

**Volume 4, Issue 3 – September 14, 2016**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Wed, Sept 14th**

* Back to School Night for Parents (grades 1 – 5) from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

(grades 6 – 8) from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Mon, Sept 19th**

* Grade 8 Penance Service; 1:00 p.m.

**Tue, Sept 20th**

* Grade 7 Penance Service; 1:00 p.m.

**Mon, Sept 26th**

* Grade 8 Yankee Candle Fundraiser ends
* Grade 3 Penance Service; 8:10 a.m.
* Grade 6 Penance Service 1:00 p.m.

**Tue, Sept 27th**

* Gade 5 Penance Service; 8:10 a.m.
* Grade 4 Penance Service; 1:00 p.m.

**Fri, Sept 30th**

* Professional Day – No School



**Mark your calendars – 4th**

**Annual Pumpkin Run – Sat. October 22nd – 10:00 a.m.**

**Technology Integration**

As we live our mission in “*preparing our students academically for this technological age*”, we at SFA are committed to providing our students with a rigorous academic program, as well as providing the necessary resources and tools to ensure that the integration of technology occurs in all of our classrooms. It is truly our goal to create 21st century learners and leaders. Our school takes great pride in striving to remain on the cutting edge with technology and currently, every classroom at SFA is equipped with an interactive Smart board.

Over the last few days, we began to rolled-out and distributed the iPads Airs to all students in grades four through eight as we continue the 1:1 iPad initiative. In addition, our iPad lab, which serves our students in grades pre-kindergarten through three is also equipped with 30 iPad Airs. In using these devices, it certainly enhances both the teaching and learning processes, as well as creates integrated, collaborative and interactive learning within our classrooms.

I would like to introduce and welcome Ms. Samantha Martin, our new iPad instructor who will begin in her new position next week. Finally,

I would like to express my appreciation and thank Mr. Bob Muldoon for all of his time and talents that he shares and offers us in order that many of these technological advancements and upgrades can take at our school.

**Helping Hands**

Our parents/guardians are truly a vital part of our school community. Throughout the school year, we invite and welcome your active partipcation and involvement at SFA. Attached to this email is our Helping Hands Form with various opportunities to volunteer and participate for some of our fall-winter activities and events.

**MAP Testing**

As I have mentioned in a previous communication, we, at SFA along with all of our 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.

Listed below is the proposed Fall 2016 (September/October) schedule:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| 19 | 20  9:15 –Gr. 2 Reading | 21  9:15-Gr. 2 Math | 22  8:20 – Gr. 1 Reading | 23 |
| 26  8:20 – Gr. 5 Language  8:20 – Gr. 6L Reading  9:30 – Gr. 1 Math | 27  8:20 – Gr. 2 Language  9:30 – Gr. 6C Reading | 28  8:20 – Gr. 6C Math  8:20 – Gr. 6L Math  9:30 – Gr. 5 Reading  9:30 – Gr. 4 Reading | 29  8:20 – Gr. 5 Math | 13 |
| 3  8:20 – Gr. 8 Reading  8:20 – Gr. 7 Reading  8:20 – Gr. 6L Lang.  10 – Gr. 3G Reading | 4  9:00 – Gr. 8 Math  8:20 – Gr. 3G Lang.  8:30 – Gr. 7 Language | 5  8:20- 6L Math  8:20-8 Language  10:00- 6C Math | 6  9:00 – Gr. 7 Math  9:00 – Gr. 3M Math  10:00 – Gr. 3G Math | 7  8:20 – Gr. 4 Language  8:30 – Gr.3M Lang. |



**Expectation Night (Grades 1 – 8):**

Our “Expectation Night” for grades 1 – 8 will take place tonight, Wednesday evening, September 14th at 6:00 PM for grades 1 – 5 and 7:00 PM for grades 6 – 8. This evening will give you an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and learn of plans and curriculum for the year

**4th SFA ANNUAL PUMPKIN RUN**

***Calling all runners and walkers!*** Join us at our 4th Annual St. Francis of Assisi School Pumpkin 5K Run (Walk) on Saturday, October 22nd at 10:00 a.m. at SFA. Following the run, there will be post-race festivities and awards! Don’t miss out on this event!

***Remember the first 100 registrants receive the free tee-shirt!***

***In addition to runners and walkers, we need sponsors and volunteers! Please consider a family or business sponsorships that will be listed on the backs of the Race Shirts. What a great way to advertise your business! Deadline is October 10th!***

**We need people to help set up, clean up, direct foot traffic, man the start and finish, and assist with post-race festivities. For more information, please contact Grace White at** [**gracekellywhite@beld.net**](mailto:gracekellywhite@beld.net) **or 617-501-1669.**

Attached to this email is the ***Pumpkin Run Registration and/or Race Sponsor Form. Families may also register online at RaceWire.com.***

**Parking -** We ask that parents ***do not*** park their cars in the Cumberland Farms’ parking lot while dropping off students in the morning or waiting for them at dismissal time. Since we have limited parking, we ask that you drop off and pick up children quickly, allowing other parents a parking space. Thank you for your continued support.

**Upcoming Enrichment Programs**

**SFA Junior Drama Club for Students in Grades 1 – 3 –** We are extremely excited to announce that this year, SFA will be once again offering a Drama Club for students in grades 1 – 3.The announcement of the show and more details will be forthcoming in next week’s communication!

**C:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\L8XLP95G\MC900150959[1].wmfSmall Group Piano Lessons** - Piano Playtime offers a unique music education experience using peer group motivation and a playful approach to teach children the piano. The program reaches younger children on their level using an age-appropriate curriculum and color coded system, workbooks, songs, props, and improvisation to keep them engaged. Lessons for older children include traditional studies of notation, theory, and staff music, which is easily transferable to other instruments. This approach gives students a solid foundation of musical knowledge, while balancing these concepts with a lighthearted, exciting tone to keep their attention. Group lessons have no more than three students per class which is the lowest student teacher ratio available in this setting. Our classes will be conveniently held at the SFA campus after school on Mondays.  Tuition is very affordable at only $65 per month with a onetime $25 registration fee for new students. Children between the ages of 3 and 14 are welcome to participate. For more information please visit www.pianoplaytime.com or call or e-mail Molly Howard at 617-999-8794 or pianoplaytime@yahoo.com.

**Individual Piano Lessons** – Mrs. Murray, our music teacher at SFA has limited spots available for indivudal piano lessons. For more information, please contact her at school 781-848-0842 or email her at [lmurray@sfab.org](mailto:lmurray@sfab.org).

**Chess Wizards** – Once again, SFA presents Chess Wizards for the Fall 2016! Chess Wizards is a premier chess education company providing fun, informative and challenging chess lessonsto students. Chess Wizards teaches children many important life concepts, such as learning the ability to win graciously and accept defeat with dignityand sportsmanship.Students will be divided into groups according totheir chess experience. At the end of this session, each student will have had the chance to participate in a mini-chess tournament. Attached to this email is a flyer outlining this enrichment program, dates, and registration information.

**Fall Archery**

*Ready … Aim … Shoot!* SFA once again welcomes back “On the Mark Archery” program as another Fall Enrichment Program for students in C:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\3IVL1NON\MC900417522[1].wmfgrades 4 – 8 that will meet on Wednesday afternoons beginning on October 12th until November 2nd. This program is only limited to 16 students, so enroll today! Attached to this email includes an Introductory Letter; as well as Emergency Contact Information and Archery Waiver and Release of Liability forms.

**Forms**

I want to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support and cooperation in completing the various forms.

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

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