

**Volume 4, Issue 15 – January 4, 2017**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Mon, Jan. 9th**

* MAP Testing (Math); Grs. 7&8; 8:30
* MAP Testing (Math); Gr. 6C; 9:00

**Tue, Jan 10th**

* MAP Testing (Reading); Grs. 7&8; 9:00
* Chess Club; 2:00 – 3:00

**Wed, Jan. 11th**

* MAP Testing (Math); Gr. 6L; 8:30
* MAP Testing (Language); Gr. 6C; 9:00
* Parent-Teacher Conferences (PK-Grade 5); 11:30 Early Dismissal for PK-Grade 5 students only; Lunch and PM Extended Day Services provided.

**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

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**January 2017** As we began this New Year, it was our hope that our students returned from a safe, healthy and wonderful Christmas break; ready to once again to be engaged in learning. Also as St. Francis of Assisi School begins 2017, there are three significant events that will soon occur: re-registrations, new registrations, and Catholic Schools Week 2017.

There are 6525 Catholic Schools nationwide, which are noted for their faith-filled education and academic excellence. National testing scores, high school graduation rates, college attendance and other data show that Catholic schools frequently outperform schools in both the public and private sections. We are among those numbers and are truly proud of our school for our: rich faith formation program, high academic standards and expectations, accomplishments of our students, and the opportunities they are afforded. Our current families, students and alumni are our best advertising and school ambassadors. They can and have witnessed the spiritual development as well as the personal and academic growth evident in each of the students entrusted to our care. We thank them for truly unlocking their child’s potential with a Catholic Education.

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

Next 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!

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2017** - The third important New Year event is Catholic Schools Week 2017 itself. Catholic Schools Week, scheduled for Sunday January 29th – Saturday, February 4th is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. During the week, we focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. We build community awareness of and involvement in Catholic schools throughout the country. And we honor those who contribute to the success of our schools—students, families, faculty and staff, volunteers, community supporters and local and national leaders.

This year’s theme is once again “Catholic Schools – Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service”.

**SACRAMENTAL MEETING FOR PARENTS (GRADE 2)**

Please Note: The Sacramental Meeting, which was scheduled for next week with Mrs. Diane Hopkins, has been postponed until Wednesday, February 1st due to a conflict. On this evening, Mrs. Diane Hopkins, Religious Ed. Director, will lead an informative meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall for second grade parents whose children (baptized Catholics) who will be receiving their First Communion and First Penance at SFA. Important information will be shared and books distributed. If for some reason you are not able to attend, please contact Mrs. Hopkins (dhopkins@sfab.org ).

C:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\3IVL1NON\MC900088966[1].wmf**PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Optional parent-teacher conferences for the grades Pre-kindergarten through five will be held on Wednesday, January 11th from 12:30 – 8:00 p.m. ***Students in these grades only, will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 11th.*** Buses will comply with our schedule and Extended Day Program will also be available.

Following your child’s progress on TeacherEase should assist you in determining whether or not to schedule a conference. We will be using the on-line system to make appointments for these conferences again this year. If you would like to schedule a conference, log onto https://pickatime.com/client?ven=11604701&event=284318. The site will be open on Friday, January 6th at 9:00 a.m. and close on Tuesday, January 10th at 8:00 p.m. You will be brought to a home page and need to use your email address and create a password to enter the site

**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:

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| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| 9  8:30 – Gr. 8 Math  8:30 – Gr. 7 Math  9:00 – Gr. 6C Math | 10  9:00 – Gr. 8 Reading  9:00 – Gr. 7 Reading | 11  8:30 - Gr. 6L Math  9:00 – Gr. 6C Lang. | 12 | 13  8:30 – Gr. 6L Reading  9:00 – Gr. 6C Reading |
| 16  No School | 17 | 18  9:00 – Gr. 2 Math  10:15 – Gr. 3M Math | 19 | 20  8:30 – Gr. 1 Math |
| 23 | 24  8 | 25  9:00 – Gr. 2 Reading  10:15 – Gr. 3M Reading | 26  9 | 27  8:30 – Gr. 1 Reading |
| 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6  10:15 – Gr.4 Math | 7 | 8  10:00 – Gr.3G Math | 9  8:30 – Gr.5 Math | 10 |
| 13  10:15 – Gr.4 Reading | 14 | 15  10:00 – Gr.3G Reading | 16  8:30 – Gr.5 Reading |  |

**Basketball (January) Schedules:**

**Grade 5/6 Girls**

Mon. 1/9/17 5:30 pm SFA vs. Monsignor Haddad University Sports Complex

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**

Mon. 1/9/17 6:30 pm SFA vs. Holy Family University Sports Complex

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**

Sat. 1/9/17 7:30 pm SFA vs. Catherdral Middle University Sports Complex

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. If you are interested in having your child play, more information will be forthcoming tomorrow with your child.

**Afterschool Enrichment Winter Program -** St. Francis of Assisi School will be once again offering chess instruction sponsored by Chess Wizard for students in grades K – 5. Let your child be part of a successful chess academy. Chess Wizards offers specifically designed classes that cater to all levels of chess ability. Each child is challenged by fun games and lessons from great chess teachers. It is proven chess enhances cognitive development in children, improves both verbal and mathematical skills, and increased all levels of academic performance. Our winter session will begin on Tuesday, January 10th … so don’t hesitate to register today on-line. More information about this program has been attached to this email-blast.

**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.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to the SFA School Community for raising $665.28 at our recent fundraiser held at the Chateau Restaurant in Braintree. A word of thanks to all who made this event such a wonderful success!

**CALLING ALL ALUMNI**

As families will soon gather 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](mailto: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)