoid the carpool line is not respectful of others or appreciated; it is a blatant disregard for the school's guidelines.
5. Parents meeting their student walker/bike rider should always abide by the directives of carpool volunteers, public school crossing guards and school personnel. Parents must physically get out of their cars and meet students at the corner, as we will not allow them to walk through the Ave Maria Center parking lot to you. This is a safety hazard and if you are not there, we will walk them back to the school, where you can pick them up in carpool
6. Parking in the adjacent neighborhoods and allowing your student to be picked up or dropped off there is not within the guidelines of the school's policy and is an annoyance to the neighbors. We have received complaints from neighbors about this issue!
7. Walkers must have a rainy day plan!

THANK YOU TO THOSE OF YOU THAT CONSISTENTLY FOLLOW THE RULES!!!!

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.



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!

SLCS TRIVIA

Things are really gearing up for our 25th Anniversary! We thought we would travel down memory lane with a bit of SLCS trivia over the next few weeks. This just might come in handy at our BIG celebration on January 28th from 2-4 p.m. Make plans to join in this family friendly event complete with student showcases, basketball scrimmages, performances, photo booth food trucks and plenty of reminiscing!

1. Did you know that when carpool began at SLCS we used paper plates for the numbers? The office staff and volunteers used “magic markers” to write the numbers on the plates, then put a slit at the top for parents to hang from their rearview mirrors.
2. Our school has only had four principals. Mrs. Renee’ Nunez, Dr. Nancy Taylor, Mrs. Debra Haney and Mrs. Suzanne Barto.
3. Mrs. Guedry is our one and only Middle school principal. She has been with SLCS for 22 years.
4. Have you heard that we use to have an art cart? Ms. Buckle came to us as our first art teach the second year the school was open and would visit each class one day a week with an art cart with her supplies until the first art classroom came to be in a temporary building outside the parish hall.
5. Mrs. Marie Brown is our only staff member that served as PTO president prior to working here.

Check back in next week for Elementary AP, BASC and alumni tidbits!

*Current and former students, parents and staff,
as well as SLCS friends are invited to join us in
the celebration of*



*St. Laurence Catholic School
Anniversary Open House
Saturday, January 28, 2017
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.*

*PIO Family Mass
celebrated by
His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo,
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston,
and concelebrated by
Fr. Drew Wood, St. Laurence Catholic Church Pastor
Fr. Jaison Thomas, St. Laurence Catholic Church Parochial Vicar
5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
RSVP to advancement@stlaurence.org*

WE NEED YOU HERE!

**1.28.17
2:00 p.m.**

We are so blessed to be celebrating 25 years as a parish school! Please join us 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 and Father Jaison!

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.



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

CALLING ALL ALUMNI BASKETBALL PLAYERS!

We are looking to have a little fun during our 25th anniversary celebration and need you for our alumni vs current player basketball scrimmage! Come reminisce about the good 'ol days, catch up with old friends, visit your beloved SLCS and see what is happening at your alma mater. Contact Coach Fucik or the Advancement office if you are interested in joining in the festivities on Saturday, January 28th at 2 – 4pm. Scrimmage to begin about 2:30pm. Please share with your former classmates, your parents, and your siblings! The event will be family friendly and will include food trucks, a scavenger hunt, tours, and other great activities.



SAINTS SPORTS SCOOP

BASKETBALL

The basketball teams are back and ready to continue their winning ways after break. GHCAA league games will resume on Monday, January 9th. The boys will host St. Thomas More on Monday and the girls will host St. Thomas More on Tuesday, January 10th. Games will be at 4:30, 5:15 and 6:15.

This Friday and Saturday the girls JV and Varsity teams will play at the St. Vincent DePaul Invitational. The boys JV and varsity teams will play in the Hoopin' on Hillcroft Tournament co-hosted by Westbury Christian and St. Thomas More on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

SPRING SPORTS

If your child is interested in participating in a spring sport please go to the athletic website to register. Go to stlaurenceathletics.org to register for baseball, softball, track and spring tennis. Please contact Betsy Brown, bbrown@stlaurence.org if you have questions.

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

| 2630 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, TX. 77479

| 281- 980- 0500