

FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

St. Stephen School..." promoting academic excellence while nurturing students as active citizens rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church."

Dear SSS Families,

We are just past the halfway point, and as I type this, Catholic Schools Week is in full swing! Our theme this year is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." CSW kicked off with 10:40 mass at St. Joseph on Sunday, and we opened our school week by celebrating the Eucharist with students and faculty from St. Patrick, St. Joseph in Lucinda and Venango Catholic H.S. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the services or came out to show your support.

We also want to thank everyone who supported our Reverse Raffle on January 27th. The event was a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of a small army of volunteers who made the whole thing possible. Thank you!

This February also brings the start of the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th this year, and we will be celebrating mass here at the school at 10:45 a.m. that day. The mass is open to all of our families and friends, and we would look forward to having you present to celebrate with us.

During February we begin to make plans for the 2018-2019 school year. Our Open House for perspective families is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20th from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Family registration forms are enclosed in this packet and are due by Thursday, March 1st with the \$75 non-refundable fee. The finance committee will review the status of our budget and the family registrations to determine the tuition rate for next year. Please help us by returning your form and fee by the due date in order to inform you of next year's rate.

Finally, cold and flu season is again running rampant. Mrs. Kresinski has been treating a daily parade of headaches, coughs, sneezes, upset stomachs and more. We cannot overemphasize the importance of handwashing, proper diet and adequate sleep to help prevent the spread of illnesses. Thank you for your cooperation in stressing the importance of these behaviors at home!

Blessings!

Mr. O'Brien, Principal

SCHOLARSHIP / TUITION ASSISTANCE

Star Grant / Bishop's Tuition Assistance applications were sent to all families in January. If you qualify, please apply. The deadline to submit Star Grant / Bishop's Tuition Assistance applications to the Diocese is April 16, 2018. **Applications must be received at the Diocese by this due date.**

Other scholarships, grants and tuition assistance applications will become available within the next few months. Preschool through eighth grade students are eligible to apply for all assistance. All are strongly urged to apply to Star and Children's Scholarships and all other funding sources. Any new registered family may apply. We are awaiting word about the Kremer Foundation Grants (K-8). Information on these will be passed on once we receive it.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY RECORDS

The records are included in this packet and reflect all hours turned into chairpersons or the school office. If you have worked hours that are not recorded, please contact the event chairperson to have this corrected. This mid-year report reminds you of your volunteer status. Opportunities are still available to work your hours. The Easter Candy Sale, Steeler Raffle, monthly lottery sales, Gas Raffle, Spaghetti Dinner and Chinese Auction and athletic events are events remaining for the year. Call to volunteer. No money is due at this time. Balances remaining will be charged to your account before year's end. Thank you. If you did not receive a record, please let us know.

VIRTUES

The virtues of Honesty and Love are the focus for February. There are many ways to apply honesty and love in our daily lives. Honesty includes taking responsibility for our actions. Love is shown in sharing, service and caring for others as summed up in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (I Cor. 13: 4-7)

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 2/10 – 2/11 Boys Basketball Tournament and Cheerleading Competition
- 2/12 Early Dismissal at 1:30 p.m.
- 2/14 Ash Wednesday. All school mass at 10:45 in the SSS gym.
- 2/15 Grades K – 1 – 2 travel to the Barrow Theater for "Pinocchio"
- 2/16 Act 80 day.
- 2/16 Chinese New Year
- 2/17 Cheerleading competition at St. Michael School in Greenville
- 2/19 Snow makeup day from the 1/5 cancellation. President's day.
- 2/20 Open House from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- 2/21 Home & School meeting 6:15 p.m. School Advisory Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 2/22 All school mass at 10:45 a.m. in the SSS gym.
- 2/23 PK and Kindergarten conferences all day. No PK or Kindergarten classes.
- 2/28 Hoss's Family Night fundraiser
- 3/1 School Penance service at 1:00 p.m.
- 3/6 Registration for all grades from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 – 2:30 p.m. No Kindergarten.