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Parent Newsletter
Friday, August 10, 2018

WELCOME BACK!

We want to welcome everyone back to St. Matthew School and Child Care Ministry! We want to wish a special welcome to each of our new families! We are so glad to have you as part of our school family! Thank you for choosing St. Matthew School for your children. The first three days of school have been fantastic!

We also want to welcome several new staff members. **Mrs. Bailey Stewart** is our preschool teacher. She was a part-time instructional assistant for our K-5 students last year, and she is very excited to be working with our preschoolers this year. We also welcome **Mrs. Talia Kinkade**. Mrs. Kinkade is our 5th grade teacher. She taught for EVSC last year, and she is very excited to be part of our school family and have the opportunity to teach our oldest students. Finally, we welcome **Ms. Mary Girten**, **Ms. Maria Turner**, and **Mrs. Robin Price** to our After School Care Team.

We are so grateful for the many improvements that were made to our buildings over the summer! Thanks to a generous donor, new **"St. Matthew" signs** were placed on each building. They are beautiful and eye-catching. New **air conditioners/heaters** were installed in each of the restrooms and the classrooms on the west side of the building. We want to thank Tom Hoehn, Mark Hoehn, and Brian Wathen for their hard work in the hot sun. **Blinds** were installed in the gym. We want to thank Shane Suits for providing a lift for the installers to use. The blinds make a huge difference in eliminating glare and heat from the sun! Gary Vaal made about a dozen **bookshelves** for one of our classrooms, and he also cut a **window** into a door—we moved the lounge and created a **resource room** for Miss Thomas (RTI), Mrs. Upshaw (Title 1), Mrs. Barritt (instructional assistant), Mrs.Davis (social worker), and Mrs. Stemple (speech) to use when they are assisting our students. Tom Scheller worked very hard to get the school spruced up and looking its best for the new year. He is always willing to help all of us ladies with our "honey-do list." Finally, thanks to a very generous donor, we were able to purchase 25 additional **iPads** and for the students to use throughout the day and **charging stations** for each classroom. We are almost one-to-one! We also want to thank Adam Head for all the hours he has spent getting the iPads ready for the students to use.

Our diocesan theme for the 2018-2019 school year is "Lighting the World with Hope," and it is because of all of you and our savior Jesus Christ that we are so filled with hope for this school year! Please keep us in your prayers, and know that we pray for you--our students and their families--each day.

STUDENT DESKS AVAILABLE—FREE!

We are cleaning out the basement in the parish office. If you would like to have a student desk for your children to use at home or as a nostalgic reminder of your own school days, please contact the school office.

SYCAMORE

You should find your family login information for Sycamore in today's Friday Folder and in your email. Sycamore is our student information system. On Sycamore, you will find the parent newsletter and school calendar. You can also view your child's grades, lunch balance, and after school care balance. If you have any questions about using Sycamore, please contact the school office or your child's teacher.

PAPERWORK, PAPERWORK, PAPERWORK

At the beginning of a new school year, there is always lots of paperwork to be completed and returned. If we are missing any of the following items from you, we are sending home a second copy today. Please sign and return these items on Monday.

-Tuition Agreement
-Smart Tuition form
-Emergency Card (we need one card for each child)
-School Messenger form

ROAD CONSTRUCTION—DROP OFF AND PICK UP CHANGES

As you have noticed, Mulberry and 4th Streets are under construction. Due to the roadwork, the buses are dropping off the children and picking them up at the corner of Mulberry and 5th Street. The teachers monitor the children during these times. Because of the extra traffic on Mulberry and safety changes that are coming, **parents who pick up their children by car must go through the pick-up line on the parking lot**. We will no longer allow parents to park on Mulberry Street and pick their children up between the parish office and school. This is for your children's safety and the assurance that we send them home the correct way and with the right adult. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

PARENT NIGHT

Our annual Parent Night meeting for grades K-5 will take place on Thursday, August 16 beginning at 6:15 p.m. in church. **At least one parent from each family should attend this important meeting.** Fr. Jim and Miss Wannemuehler will speak to the parents in church. Then the teachers will give a presentation to their students' parents in their classrooms. Topics to be discussed include procedures, expectations, communication, homework tips, and how to help your child have a successful year. Babysitting will be available. The evening should conclude around 8:00 p.m.

DISCOUNT CARD BASH

The PTO kicked off our annual Discount Card fundraiser at the Back-to-School Night. If you were not able to come, we are sending your discount cards home today. The cards are $10 each, and we make $8 profit! On Saturday, August 18th, we are having a sales bash from 8:00-11:00 followed by lunch. This is a wonderful opportunity to work together to sell any remaining cards at local grocery stores and businesses. All money and unsold cards are due by next Saturday, August 18th. If you have any questions, contact the school office or Stephaine Sharber. Thank you, Stephaine, for chairing this important fundraiser for us!

SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT

St. Matthew School is very fortunate to be one of the Indiana schools to be awarded a school safety grant for 2018-2019 through the Indiana Homeland Security for $17,500. The grant helps fund projects that will speed up emergency response time in the event of an emergency or restrict access. The projects that we will be able to complete through this grant include purchasing emergency call buttons for the teachers, installing a paging system throughout the K-5 building, installing a gate between the parish office and school building, and installing new security cameras and software for both the Child Care Ministry and the K-5 building. This is a matching funds grant which means we must also pay $17,500 towards the completion of these projects. If you would like to make a donation—big or small—to help us with our match, please contact Miss Wannemuehler at 838-3621 or vwannemuehler@evdio.org.

MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS

We are missing about 30 chapter books from our school library. Would you please check your child's room, closet, under the bed, etc. to see if he/she has any library books that need to be returned? Our library books can easily be identified by the colored stickers on the spine of the book and the pocket stamped "St. Matthew School" inside. Some of the books that we are missing include: The 39 Story Treehouse series, the House of Robots series, My Life As … series, Spirit Animals series, Dork Diaries series, Notebook of Doom series, Stick Dog series, Backstories series, How to Train Your Dragon series, and Heaven Is for Real. Thank you so much for your help!

CCM MUM SALE

The Child Care Ministry's annual mum sale is underway! The CCM is selling red, orange, yellow, white, pink, and red daisy mums for $9 each. Orders and money are due by August 22nd. Mums will be delivered on September 13 and can be picked up from 2:00-6:00 p.m.

LUNCH MENU

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| Monday<br>August 13 | Chicken Nuggets or Chef Salad with Whole Grain Breadstick, Baked Beans, Diced Carrots and Peas, Apple, and Milk |
| Tuesday<br>August 14 | Soft Shell Chicken Tacos or Chef Salad with Whole Wheat Pretzel, Salad, Seasoned Corn, Diced Peaches, and Milk |
| Wednesday<br>August 15 | Salisbury Steak or Chef Salad, Whole Grain Breadstick, Green Beans, Cooked Carrots, Baked Apples, and Milk |
| Thursday<br>August 16 | Hamburger or Cheeseburger on Whole Grain Bun or Chef Salad with Whole Wheat Pretzels, Tater Tots, California Blend, Orange Slices, and Milk |
| Friday<br>August 17 | Bosco Stick with Marinara or Chef Salad with Whole Grain Breadstick, Baby Carrots with Ranch, Peas, Pineapple, and Milk |