

**Volume 4, Issue 18 – January 25, 2017**

**EARLY RELEASE DAY** – ***Please note that Friday is an 11:30 Early Release Day; Busing will be provided; but there is No Hot Lunch or PM Extended Day Services provided!***

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**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

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK** is now less than a week away! Listed below is a schedule of events for the week!

**Sunday, January 29, 2017: “Celebrating Our Parishes”**

* Open House for Prospective New Families (1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.)

**Did you know? Our new incoming kindergarteners will be the SFA Class of 2026.**

*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!*

***Please help us getting our message out … post it on your social media!***

**Monday, January 30, 2017: “Celebrating Our Community”**

* Visiting Day and Registration for Prospective New Families; (9:00 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.)
* Penny Game (8:20 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.)
* “Crazy Hat and/or Tie Day
* (School Uniforms must be worn)

**Tuesday, January 31, 2017: “Celebrating Our Students”**

* Visiting Day and Registration for Prospective New Families (9:00 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.)
* Penny Games (8:20 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.)
* All-School CSW Liturgy (8:45 A.M.)

**Parents & Friends of SFA – Come celebrate with our School Community as we celebrate at our liturgy together, as well as join us for coffee and refreshements following the litugy in our School Hall!**

* School Uniforms must be worn
* SFA’s Got Talent Show; 6:30 P.M. in the School Hall

**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. ***Come support all of our talented students!***

**Wednesday, February 3, 2016: “Celebrating Our Nation”**

* Visiting Day and Registration for Prospective New Families (9:00 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.)
* Penny Game (8:20 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.)
* Out of Uniform Day - “Red, White and Blue Day”

**Thursday, February 4, 2016: “Celebrating Vocations”**

* Visiting Day and Registration for Prospective New Families (9:00 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.)
* Penny Game (8:20 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.)
* No Homework Pre-K through 8
* Out of Uniform Day – “Team Pride Day” (favorite sports team gear apparel)

**Friday, February 5, 2016: “Celebrating Our Faculty, Staff & Volunteers”**

* Visiting Day and Registration for Prospective New Families (9:00 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.)
* Spelling Bee Finals
* Penny Game (8:20 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.)
* Pizza Lunch & popsicles for all students (no cost)
* Out of Uniform Day - “SFA Spirit Day” (blue & gold)

In addition to our Catholic Schools Week celebration, SFA will once again embark on an all-school read aloud initiative called One School, One Book. Throughout the week, all our students at every grade level will listen to the same book, *Who Was Amelia Earhart*? by Kate Boehm Jerome and illustrated by Nancy Harrison and David Cain. With this One School, One Book initiative, we aim to further build a community of readers at our school. As a follow-up activity, a performance of *Amelia Earhart:* Pioneer in Aviation by Sheryl Faye Presents Historical Women for Friday, March 24th.

Also, the students in grade 5 – 8 will conduct grade level Spelling Bees during Catholic Schools Week. The first-place winner of each grade level will then compete in our Regional Spelling Bee on March 9th at St. Francis of Assisi School. **Last year, SFA won the Regional Spelling Bee!**

In addition, our school will be conducting a school-wide canned drive. We are asking that students bring in canned good (corn, green beans, peas, fruits, baked beans, tuna, soups, etc. …) for our annual St. Francis of Assisi School “Souper” Bowl, which will benefit our St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. We would like to extend a word of thanks in advance for your generosity and support of this worthy cause. \* ***More information & details below!***

**\*PENNY GAME**

The Penny Game is a tradition and fun activity that the students enjoy playing during Catholic Schools Week, which will start on Monday and end on Friday. The object of the game is to get as many pennies as possible in your homeroom container, and hopefully no silver coins. Each classroom will be given a large container to be placed outside their classroom door. Between 8:20 – 8:30 each morning, students will try to get all of their pennies into their own classroom jar and as many silver coins as possible into their opponents. The classroom with the most pennies in their container, not the most money, wins the game. All the money raised during the Penny Game will go towards additional technology for our school. Please help us out by saving your pennies and may the fastest class win!

**\*SOUPER” BOWL**

During Catholic School Week, our school community will be having a “Souper Bowl.” Students are asked to bring in a can good (not only soups but canned vegetables, spaghetti-o’s, etc.) to be donated to the St. Vincent DePaul Food Bank at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. With that being said, there is a need for all canned good products, not just soups. We will be collecting the canned goods in two boxes and students may place their can good in either the Patriots or Falcons box playing in the upcoming Super Bowl. For every 50 cans, a touchdown is awarded: 7 points; for every 25 cans is a field goal: 3 points; and any amount under 25 can be an extra point. Whichever team collects the most canned goods wins! We will be charting the progress of points in the lobby and the winner will be announced on Friday. Thank you for your participation and support of our canned drive!

**CAR DECALS** – At a recent Principal’s Regional Meeting, Superintendent Kathy Mears provided us with auto window decals to be distributed to all students, faculty and staff members, and pastors. As we prepare for Catholic Schools Week 2017, the Archdiocese is leading a social media campaign, utilizing the Cardinal’s blog, and the distribution of 40,000 auto decals in its broad initiative to highlight and promote the importance of Catholic education throughout Massachusetts.

These auto window decals were distributed today, along with a letter that is attached to this email from Cardinal Sean, thanking families for their commitment to Catholic education and encouraging them to display the decals.

**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.

All re-registration forms for students enrolling in our Pre-Kindergarten – Grade 8 for the *2017 – 2018 school year*  have been sent home with students and are now due.

Sibling registration forms are also available and may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Daly.

**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 your 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 canceled, 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.

**MAP TESTING (WINTER SESSION)**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| 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 |  |



**SFA DRAMA CLUB** – “The Lion King” is coming to SFA in the Spring! SFA is excited to announce it’s Spring Musicial will be “The Lion King Jr”. So is your child is ready to sing, dance & act? Then the SFA Drama Club is for them! Any student in Grades 4 – 8 is welcome to join!

Additional Information and Forms have been attached to this email.

**Basketball (January) Schedules:**

**Grade 5/6 Girls**

**Grade 5/6 Boys**

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

**Grade 7/8 Boys**

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

**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 19th, we held Week 3 drawing of our Holiday Calendar Raffle. Congratulations to our winners!

**Date Prize Winner**

1/17 $75 Lianne Higgins

1/18 $100 Ellen Courtney

1/19 $75 Marianne McMorrow

1/20 $100 Joanne Doyle

1/21 $75 Audra McDonough

1/22 $250 Ann Hoyt

1/23 $100 Patricia Scibilio

**FACEBOOK**

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

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