

**Volume 4, Issue 16 – January 11, 2017**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Fri, Jan. 13th**

* MAP Testing (Reading) Gr. 6L; 8:30
* MAP Testing (Reading) Gr. 6C 9:00

**Mon, Jan. 16th**

* MLK Jr. Day; No School

**Tue, Jan 17th**

* Chess Club; 2:00 – 3:00

**Wed, Jan. 18th**

* MAP Testing (Math); Gr. 2; 9:00
* MAP Testing (Math); Gr. 3M; 10:15

**Fri, Jan 20th**

* MAP Testing (Math); Gr. 1; 8:30

**Mon, Jan. 23rd**

* Gr. 6 Field Trip to Christa McAuliffe Center

**Tue, Jan. 24th**

* Chess Club; 2:00 – 3:00

**Wed, Jan. 25th**

* 2nd Trimester Mid-Point (PK-grade 5)
* 2nd Term ends (grades 6 – 8)
* MAP Testing (Reading); Gr. 2; 9:00
* MAP Testing (Reading); Gr. 3M; 10:15

**Fri, Jan. 27th**

* MAP Testing (Reading); Gr. 1; 8:30
* 11:30 Early Dlismissal Day; Busing provided, but No Hot Lunch or PM Extended Day Services provided

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**

In observance of MLK Jr, there is no school on Monday, January 16th.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It begins on Sunday, January 29th and runs to Saturday, February 4th . It is a time for all Catholic schools to focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

This year’s National Catholic Schools Week theme is *“Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service*.” The theme highlights the fact that not only are schools considered communities themselves, they are also part of many other communities, including families, parishes, cities and our country.

In addition, the theme focuses on key components of Catholic education: faith development, academic excellence and dedication to service. These elements set Catholic schools apart from other educational options. They are why families make sacrifices to provide a Catholic education to their children.

National Catholic Schools Week is also a time for me to say publicly what I think every single day: I am grateful for the dedication and commitment of our teachers, staff, administrators, board members, parents and volunteers who make our school a success. They help our community thrive.

**SFA’S GOT TALENT** – Once again, SFA will be highlighting its students’ talents with our annual SFA’s Got Talent Show, which has been scheduled for Tuesday evening, January 31st at 6:30 p.m. Additional Information and details have been attached to this email.

**RE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION -** It is the time of the year that we must begin the process of re-registration, as well as planning for the 2017 – 2018 school year.

This week, re-registration forms for students enrolling in our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs for the *2017 – 2018 school year*  will be sent home with students. These forms are also posted on our school’s website and will be due back by Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

Sibling registration forms will be available next Wednesday, January 11, 2017. They may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Daly.

Re-registration forms for grades 1 – 8 will be sent home on Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

**OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES -** *Do you have a friend or relative who might be interested in enrolling their child at SFA for the 2017 – 2018 school year*? If so, please invite them to attend our Open House, which will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Highlights of the day include the following: An information session; guided tours directed by SFA students; meet administration, faculty, and staff; hear from current students, parents, and alumni; and learn about SFA’s curriculum and extracurricular activities. In addition, prospective families may also visit our school throughout Catholic Schools Week (January 30th – February 3rd) from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Applications will be accepted (pending availability) on a first come, first serve basis. Enroll Today!

**NEW STUDENT REFERRAL PROGRAM** – “*Become a SFA Ambassador & Receive a $500 Tuition Credit”* (2017-2018 school year). As mentioned above, our annual Catholic Schools Week Open House will take place on Sunday, January 29th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and as in the past many of our families initially hear about St. Francis of Assisi School through a personal referral from an existing school family. We want to once again reward you for promoting our school to you family and friends! We recognize that our parents are our best ambassadors. The **Student Referral Program** awards a referring SFA family with a $500 tuition credit for each student referred to SFA and enrolls for the 2017 – 2018 school year. Attached to this email is the New Student Referral Program form, which outlines in greater detail how the program works.

**Important “NO SCHOOL” Information**

Now that inclement winter weather is here! Generally, we follow Braintree Public Schools regarding school cancellations and delayed school openings. Radio and TV stations will carry the Braintree announcement and we will also use the ConnectEd automated phone system to notify every St. Francis of Assisi School family of a “no school” announcement or message about a delayed opening. In addition, we will also post this information on our facebook page!

**Extended Day Program(Delayed Opening)**

When school is cancelled, there will be no morning or afternoon Extended Day Program. If a one-hour delay is announced, the before school program will begin at 8:00 a.m. If a two-hour delay is announced, it will open at 9:00 a.m. In the event of a snow emergency being declared in the Greater Boston area and/or an early dismissal at SFA, student must be picked up by 4 p.m. rather than the usual 6 p.m. deadline. On the chance that parents may not be able to leave work early, please have a backup plan in place for your child to be picked up by an alternate safe adult. Our goal is creating a procedure to ensure that all students and faculty members are transported safely in the event of a weather emergency. Thanks for your cooperation with this matter.

**Extended Day Program Weather Policy**

This policy is stated in our handbook but wanted to remind everyone of it as the winter weather is upon us! EDP is committed to ensuring the safety of SFA students, families, and staff. To that end, in the event of a snow emergency in the greater Boston area or early school closing in Braintree, the Extended Day Program will close by 4pm or may be cancelled entirely in an emergency situation. Parents will be notified of early closure of the program via Connect Ed or phone call/email from the Program Director. We ask that parents make alternate pickup arrangements for students in the event of a snow emergency if they must remain at work. Thank you in advance for your support in guaranteeing the safety of the SFA community. Please don’t hesitate to contact Mrs. Wilkinson with any questions about this policy.

**EDP Cancellation Notice**

There will be no Extended Day program held on Friday, January 27th (also an Early Dismissal Day, Release is at 11:30am). Please make alternate pickup and childcare arrangements for your children! THANK YOU!!

**MAP TESTING (WINTER SESSION)**

SFA along with other schools in the Archdiocese of Boston will continue to use and implement the *NWEA MAP* on-line assessment tool for all students in grades one through eight. This testing is not done to measure one school against another or solely to identify a student’s strengths or weaknesses. Test results are evaluated by teachers to assure that individual academic growth occurs and that the flow of curriculum avoids repetition and allows for our curriculum to fully benefit each child. Over the next six week, we will be administering the Winter Session assessments.

Listed below is the proposed Winter 2017 (January/February) schedule:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| 98:30 – Gr. 8 Math8:30 – Gr. 7 Math9:00 – Gr. 6C Math | 109:00 – Gr. 8 Reading9:00 – Gr. 7 Reading | 118:30 - Gr. 6L Math9:00 – Gr. 6C Lang. | 12 | 138:30 – Gr. 6L Reading9:00 – Gr. 6C Reading  |
| 16No School | 17 | 189:00 – Gr. 2 Math10:15 – Gr. 3M Math | 19 | 208:30 – Gr. 1 Math |
| 23 | 248 | 259:00 – Gr. 2 Reading10:15 – Gr. 3M Reading | 269 | 278:30 – Gr. 1 Reading |
| 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 610:15 – Gr.4 Math | 7 | 810:00 – Gr.3G Math | 98:30 – Gr.5 Math | 10 |
| 1310:15 – Gr.4 Reading | 14 | 1510:00 – Gr.3G Reading | 168:30 – Gr.5 Reading |  |

**Basketball (January) Schedules:**

**Grade 5/6 Girls**

Sat. 1/14/17 5:00 pm SFA vs. S. Boston Catholic S. Boston Catholic Academy

Fri. 1/16/17 5:00 pm SFA vs. St. Paul St. Pauls (Hingham)

Mon. 1/23/17 5:30 pm SAF Vs. Holy Family University Sports Complex

**Grade 5/6 Boys**

Fri. 1/13/17 6:00 pm SFA vs. Quincy Catholic Quincy Catholic Academy

Mon. 1/23/17 6:30 pm SFA vs. Trinity Catholic University Sports Complex

Wed. 1/25/17 6:30 pm SFA vs. St. Joseph St. Joseph’s (Holbrook)

**Grade 7/8 Boys**

Wed. 1/11/17 7:30 pm SFA vs. St. Agatha St. Agatha’s (Milton)

Wed. 1/18/17 7:30 pm SFA vs. Blessed Sacrament MPLEX

Mon. 1/23/17 7:30 pm SFA vs. Quincy Catholic University Sports Complex

Mon. 1/30/17 7:30 pm SFA vs. St. Mary of the Hills University Sports Complex

**GRADES 3 & 4 HOOP**

Ms. Marie Lenane has spoken with Mr. Brian French, the Director of the South Shore Parochial School League and has been granted approval to enter our 3rd and 4th grade boys and girls teams into the league. More information and registration form is attached to this email.

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS EDUCATION CONTEST**

The Catholic Daughters are sponsoring their 2017 National Education Contest. The themes of this year’s contest are “Whatever you do for the least of my brethren, you do for me” – Matthew 25:40; or “Helping the needy where I live.”

The categories that may be selected are: Art, Essay, Poetry, Computer Art, Music and Photography.

There are two divisions:

Division 1 Grades 4 – 5 Essay, Poetry, Art, Computer Art

Division 2 Grades 6 – 8 Essay, Poetry, Art Computer Art, Music, Photography

**The deadline for submission is February 2/10/2017. Please send your entry; along with the 2017 Entry Form to Mr. Cote on or before 2/8/17.** Cash prizes will be award at the conclusion of the contest.

Attached to this email is the 2017 National Education Contest letter outlining in greater detail the themes/divisions/categories/rules, as well as a copy of the 2017 Education Contest Entry form.

**HOLIDAY CALENDAR WINNERS 2017**

On Thursday, January 5th, we held Week 1 drawing of our Holiday Calendar Raffle. Congratulations to our winners!

**Date Prize Winner**

1/1 $50 Pat Gravelle

1/2 $500 Bob and Marie Clliford

1/3 $75 Villot Mars

1/4 $100 Brett Marcotte

1/5 $75 Virginia Polio

1/6 $100 Nicole Reynolds

1/7 $75 Susan Thorn

1/8 $250 Bill and Kim Hinthorne

1/9 $100 Cristan Ramage



A special word of thanks to all of our school families who have returned their Holiday Calendars and Congratulations to the winners above. Don’t Miss Out! If you have not, please return them by tomorrow, in order that they will be included in our second drawing that will take place tomorrow afternoon. Your support is greatly appreciated!

**CALLING ALL ALUMNI**

As families gathered to celebrate Christmas, St. Francis of Assisi School would like to offer its alumni four great ways to stay connected so that you can receive news about our school, alumni events, and alumni news. But, we need your help by updating your contact information by:

* Completing our on-line Alumni Update Form located on our school’s website ([www.sfab.org/sfabschool](http://www.sfab.org/sfabschool));
* Joining us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sfabraintree
* Sending your current contact information (name, address, city, state, zip, telephone, year of graduation) and email address as well as news about what you have been up to alumni@sfab.org; or
* Contacting us at (781)-848-0842.

Help us spread the news to other SFA alumni and parents of alumni and we look forward to reconnecting with you. Thank you for staying in touch.

**FACEBOOK**

Make sure you check and like us on our school’s facebook page.

[**https://www.facebook.com/sfabraintree**](https://www.facebook.com/sfabraintree)