

St. Patrick's School
Tuesday Notes
October 19, 2021

COVID Reminder

Please continue to work together to report absences and getting children tested if they are showing one symptom of COVID (if they are presenting differently from their baseline allergies). Please report absences to Mrs. Ali, your child's teacher(s), and me. If you have a specific COVID related concern about your child, please contact me.

A reminder that a child should be tested 3-5 days after potential or known exposure and should not be in school while awaiting the results. A PCR test is needed before a return to school. While waiting for PCR test results if your child would like to join classes virtually, we are happy to support in that way, please work with me to ensure that communicating with the appropriate teachers has taken place.

You are asked to get your child tested if any of the following symptoms are present: fever of 100.4 or higher, sore throat, cough, runny nose/congestion, difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, new onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or loss of taste or smell.

Opt-in to COVID-19 Testing for your Child

Our school has chosen to participate in Operation Expanded Testing, a program supported and funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide COVID-19 PCR testing to schools. Beginning Wednesday, November 3rd Ms. Farrell and I will begin Covid testing. Testing is an important prevention strategy that will help us keep our school open and safe and to help maintain the spread of Covid. This strategy along with vaccinations, masks, handwashing, maximizing outdoor space, and staying home when sick will help to keep students learning in school. Testing is not mandatory. Our hope is to identify asymptomatic carriers and to test children if they are showing one of symptoms and need to be sent home during the school day. Please do not bring your child to school for a test if you know your child has been exposed to Covid. Please proceed with testing outside of St. Patrick's. School. Ms. Farrell and I will test students on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 10:00-10:15 am. We do not have a required testing goal but hope that we will get a nice sampling of students in PK-grade 8. The testing is a lower nasal swab and is expected to give results in 24 hours. Upon completion of a consent form (coming next week) you can email Ms. Farrell and request your child be tested. Ms. Farrell will take the lead on requests, and we ask that requests be made for Monday testing by Sunday night and Wednesday testing by Tuesday Night for proper planning. Parents, Ms. Farrell, and I will all receive testing results. Questions, please contact Ms. Farrell erin.farrell@stpatrickadw.org. Please see attached for additional information.

2021-2022 Admissions and Open Houses

If you know of anyone who is interested in joining our community, please invite them to one of our open houses and encourage them to begin the application process as soon as possible. Applications will be accepted starting November 5th and acceptances will be finalized in January.

If you have a little one who is ready to join us in kindergarten or prekindergarten next year, please email Mrs. Ali so that she can determine how many spots are available for new families.

Please spread the word about our upcoming open houses and invite neighbors and friends to come and see St. Patrick's.

Open House for prospective Kindergarten-grade 8 families: Friday, November 5th 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Open House for prospective Prekindergarten families: Sunday, November 21st 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

If you are available to help with school tours on the November 5th open house, please email Mrs. Ali. I would appreciate the help!

Archdiocese of Washington Tuition Assistance Program

Families applying to archdiocesan tuition assistance only need to complete one form for all children, whether elementary school students or high school students, even if seeking tuition aid for children in multiple schools.

The application is now open and families have until Saturday, December 4, 2021 to apply for tuition assistance for the 2022-2023 school year. PLEASE go on-line and complete the application. In the spring, you will be able to apply for St. Patrick's for direct tuition assistance, but only if you have FIRST completed the TADS Financial Aid and Assessment Form

Follow these steps:

Log into www.adw.org

Click on "Education" (along the top of the webpage)

Click on "Catholic Schools"

Click on "Tuition Assistance"

Click on "TADS- Financial Aide Application"

From the SAB

The School Advisory Board has published a monthly newsletter to update our school community on the implementation of the strategic plan and ongoing work with Msgr. Parry and me in their advisory role. If you missed the email yesterday, please visit:

<https://stpatrickadw.org/sab-monthly-newsletter/>

password protected: stpats@b202!

Thank you to Mrs. Fragomeni and Mrs. Murphy for the newsletter, and all the members of the SAB for their collaboration and leadership.

Halloween

We will celebrate Halloween on Thursday, October 28th. Our annual parade will begin at 10:15 a.m. Please remember that all Halloween costumes need to be appropriate for children of all ages. Please be mindful that some of our little children may not have the tolerance for scary masks. As some of our big kids scramble to put together a Halloween costume, I ask that you support them in putting together creative and fun costumes, not scary! If a student does not want to dress up for Halloween they do not have to, instead enjoy the dress down day. Remember absolutely no toy weapons are permitted in school. When unsure if it "counts" as a weapon, please just keep it at home. Class parties will begin after the parade and dismissal for PK-grade 8 is at noon. We ask that only parents helping with class parties enter the building and these parents must be Virtus trained and fully vaccinated.

Aftercare is available until 6:00 p.m.

Parents are invited to come to the parade!

Parent & Teacher Conferences

Teachers will invite parents in PK-grade 8 to have a 10-15 minute conference (depending on age of child) on Thursday, November 11th or Friday, November 12th. The conferences offered on 11/11 will be virtual via Zoom. Teacher will share their Zoom link in the upcoming weeks. These conferences will begin at 8:00 a.m.- and conclude at 3:30 p.m. The conferences on 11/12 will be virtual or the option for in person

if you feel that time is needed face to face with a teacher. These conferences take place from 1:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

The conference sign-up link will be live and shared with all families next week.

November Outdoor Lunch Sign-Ups

Please sign-up to support through the month of November. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4fa9af2aa0fccf8-lunch>

Winter Uniform

Time to dig through the closets and think about winter uniforms. Reminder that boys in grades 5-8 are expected to wear a white button down shirt and green tie and all girls will change into jumpers or kilts (no more skorts). Girls are allowed to wear blue, white, or green tights or blue leggings with their kilts/jumpers. First day of winter uniform is November 1st.

Playground Update

Finally, the time is here! The old playground will come down Monday and the new one will be constructed throughout next week. The timeline ended up working out great because of the noon dismissal on Thursday and day off next Friday. Very exciting!

Picture Make-Up Day

Mr. Allan will be back to do re-takes on Wednesday, October 27th. If your child was absent or a retake is needed, they can dress out of uniform in their nice picture day clothing.

Math Homework Help-grades 5-8

Former junior high advanced math teacher, Mr. Coe, is excited to be back to support after school homework help for students. Mr. Coe will be here on Monday afternoons 3:15-4:15 and there is no cost, but you do need to email Mr. Coe directly to let him know whom to expect. billcoe1@verizon.net

Save the Date – Annual Sip’n Shop

Please save the date for one of St. Pat’s favorite events, the annual Sip’n Shop that is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 10th from 7pm to 10pm.**

For those who are new to St. Pat’s, the Sip’n Shop hosts various local vendors in our gym for a fun evening of sipping wine and shopping til you drop! It has grown as a cherished event that kicks off the holiday season and gets everyone in the giving mood!

Vendor registration is now officially open (<https://one.bidpal.net/sipshop2021>) and we are working to get a wide variety so that you can have the best holiday shopping experience! If you are interested in helping out with the event or have any vendors who you think would like to attend, please email Karen Boone (karen.waskewich@gmail.com) or Christina Grantham (cgrantham9@yahoo.com).

We look forward to seeing you there!

St. Patrick’s Track & Field Head Coaching Opportunity

St. Patrick’s is looking for a parent volunteer to assume the role of Head Track & Field Coach! Just before the pandemic cancelled the 2020 season, St. Patrick’s had joined the Columbus League. The Columbus League includes 10 local parish schools. The Columbus League is committed to running efficient (less than 3 hour) meets on Sundays (opposed to the notoriously lengthy CYO Saturday meets). If you are interested in the head coach position, please reach out to Dave Rizzo drizz145@gmail.com. Without a head coach, we will not be able to have a track and field season this Spring. Please consider grabbing some other parents and coaching a fun group of kids!

Toiletry drive for Haiti

With one week to go, I just want to offer sincere gratitude and appreciation. Many of you know that the work Life Connection Mission does in Haiti is one of my greatest passions. It has been difficult to be “forced” to stay away from the children there, and now more than ever with all the increasing challenges the children of Haiti continue to face. These ongoing acts of true generosity go a long way in keeping their hopes and spirits up (mine too!). I am humbled by the generosity of our community and so grateful. The feeling of helplessness is heartbreaking. Seeing the full barrels in the front hall and cafeteria lift me up every day! As we wrap up our school wide October service project, I thank you for your love and support knowing this one has a huge place in my heart. Please keep the innocent and beautiful children of Haiti in your daily prayers.

HSA Halloween Party, “Shamrock Spooktacular” - Hosted by 4th Grade

The annual Halloween Costume Party is back! On Friday, October 22nd from 6:30 to 8:30pm, the 4th grade class invites all St. Patrick's families to dress in costume and wear your dancing shoes, ready to boo-gie with the DJ. But this year, it will all be outside on Kane Lane with games to play and will feature a Trunk-or-Treat, with trunks decorated by the 4th grade!

There will be picnic tables set up on Kane Lane for eating. If you pre-ordered pizza, there will be a table set up to pick up your order. If you haven't done so already, please RSVP for the event via the Evite link <http://evite.me/dTKzXzVvUH> and let us know you're coming!

Since this party format is new, here are a few reminders:

- Although this entire party is outdoors, it is still a MASKED event since we can't social distance well at a dance.
- It will be dark! We will be lighting the area, but it will still be dark. So bring those flashlights & headlamps and keep an eye on your children! We don't want anyone to wander off.
- The playground is OFF LIMITS! Absolutely no one is allowed on the playground during this event.
- The Parish Center will be open for restroom use.

CYO Basketball

Our Parish Winter Basketball Season is right around the corner and registration is now open. We will be participating in both the CYO and City of Rockville leagues. The CYO will field teams of both boys and girls in the following age divisions: 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U. The Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade boys and girls will each field teams in the City of Rockville League.

The CYO is an age-based league, so ensuring that your child's date of birth is correct in Sports Pilot is very important. The age cutoffs are as follows.

- 10U: 12/01/2010 – 11/30/2013
- 12U: 12/1/2008 – 11/30/2010
- 14U: 12/1/2006 – 11/30/2008
- 16U: 12/1/2004 – 11/30/2006
- 18U: 12/1/2002 – 11/30/2004

All City of Rockville teams are grade based.

Please sign up today! Registration closes on October 29th

<https://isis.sportspilot.com/register/family/default.asp?asoid=106212>

The Upcoming Weeks:

Friday, October 22nd	Halloween Event Hosted by HSA and grade 4 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 28th	Halloween parade and class parties; Noon Dismissal PK-grade 8; Aftercare available until 6:00 p.m. End of 1 st quarter
Friday, October 29th	No School PK-grade 8; PDD required by the ADW
Monday, November 1st	2-hour delay, morning carpool for kindergarten-grade 8 begins at 10:15. PK at 10:30 a.m.
Friday, November 5th	Open House for Prospective families 9:00 a.m. Report Card Distribution grades 1-8
Tuesday, November 10th	Sip'n Shop 7:00-10:00 p.m. in the gym
Thursday, November 11th	Parent Conferences 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. all virtual No School for students in PK-grade 8
Friday, November 12th	Noon Dismissal for Pk-grade 8; aftercare available until 6:00 p.m. Parent Conferences 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. (virtual and in person options)
Sunday, November 21st	Open House for Prospective PK families 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, November 23rd	Noon Dismissal; Aftercare available until 6:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Holiday begins
Wednesday, November 24-Friday, November 26th	No School; Thanksgiving Holiday