

OCTOBER 5, 2023

## OCTOBER

October is upon us, and 36 days of school are now behind us. Please be sure to log into FACTs and check your child's grades (grades 3-6). We still have 5 weeks remaining in the first trimester before report cards. It is not too late to encourage your child to improve their grades.

## OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, Oct. 9	No School, Columbus Day
Tuesday, Oct. 10	No School, Staff Retreat
Wednesday, Oct. 18	Early Release K-8 1:00 pm
Friday, Oct. 20	Trunk or Treat 4:30

## SCHOOL SAFETY

We continue to monitor the school security and safety of our children. We check the outside doors routinely throughout the day. When teachers leave the building with their classes, they have either a cell phone or a walkie-talkie with them. The staff and students practice drills routinely for fire, intruder, tornado, and bus evacuation. The Crystal Lake Fire Department observed our fire drill evacuation procedures on Monday and were very impressed with the orderly way the building was evacuated. Today, the Crystal Lake Police Department observed our lockdown procedure for an intruder. We do the state required lockdown, but we are training in ALICE for such critical incidents. In the event of a true intruder, teachers will decide, based on the information given, whether to lockdown or evacuate. We will be informing you as we progress with rolling out the ALICE training which is not just for the staff but also the students and parents.

Yesterday, Fr. Bob, Mrs. Ruffolo and I attended the Illinois School Safety Conference. It provided us with

much information that we will be referring to as we rewrite our crisis and reunification plan.

## PTO MEETING



*October*  
**PTO MEETING**

PLEASE JOIN US!!!  
**OCTOBER 6, 2023**  
**8:00AM**  
**MRS. HOUSTON'S OFFICE**

**HOT TOPICS!**

- TRUNK OR TREAT
- DAUGHTER DANCE
- WINTER FUNDRAISER
- MARKETING PLAN
- SLICE THE PRICE

WE WILL ALSO BE OFFERING A ZOOM OPTION FOR ANYONE WHO IS UNABLE TO JOIN IN PERSON, PLEASE SEE LINK BELOW:

JOIN ZOOM MEETING  
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/831836380237](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/831836380237)  
PWD=B19ROUXFB3DURHJLAHFMBUFOSKORUT09

MEETING ID: 831 8363 8023  
PASSCODE: 258754

Please contact Jen Abraham, President,  
[jjsabraham@gmail.com](mailto:jjsabraham@gmail.com) (815) 307-5370 with questions

## MASS INTENTIONS

Reminder: the School Masses can be offered for someone special. Please stop in at the school's main office to make your request. The suggested offering for a Mass intention is \$10. These funds do not go to the school but become a part of the overall parish mass intentions.

## HOPE FOR HAITIANS

We have heard from our friends at the Hope for Haitians Project. They have sent us a huge thank you for our amazing help with last spring's Lenten project. Our support was a real game changer for the communities they assist.

They were able to improve the quality of life for people in northern Haiti because of our donation.

- Build houses
- Send kids to school
- Train local leader
- Expand the goat project to improve food security
- Install solar lights to enhance safety
- Improve healthcare in rural villages



## OCTOBER RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER



### RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER NIGHT!



We will be having a Restaurant Fundraiser at the Crystal Lake Culver's (400 Pingree Rd. location) on

### Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

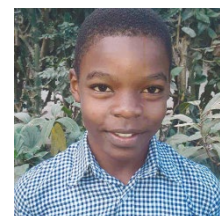
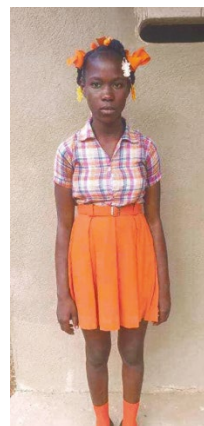
**We will receive 15% of ALL sales between 5:00pm and 8:00pm!**

- Some of our wonderful staff from St. Thomas will be running the food to your tables! The children LOVE seeing their teachers outside of school!
- Please tell your families and friends, so that we can raise money for our wonderful school!
- Drive thru or Dine in!

**Please bring this coupon with you or simply mention St. Thomas to Culver's!**

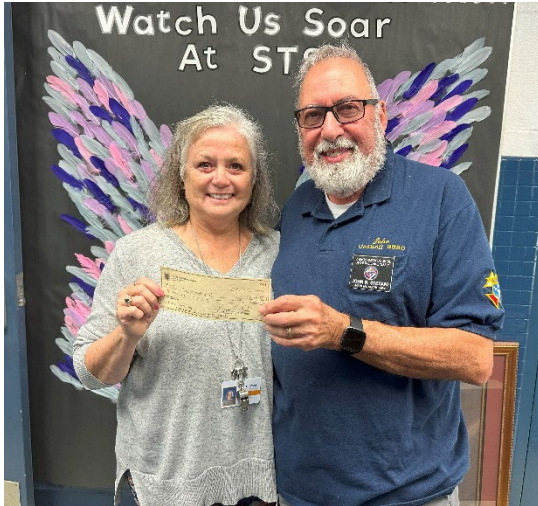
If you have any questions, please email Karly Fisher at [karlymfisher@gmail.com](mailto:karlymfisher@gmail.com).

**THANK YOU!!!**



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The McCormick Council of the Knights of Columbus at St. Thomas Church have been very generous supporters of St. Thomas School. Today, John Stefani, a Knight and dad of 1999 graduate, Katie Stefani, brought a generous donation to school. This will go towards our tuition assistance fund. Please thank the Knights by supporting them in return. Check out the Knights of Columbus Breakfast each month or visit their food truck whenever possible.



## FOOD PANTRY

The Crystal Lake Food Pantry provides food and supplies to individuals and families in the Crystal Lake area. They distribute over 14,900 pounds of food each week to our families in need relying on the support of the community.

Tomorrow is the first Friday of October. Students are allowed to be out of uniform (please follow appropriate attire as outlined in the handbook) and are asked to “pay” for this privilege with an item for the Food Pantry.

### MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Canned chili or stew
- Tuna
- Canned meat
- Hamburger helper
- Instant potatoes
- Pasta
- Rice
- Canned tomatoes
- Toilet paper
- Cereal
- Peanut butter
- Pancake mix
- Jelly
- Crackers
- Sugar
- Flour
- Diapers (size 5 & 6)
- Flour

## EMPOWER ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIPS

As you know, the fall veto session kicks off in less than three weeks, which is the state legislature's next opportunity to extend the Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

The TCS Community has been working hard over the past several months to prepare for this important fight, and we want to thank everyone who has contacted their legislator, attended a rally, posted on social media, put up a yard sign, or participated in one of our advocacy trainings.

As we enter the final weeks of the #SaveMyScholarship campaign, we hope we can count on your continued support. Here are some ways you can help:

- Contact your legislator. Even if you have already done so, writing to them again continues to make it clear that this program is still incredibly important to their constituents.
- Join us in Springfield. Veto session is October 24-26 and November 7-9. Please contact [Bobby Sylvester](#), Director of School and Community Partnerships, for assistance with coordinating travel.
- Post on social media. Please feel free to use the sample posts below and be sure to tag us @EmpowerIllinois on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and @EmpowerIL on [Twitter](#).

The choice is clear: extend the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program or let the dreams of 9,500 low-income students in Illinois slip away. Do your part and tell your lawmaker to make the right choice at [savemyscholarship.org!](#) #SaveMyScholarship

Praying with you and for you,

Mrs. Houston