



Principal's Post#24: A Message from Mrs. Kozlowski
February 14, 2024

“During this season of conversion, let us renew our faith and receive with open hearts the love of God.” ~Pope Francis

Today we enter into the liturgical season of Lent, where we are asked to “pray, fast, and give” as we prepare for the next 40 days to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord at Easter. We received ashes today as an outward sign of repentance. Throughout Lent, we will be attending Stations of the Cross on Fridays and will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in March. Your child will be coming home today with their February Family Prayer Table supplies. We hope that these supplies help to enhance your Lenten observances.

Due to the snow day on Tuesday, students are now permitted to wear their SSS PE sweatpants, along with red/pink/Valentine's Day shirts/sweatshirts to celebrate Valentine's Day on Thursday, February 15, 2024. The cost of this day is \$2 with all money supporting the upcoming Lion King, Jr. musical production.

Finally, while we know that students and families like to socialize after the end of the school day, it is imperative that students and families go directly to their vehicles at afternoon dismissal. The playground and surrounding areas are closed at dismissal. Our faculty and staff have to attend a variety of meetings after school and run a number of after-school activities for our students. For these to happen, we need our parking lot safely cleared within a designated amount of time. Thank you for your cooperation.

Grace and peace,
Mrs. Marianne Kozlowski

Additional Information:

Inclement Weather Days

Per the Archdiocese handbook, the first three inclement weather days of the 2023/24 school year are to be “true snow days”, where students do not have any work or other expectations. Beginning with inclement weather day #4, the policy dictates that students will have an asynchronous learning day. This means that teachers will post assignments by 9:00 am on the inclement weather day via email, teacher website and/or Google Classroom for students to complete at home and turn in the following school day. The students will have the flexibility to access and complete the

assignments at their own pace, and will not be required to be online for instruction. Our goal during asynchronous days is not to overwhelm the students, but to engage them in learning while keeping pace with our AOB curriculum and standards. This also allows us to meet the required number of days of instruction from the State of Maryland. More information and detailed directions will be provided in the event additional inclement weather days are used throughout the remainder of this school year.

February 16: "Sunday best" Pictures from Galeone

Per Galeone, any student who wishes to have a "Sunday best" or sibling photo taken on February 16th must have a completed order form with payment to give to the photographer. These photos are completely optional and if your child does not come to school with an order form, their picture will not be taken. The fall photos that were taken in uniform will be used for the yearbook. If you choose to get both individual photos and sibling photos, TWO order forms must be completed (one for each pose). An additional form is attached to this email which you can print out or you can pick up another form in the school office. If you have any questions, please call Galeone at 410-252-5355.

February 19: There is no school for students or teachers due to President's Day holiday.

February 20: SSS Spirit Wear Day

Students are permitted to wear SSS spirit wear, along with SSS PE sweatpants or SSS spirit wear pants, on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. There is no additional cost for participation.

February 26 and 27: Hearing and Vision Screening

Students in prek4, grade 1, grade 4 and grade 8 will participate in hearing and vision screening through Baltimore County Health Department. Forms were sent home with students in the above grades earlier this week. If you have a concern about your child's hearing and/or vision and they are not in one of the above grades, please contact Mrs. Tabassi.

March 1: School closed for students due to Archdiocese of Baltimore wide Professional Development day for faculty and staff.

March 8: Last day of trimester 2. There is an early dismissal for students at noon.

Business Sponsorship Opportunity!

We are hoping to partner with local businesses this year to sponsor our Eagle Glow Run and Field Day shirts. Their logo or name will be displayed on the back of the shirt, and worn by every student and staff member in our school. Not only will their support be incredibly helpful to St. Stephen School, but it will enable us to support them as a

community! If you know of, or are part of, a business that would be interested in becoming a St. Stephen School Shirt Sponsor for our Eagle Glow Run and Field Day, please see the attached Sponsorship Form for more information.

St. Stephen Church: Spaghetti Dinner

Save the date as the church is hosting a spaghetti dinner on Sunday, March 10, 2024. More information coming soon.