

Giving Tuesday

For \$5, students are invited to have a full out-of-uniform day to celebrate Giving Tuesday on November 28th. All money received will go to the Fund for St. Stephen School.

Contracts for the 24/25 school year are now available!

To begin this re-registration process, beginning on Monday, November 20, 2023, FACTS agreements and contracts through School Admin will be open to all current families for the 2024/25 school year. As part of this process, there is a non-refundable registration fee of \$100 per family due with signed contracts by the date of December 11, 2023. Please note that every two weeks after December 11th, the registration fee will increase by increments of \$50 until the final deadline of January 3, 2024. All tuition payments must be made in the FACTS portal, and the contract for 2024/25 must be signed through the School Admin portal. Future payments for the 2024/25 school year will begin in May 2024.

HSA Update

HSA Staff Gift Collection

The HSA collection for the staff gifts is underway. All school families are encouraged to give a monetary gift, rather than buying individual gifts for the school staff. The HSA divides the total money collected proportionately between each staff and faculty member. There is no recommended amount; however, many families give a monetary gift comparable to what they would have otherwise spent on individual gifts. Participation is voluntary. Again this year, we are making the gift extra special by asking your child(ren) or family to write a short note of thanks to our teachers and staff using the enclosed cards. New this year: we are requesting that each family send a thank you card to one or more of the staff members that your class is responsible for regarding birthdays. This way, each staff member is remembered. These can be turned into the office in an envelope marked "HSA Gift 2023" by Wednesday, December 13.

After our audit this summer, we will no longer be accepting donations through Venmo as it is not an improved platform from the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Instead, we will be using Diamond Mind at [this link](#). Another payment option is to send a donation via cash or check (made payable to "St. Stephen HSA") to the office in an envelope marked "HSA Gift 2023" by Wednesday, December 13. See the attachments for more information and the thank you notes.

Book Fair

Thanks to all those who were able to visit the book fair last week and many thanks to all our volunteers who helped make the book fair experience so special for all of the students. We sold over \$12,000, made approximately \$6,000 for the school, and over 120 books were gifted to teachers for their classrooms.

If you missed the fair, still have an e-wallet balance, or one of your wish list items were out of stock, the school receives 25% of every online purchase through November 26th. Any unused e-wallet balances will remain in your account and eventually turn into a gift card which can be easily converted to an e-wallet for next year's fair. To shop online, visit <http://www.scholastic.com/bf/ststephenschool1>.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Melissa Shifflett at melissa@strollguilford.com or Pam Delaney at burnette14@yahoo.com.

Ledo Pizza Spirit Night

Save the date! Join us on Wednesday, December 6th, at Ledo Pizza in White Marsh from 4-9 PM. 20% of sales will benefit our school. You can dine in, order carry out, or place an online order. You can use the flyer attached below, show the flyer on your phone, enter the online code FUNDRAISER, or just mention you are there to support the St. Stephen fundraiser.

It's so hard to believe, but the holidays are right around the corner! The St Stephen HSA has a number of holiday fundraisers and volunteer opportunities this year, so you can pick and choose how you want to help support our school! Please reach out to hsa@ssschoool.org with any questions!

Christmas Bazaar

The St. Stephen Christmas Bazaar is quickly approaching!! We are in need of volunteers (both adults and middle schoolers) to help set up and work the event and donations to help make everything successful!

Please sign-up via the [SignUpGenius link](#) to volunteer or donate!

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Ledford at cmledford@cerizon.net.

An exciting update about the Christmas Bazaar! We are asking each grade to be in charge of a game during the Christmas Bazaar on the day of the event. We are adding new games for the students ranging in price from 25 cents to \$1.00. We are asking that each class be in charge of staffing a game during the Bazaar. We are looking for parents to volunteer for two hour increments. The games will be set up and ready to go when volunteers arrive to work. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your start time in order to receive directions on the game you will be volunteering with. [Sign Up Here!](#)

Christmas Cash Raffle

Christmas Cash Raffle Tickets have been distributed to students. Each family who sells all 10 tickets will earn an out of uniform day to be held on December 4th and 2 service hours (max of 2). The class that sells the most tickets will win a

pizza party, and the family who sells the most tickets will win a gift card! If you would like additional tickets, please email Phyllis Kowalewski at oceancitygal101@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance for your support!

White Elephant Sale

We are still accepting donations for the white elephant sale at the Christmas Bazaar on December 2nd. You can donate toys, books, games, housewares, kitchen items, holiday decorations, and artwork. NEW THIS YEAR: WE WILL ACCEPT SHOES, JEWELRY, AND WINTER APPAREL, such as snow boots, snow pants, gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves. We are NOT collecting other clothing, computers or other non-handheld electronics, TVs, furniture, or other large items.

Pre-Order Your Live Christmas Wreaths Now!

Once again, the HSA is partnering with Hickory Hill Farm to support a wreath fundraiser for our school. These beautiful wreaths last through the holidays into January and look and smell amazing! Thank you to our repeat customers year after year! Orders are now open and will close on November 25th. Check out all of the options on the site <https://ststephensfundraiser.square.site/>. Shop small, support local and help us raise money! Thank you for the support.

Moms Night Out

Take a break from the holiday craziness and join the HSA for a fun and festive Moms Night Out December 11th at Lib's Grill. Lib's will donate a portion of all sales from 3pm until close. Reservations are suggested. See the attached flyer for more information! We hope to see you there!

Wine Bottle Decorating

Lib's Grill in Perry Hall has again invited our students to create centerpieces using wine bottles for "Cocktails & Candy Canes" AND... the bottles will be offered for sale at \$15 each in the restaurant again. All proceeds will benefit our school! The color theme for this year's "Cocktails and Candy Canes" is nautical – blue, white and silver with pops of red and green. Each bottle = 1 hour service hour, maximum of 2 hours. Bottles are available for pick up in the school office. Bottles should be dropped off at Lib's Grill in Perry Hall or in the school office. See the attached flyer for more information!

Christmas Window Decorating at Lib's Grill

Lib's Grill has invited our school to do the Christmas Window Decorating again this year on November 27th and 28th. Students in grades 3-8 are invited to participate. We will have 10-15 windows to decorate between Lib's Grill and Liberatore's (possibly more if other businesses choose to participate). These can be decorated solo or as a team of 2-3. The kids should go to the shopping center directly after school to maximize daylight hours.

Please email Kristin Celano (kcelano3@gmail.com) by today, November 20th if your child will participate so she can ensure the proper amount of supplies are available.

Father's Club Update

Please note our upcoming events, we look forward to seeing everyone.

Fathers Club Meetings

- December 04, 2023 – Richardsons Barn

Fathers Club Annual Poker Night

- Hosted by Tom Yates
- Further details to come.
- January 2024 date to be announced.

The online store is open for various father's club items which are available in multiple colors and sizes. If you would like to avoid the delivery fee, please choose the pickup option and your orders will be delivered to the school. All merchandise may be purchased [here!](#)

If anyone has any questions or would like to submit an idea for an event, please contact us at fathersclub@ssschoool.org