

JANUARY 11, 2024

Dear Families,

Welcome back to school! New year and new beginnings.
... like the threat of snow days!!

In the event that D47 calls an emergency snow day, St. Thomas will also be using an emergency snow day. St. Thomas has established emergency snow days as e-learning days. Each class has a Google Classroom and assignments and instructions will be posted for the snow day. If a student needs clarification or assistance with the assignment, please request a google meet appointment with the teacher. This will provide a face-to-face opportunity for the teacher and the student to discuss the assignment via a virtual platform. Be sure to read the instructions carefully as a teacher may request a google meet for the entire class.

Assignments during e-learning will be due 2 days after the return to in-person learning.

Assignments on Friday January 11 would be due on Wednesday January 17.

If you have any questions, you can simply email your teacher for clarification.

Notification of a snow day will be through text messaging and email as well as a post on our website.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

The National Catholic Education Association's celebration of Catholic schools is January 28 – February 3. St. Thomas will be kicking off the week long celebration with our Open House, Fun Fair and Student Showcase.

Open House – this year we are focusing our *Open House* on prospective families as we hope to increase our enrollment. We will be starting this prospective family open house at 12:30 pm. This will allow prospective families a time to tour the school, speak with the faculty and get a better understanding of the amazing opportunities at St. Thomas School.

Our Fun Fair and traditional student showcase will open at 2:30 pm. This is when we are inviting our current families to join us for fun and games in the gym at the Fun Fair, browse the awesome student projects in each classroom, and marvel at the art creations in the cafeteria.

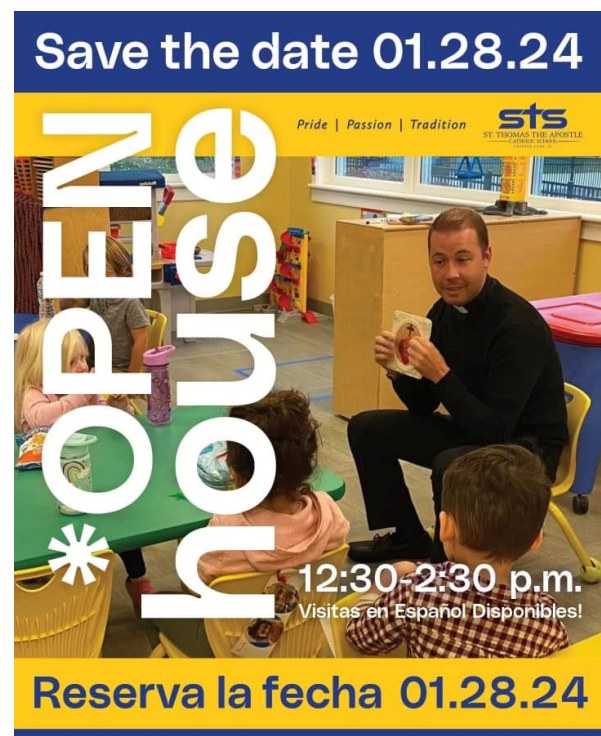


STS Fun Fair
STUDENT SHOWCASE IN THE CAFETERIA

January 28th
2:30-4:30

St. Thomas School
student projects, fun games, prizes, raffles and snacks
\$15 for 25 tickets
Cash ONLY sales

Contact Carmen Zepeda for more information
mariazepedaalvarez@gmail.com



Save the date 01.28.24

Pride | Passion | Tradition

NEWSPROSC

12:30-2:30 p.m.
Visitas en Español Disponibles!

Reserva la fecha 01.28.24

PE NEWS—SKATING TIME!!

Beginning on February 5, 2023 our Physical Education classes will be participating in an in-house skating program.


The skates will be delivered directly to the school. Due to insurance purposes, we will be exclusively using Skatetime School Programs® skates.

Please see the permission slip and skate size form attached to this newsletter.




Volunteers will be needed. Sign up coming soon.

CHESS CLUB



St. Thomas School Information Sheet



Winter Chess Club 2023-24
Fridays 2:15 – 3:15pm 10 meetings
Jan. 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23
March 1, 8, 15
\$120 per student

Contact info:
Bright Knights Program Director: Cook Williams 708-792-3252

Chess can be used as a means to improve a student's academic performance, self esteem, and also:

- Concentration
- Memory
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Pattern Recognition
- Creativity
- Logical Thinking
- Analysis

Visit us at: www.brightknightschess.com (708) 792-3252 (219) 440-2219

Registrations accepted online at:

www.brightknightschess.com

Billed through FACTs

24-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Planning for the new school year is in progress. Thank you to all who have returned their intention forms for next year. We still have close to 30 families that we have not heard from. Please complete the attached survey regarding your intentions for next school year. As you realize, the budget is dependent on the number of students and the number of faculty members. We need returning student information to determine the cost to educate and therefore the tuition for practicing members. The participating parishes are St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Mary's in

Huntley. Thank you for your prompt attention to the attached form.

Returning student information is required by the Diocese in order to determine the most accurate Cost to Educate. Fewer students because of low return to the survey, will drive the Cost to Educate higher. Please let us know ASAP your intentions for the education of your children for the 24-25 school year.

MASS INTENTIONS

Reminder: 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 intention fund. Please contact Ms. Boppart in the main office of the school to make a request.

PARISH EVENTS



Let's raise some Dough!

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY

DATE:
TUESDAY, JANUARY 30TH

LOCATION:
GEORGIO'S CHICAGO PIZZERIA
75 E Woodstock St, Crystal Lake
815-459-8888
11 AM - 9 PM




Georgio's will donate 20% of the sales to your organization for all orders received for dine-in, carryout, and delivery, when this flyer is mentioned!

Donation is calculated on sales after any discounts, and excludes sales tax, delivery fees, and gratuity.


TO ORDER ONLINE VISIT US AT
WWW.GEORGIOSPIZZA.COM
& use promo code **FUND** at checkout.

MAKE SURE TO MENTION THIS FUNDRAISER WHEN PLACING YOUR ORDER.

Please check that your receipt says "Fundraiser" (located just above the Pre-discount subtotal). If "Fundraiser" is not listed on your receipt, please inform or call a manager.





Domestic Abuse Informational Workshop



About The Workshop

Gain a better understanding domestic abuse and learn how to help yourself or someone you know who might be in an abusive relationship. There is hope & healing.

 **February 3, 2024**
 9:00am - 3:00pm

 **The Church of the Holy Apostles**
 5211 Bull Valley Rd
 McHenry, IL

Speakers

Jim Kintz


- Retired from 42 years of law enforcement
- Certified instructor for DV investigation
- Court Watch past president

Cheryl Stella

- Abuse survivor
- DV victim advocate

FREE Event!
Lunch will be served

Register at tcoha.org
 *Walk-ins welcome



All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 (as of January 1, 2024) are invited to participate in the 2024 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship.

The competition will be held Saturday, February 3rd at St. Thomas the Apostle School, 265 King St, Crystal Lake. Entrance to the gym is off of Lake Street across from the Little Christopher Resale Shop (469 Lake Street).

Registration is at 8:00am and the competition will begin at 8:30am.

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council 10678 and Fr. McCormick Council 3880 from St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

All contestants will be recognized for their participation in the event. Age group winners will receive a Championship plaque and advance to the District Free Throw Championship. The District Championship will also be held on Saturday February 3rd at the St. Thomas the Apostle School. District winners will advance to the Regional Championship to be held on a TBD date in March at an Illinois TBD location (probably in St. Charles). The winners of the Regional Championship will advance to the State Championship held in a TBD date in early April at an Illinois TBD location.

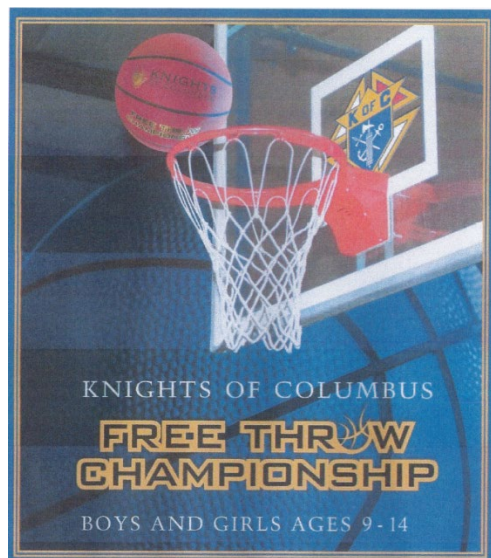
Participants are required to bring a copy of their birth certificate and have written parental consent in order to participate, which can be signed at the day of competition.

Additional information contact: Bob Brix : Cell: 815-276-7367

E-mail: rbrix54@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus Annual Keep Christ in Christmas art contest has once again brought three contestants from St. Thomas School to the next level of competition. Congratulations to Addison Justen, Wyatt Alberts, and Scarlett Verzal.



Jr. Hurricanes BOYS BASKETBALL

**STARTING IN JANUARY
PLAY IN 20+ GAMES
MEET FRIENDS BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL**

5th-8th grade



\$350



**TO REGISTER FOR THE JR. HURRICANES BOYS
BASKETBALL PROGRAM, SCAN QR CODE**

SCAN ME



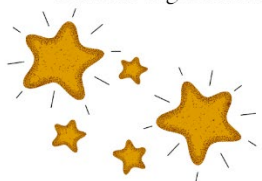
**Marian Central's National Honor Society
Presents:
Launching Leaders into the World**

RISE UP

**Recognizing and Inspiring Student's Excellence and
Undiscovered Potential
Youth Leadership Development Conference**

Date: March 10th
Time: 9am - 3pm
Place: Marian Central
Catholic High School

SIGN UP HERE!



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!
2024
JANUARY PTO MEETING!**

**Friday, January 12th
8:00am
Mrs. Houston's Office**

Feel Free to Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 892 5595 1401
Passcode: 706242

Hot Topics this month:

- Open House/Fun Fair
- Catholic School's Week (Bingo Night?)
- Winter Fun-raiser
- Mother/Son Bowling

Please contact
Jen Abraham
with questions or ideas!
jjsabraham@gmail.com
or 815-307-5370

*In the event of an emergency snow day, this meeting
will be held virtually.*

sts
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**Felix &
Fingers
Dueling
Pianos!**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 10, 2024**

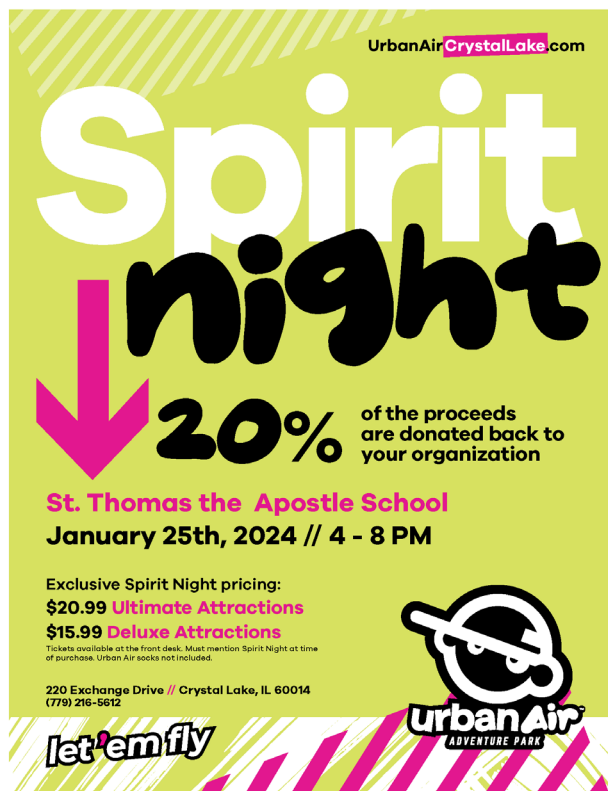
**ST. THOMAS COMMUNITY
NIGHT OUT WINTER FUN-RAISER!**

Get tickets now!
Scan Below:

**Felix & Fingers Dueling Pianos
The Vixen
1208 N. Green Street
McHenry, IL
auctria.events/STSwinterfunraiser.com**

**DOORS OPEN: 6:00PM
SHOWTIME: 7:00PM - 10:00PM
\$50 GENERAL ADMISSION, STANDING ROOM
\$100 VIP ADMISSION, TABLE OF 4
\$125 BALCONY VIP**

*This is a 21+ event. Cash Bar with STS Signature Drink Available for Purchase
Heavy Hors D'oeuvres Provided
Feel free to bring your own appetizers and sweets*



Jan 16

8th Grade Night for Boys Basketball and Cheer



Jan 19 & 20

7/8 Grade Girls Basketball Tournament hosted by St. Thomas. Volunteer sign-up coming soon.



Week of Jan 22

6th through 8th grade Boys Basketball Conference Tournaments – schedule TBD



Jan. 28

STS Open House and Start of Catholic Schools Week—Full Schedule coming soon



Feb 3

K of C Free Throw Competition

ATHLETIC NEWS



Hello and Welcome Back! We hope you had a wonderful break and are re-energized for a fun filled 2nd half of our Winter Sports seasons! Please take a look at the calendar, we love to see you there!

A special note of good luck to our 7th and 8th grade boys at the Price of Peace Basketball tournament this week/weekend in Lake Villa – Go Trojans!!

DATES TO REMEMBER



Jan 12

No uniform-Food Pantry Friday

See full Athletics calendar here:

<https://sites.google.com/stthomascl.org/stsathletics/monthly-calendar-nssc-game-schedules>

LEND A HAND



[Virtus](#) password to set up a new account: 2train!

Volunteer at Recess:

[Grades 4 & 5](#)

[Grades k & 1](#)

[Grades 2 & 3](#)

[Junior High](#)

Volunteer at the Thomas Trading Post: - [Thomas Trading Post Volunteer signup sheet](#)

Support the **Thomas Trading Post Wishlist:** [Amazon.com](#)

Donate \$10 gift certificates for the Thomas Trading Post (Julie Anns, Five Below, Target, Amazon, McDonald, etc.): send to school office marked Thomas Trading Post

Sign up for [scorebook/scoreboard/admission/& concessions](#)

Monthly Family Mass: shelby@theyounges.com



As always, I will be---
Praying with you and for you,
Mrs. Houston



Permission Slip

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Beginning on **February 5, 2023**, our Physical Education classes will be participating in an in-house skating program. The skates will be delivered directly to the school. **Due to insurance purposes, we will be exclusively using Skatetime School Programs® skates.**

This skating unit is being implemented because of its emphasis as a "Lifetime Activity". Skating provides a variety of benefits, which include balance, coordination, motor skills, and a top-rated cardio-respiratory workout. Students will also learn basic skating skills such as starting, stopping, forward skating, backward skating, cornering, and a number of safety tips for being a smartskater.

The fee for this unit will be \$ **12.50** for inline skates per student. The fee includes delivery and pickup of the equipment as well as use of the skates for **4** days of skating during normal P.E. Class.

Please have your student return this permission slip no later than **JAN 19, 2023**

In consideration of the permission granted, I hereby grant permission for the person named herein to participate in the program described and associated activities provided by Skatetime School Programs® and **St. Thomas the Apostle School**. I further release Skatetime School Programs® and the **Diocese of Rockford**, its agents, employees, and volunteers from all actions, damages, claims, or demands and all liability, which might be incurred during the conduct of this activity.

I further authorize the School officials to take the proper steps to provide medical attention should participant be injured while participating or being transferred to or from any School sponsored activity and I hold said officials of **St. Thomas the Apostle School** and the **Diocese of Rockford** harmless thereof.

I acknowledge the risk and responsibilities involved in this activity. I have read this release and understand all its term and execute it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

Activity: Skatetime School Programs® (In-House Skating Program)

Name of Student Participant: _____

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Amount: Inline \$ **12.50** **← BILLED THROUGH FACTS**

24-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Family Name

Will you be returning to St. Thomas School for the 24 – 25 School Year? Yes No

If yes

Student Name	Grade in 24-25

If you do not plan to return, please share with us what brought you to this decision.

Please return to school office by Friday December 8

JANUARY

New Year, New Dreams, New Start

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here! - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Faith + Family Tips:

+ Start a New Year's tradition that involves blessing the doors of your home and asking God to watch over all who visit and dwell inside. Take some holy water from your local church (they don't mind!) and trace the sign of the cross on your front door and bedroom doors saying, "May God bless our comings and goings this year, and bring peace to all who enter."

+ We celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th. This day celebrates the three wise men's visit to baby Jesus. It is customary to eat a King's cake - a tasty treat with a small baby Jesus figurine tucked inside. These are sold during this time of year in many local bakeries. Make your own cake or order one to share in the tradition. Your children will love trying to get the slice with Jesus in it!

+ As a new year begins, take some time to create a vision board for your family. Talk about your goals for the new year, create a bucket list of future adventures, and display the finished project to remind you of your commitments together. Use a large poster board to attach magazine cutouts, draw pictures, and write inspirational words and quotes. Finish the masterpiece by adding every family member's signature front and center. New year - new us!

If things get cold enough, they freeze. They become rock solid and remain that way until you add some heat. Take an ice cube out of the freezer and talk about how our hearts can "freeze" when we are angry or upset. Use a blow dryer to melt the ice cube. We can always ask Jesus to thaw our hearts to help take away our hurt. Part of "thawing" may include apologizing or praying for those who have hurt us. The little puddle that remains is a sign of the change that has happened within us.

Teaching:

Recipe: Cozy Chicken Noodle Soup

- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 2 cups of cubed cooked chicken
- 2 cups egg noodles (uncooked)
- 1 Teaspoon parsley flakes
- 1 bay leaf
- 5 cups of chicken broth

Try making this winter classic with your children! In a large pot or saucepan, heat up 1 tablespoon of olive oil. Add chopped carrots and celery and cook for 5 minutes while stirring. Add chicken, egg noodles, parsley, bay leaf, and 5 cups of chicken broth. Bring to a boil and then reduce heat. Cover pot and simmer for 10 minutes. Stir occasionally and remove bay leaf prior to serving.

Family Adventure:

Build a snowman! If you have snow - start packing it into mounds and stack them on top of each other. Get creative - bring out all types of props: clothes, sunglasses, beanies, carrots, etc. If you don't have snow - pick a snowman (one of your family members). Wrap them up in toilet paper and decorate them with accessories. Try building lots of snow people, or even turn it into a competition by inviting other family and friends to participate.

Prayer:

God, thank you for the blessing of a New Year. May we enter it with our hearts open wide to all the new possibilities and situations that await. New beginnings remind us that you are always creating! Draw us close to you as we begin again.

Amen.