



March 14, 2018

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Wed Mar 14: National Pi Day
FunRun Moved to Monday, March 19th
- Thur Mar 15: 2nd Registration payment due for the 2018-19 school year
 WEAR GREEN IN HONOR of ST. PATRICK'S DAY
 Lenten Bake Sale at recess and lunch
 Honors will be presented at Assembly that morning
 Principal Honors Luncheon
 Signed report cards due back to teacher
 Lepfrochauns will try to visit the 1st grade classroom
 NO CHOIR PRACTICE today
- Fri Mar 16: No School/Teacher -In-Service
 FACTS/FACE and BASIC financial applications due
- Mon Mar 19: **Fun Run - rescheduled**
- Mon Mar 26: **4th thru 8th grade Mandatory Parent Meeting**
- Thur Mar 29: Seder Meal
 Noon Dismissal - ELP and Panther's Club available
- Fri Mar 30: No School - Easter break
- Mon Apr 9: School resumes

Prayer for Lent

Lord, help me to hear you saying "I am your hope" over all the other voices. I'm running to you with both hands stretched out and grabbing on to you.

*Fill me up with hope and give me a tangible reminder today that hope is an unbreakable spiritual lifeline.
 In Jesus Name, Amen*

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW and/or TAKE ACTION

National Pi Day: We are hoping now that the FunRun is moved to Monday, we encourage students to come dressed to honor Pi Day today.

This is an optional event. If you wear a shirt your child must have uniform bottoms....if you don't wear a shirt, your child must come in full uniform.

FUN RUN Postponed: Due to the rainy weather this week our 2nd largest fundraiser has been postponed until Monday, March 19th. We have already logged over \$26,000. Many of the students are getting prizes.

You will get an email from the Fun Run people reminding you to pledge. Don't forget to send it out on your facebook page or with your Twitter account to friends and family so they too can support your child's school. Help us raise even more money this year to help give students more resources and opportunities. See the flier attached and call with any questions!

Fun Run times for Monday, March 19th:

8:30 - 9:20 - PS, TK, K, 1 (2 tracks)

9:30 - 10:20 - 2, 3, 4 (2 tracks)

10:30 - 11:20 - 5, 6, 7, 8 (2 tracks)

Students can wear sweats, long shorts or loose jeans to participate in the FunRun.

Praying in Solidarity: Today, March 14th is the day we stand in solidarity in response to the gun violence plaguing our schools and neighborhoods. Students and allies are organizing the national school walkout to demand Congress pass legislation to keep us safe from gun violence at our schools, on our streets and in our homes and places of worship. Our students (at the discretion of the teachers) will be taking a moment to pray together.

To stand together, we will talk about this issue in age appropriate classes in age appropriate language. The middle school students will join in a circle, express their thoughts, reflect and end with a prayer.

Friday, March 16th is the last day to apply for Financial Aid for those who need it: *Estimated tuition proposals have been sent out to existing families who received them last year.*

Any and all families seeking financial aid from outside entities such as FACE, BASIC as well as the school for the 2018-2019 school year, must complete a financial aid application. The application is Due March 16th to be considered for ANY and ALL tuition assistance. Please do not wait to apply. *If you qualify and neglect to apply for outside aid, the school may not be able to compensate for you not applying. We will give aid on a first come first serve basis. If you need personal assistance to help you complete these applications, please call the office for an appointment.*

BASIC Fund: Apply at <http://www.basicfund.org/how-to-apply-english/>

FACE: You can find the link on our webpage at www.st-paulschool.org or go to online.factsmgmt.com/aid and clicking the "Applying for a Grant?" tab. All applications must be completed online.

Bake Sale: Student Council is sponsoring a bake sale tomorrow. The proceeds will go to Catholic Relief Services in on behalf of the School's Alms giving. Items cost between \$0.50 to \$1.00 each. I hope you can help us support this cause by sending your child with some money on Thursday.

Wear Green: Tomorrow we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We invite students to wear a major article of clothing such as a shirt or pants/skirt must be dominant GREEN. This is not an opportunity for free dress, rather a celebration in honor of St. Patrick.

Congratulations to our students: This trimester we will recognize several students grades 5 through 8 who have worked hard to achieve academic excellence. We will be handing out certificates at our assembly the morning of March 15th. 8 students have achieved Principal honors. They will join the teachers and me for lunch on Thursday!

Report cards: As a reminder, we would like to have signed report cards returned to your teachers by tomorrow, March 15th.

Status on Kung Fu: Parents, if your child is interested in learning the discipline and safety techniques KungFu can teach them, please enroll your child in our after school program. Kung Fu has offered after school classes at St. Paul for over 6 years and now, because of low enrollment, we are at risk of losing this opportunity for our children. We need at least 10 more children to participate. If you are interested, please phone the school, complete an application and/or contact Rosalia McMaster at rmcmaster@csdo.org

Welcome New Staff Member to St. Paul School: Please help me welcome our additional counselor Catherine Hawk who will be working at St. Paul School on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to compliment Ms. Daria. Ms. Catherine wants to introduce herself....

I'm a therapist specializing in Expressive Arts Therapy. I believe that with supportive guidance any student can overcome obstacles and reach the goals they envision achieving. I work from an intuitive, expressive framework to spur healing and change from within. In my free time, you can find me at a coffee

shop reading a book or on long walks with my two dogs. I very much look forward to working with the students at St. Paul!

Staff changes for next year: I want to make you aware of some personnel changes for next year. Ms. Sutter has graciously made the commitment to move to our new position as Extended Academic Skill coach in the 2018-2019 school year. Her complete job description and students who will be served under this new position is still being crafted and will be presented to parents at latest, during the summer. We are thankful for all she has done to educate our middle schoolers for the past four years, and blessed that she will extend her many years of teaching and tutoring experience and making it accessible to all students who need the additional academic support.

Annual Seder Meal: Once again, we are coming together as a school community to walk in Jesus' shoes. The Seder Meal is our recreation of the Passover Meal that Jesus shared with his apostles. We will be celebrating the Passover/Seder Meal the morning of Thursday March 29th in our Faith Families. To help make this event a success we need everyone to contribute a particular item. We also need parents to help in the classrooms and with set up in the parish hall/classrooms. You will receive PPH hours for your help. Please see the flier attached for the items we are asking of each class.

Rice Bowl Reminder: We have sent Rice Bowls home two weeks ago so your family can participate in this wonderful tradition. However, St. Paul School will not collect the Rice Bowls to send on to Catholic Relief Services. Please write a check and send your contribution directly to CRS. If your home parish is collecting rice bowls you can return it to your parish.

Save the Date for our Annual Auction for Education and Gala:

We have 10 weeks to go before the event. This year it will be held on Saturday, May 19th and the theme for the Gala is Casino Royale. It will be held at the Richmond Country Club....it will be amazing.

We need you to help get donations. Go to <http://stpaulschool.schoolauction.net/auction2018/>

We also need you to sign up on signup.com ahead of time. We will give you PPH for your time.

We have some great items but we need more! And we can do it with your help. Ask businesses and restaurants that you frequent for a donation. See the donation letter attached.

Think about these ideas -

Pick A Party -> Sponsor a Party that we can auction...

- Cupcake making party for children
- Clothes swap with wine and cheese
- A Tea Party
- Evening Spa sleepover

Enroll for 2018-2019 school year: Everyone has to enroll with InfoSnap for the next school year! *You will receive an email from zguardado@csdo.org that provides current families a link and invitation to enroll for the 2018-19 school year.* If your information remains the same, the process should be no more than 10 min. At that time, you will need to pay a registration deposit of \$262.50. Although we encourage you to do so then, you can check the box marked "check" and pay in the office. Note that you will not be considered registered until your full registration is paid.

PPH opportunities: If you would like to donate instead of working your hours, you can donate paper towels, both Clorox and baby wipe, both 1 gallon and 1 quart zip-lock bags. You will receive one hour PPH for each \$25 worth of items you donate. Please bring in your receipt and the items to the office. Thank you.

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR

Mandatory Parent meetings: Changed..... Due to scheduling conflicts, we will combine the two mandatory parent meetings and present the information during one meeting on Monday, March 26th at 6:30pm in the parish hall. Be the change will work with students during the day the week prior regarding difference, community and personal responsibility. That evening, they will work with parents to help continue the success of their children. You will receive PPH for attending. We will send out more information next week.

ELP Summer Program announcement: We still have 13 spots left for our summer program. The program will begin on Monday, June 18 and end July 20th. The program is FREE until 3pm. Childcare is available from 3pm to 5pm for \$125 per week. We have asked teachers to recommend students for the program. Next week, we will open the program up on a first-come-first serve basis. See flier for your review.

FYI: The followings meetings are coming up:

- **Auction for Education:** Tuesday, April 10th at 6:30pm in 4th grade classroom
- **African American Heritage Committee:** Wednesday, March 14th at 6:30pm in the 4th grade classroom
- **Our next PTG Meeting:** Tuesday, March 13th at 6:00pm in the 4th grade classroom. **Click here to sign up here for meetings <http://signup.com/go/xDLCbNN>** or here to volunteer for childcare <http://signup.com/go/AYyLmxh>
- **Board Meeting:** Tuesday, March 20th at 6:30pm in the 4th grade classroom.
- **Cinco de Mayo Meeting:** Tuesday, April 10 at 7pm in the parish hall
- **6th, 7th and 8th Mandatory Parent Meeting:** Monday, March 19th in 7th grade classroom at 6:30pm
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GOOD TO KNOW!

Clarification about taxes and tuition: I shouldn't be giving tax advice to my families - lesson learned. The facts is....in order to need get a tax benefit to create a 529 plan for elementary education that was originally designed for college. Therefore, the new tax act extends saving and spending the money in this fund to private elementary school. If you create this account, you will earn tax fee interest...but to be clear...there is no write off for elementary school tuition at this time.

Teacher, Student and Parent Professional Development (PD): We are consulting with Be the Change organization who will work with our students grades 4-8th, the teachers and parents. Our parent night will be held the evening of March 26th. This Friday, March 16th, the teachers and I will continue to spend time with the expertise of our professional development from Be the Change, on examining the needs that have been noted by you, as well as the evolving issues we discuss to always provide the best curriculum, teaching practices, assessments and behavior standards for all of our students.

Reminder about Sharing Food at Lunch and Recess: Parents, please remind your child that we do not encourage children to share their lunch or snack with each other. Many students have food allergies and are not aware of the ingredients they may be sharing. If your child is hungry and you did not order lunch, we can give them an emergency lunch for \$6. They will get to choose from Mac and Cheese or Top Ramen as the main entrée.

What's the Best Way to Study: "A lot of students, and even a lot of parents and teachers, don't really make a distinction between working hard and working smart, and a kid who puts in hours and hours of study time may be doing that studying very inefficiently, and not end up learning or remembering that material very well at all. The way most students study is by re-reading, and highlighting and underlining their text books and notes, and the science of learning suggests that that's one of the least efficient and effective ways to study. So what students should be doing instead is putting away their textbooks, and their notes, and recalling that

information from memory. One sort of old-school technique that is really well supported by the evidence is flash cards, because it works on that same principle that you are withholding information from yourself — you're not reading it over, it's not right in front of you. You have to call it up from your own mind, and the more you can generate the information yourself, rather than just passively reading it over, the better you'll remember that material when test time comes."

For more information: <https://www.greatschools.org/gk/videos/study-smart/>

Why Testing Makes our Brains Smarter: "One thing that parents might be surprised to learn about testing, is that it's actually one of the best ways to support students' memory — and even their deeper learning. I think there's the perception that testing is all about 'drill and kill', and it's just about rote-ly memorizing a list of facts... but it's actually a way to make deeper learning, more creative learning possible by taking those facts and moving them into our long-term memory — so that we have more room in our short-term working memory to take those facts, combine them in new ways, think of new ideas that are sort of jumping off from what we know... That's one reason that testing, by consolidating memories, moving them to our long-term memory, is really a great way to promote deeper learning."

For more information: https://www.greatschools.org/gk/videos/testing-makes-our-brains-work-better/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=030418.4

Other Resources for your review.... See the flier included - **How to support your child's mental health.**

Important – Panther Club: Invoices are sent out Payments are due. If you do not pay on time, a late fee as with tuition, will be applied.

This new information about helping your children and other great research based articles has been uploaded under the parent resource section...be sure to check it out....Password is "pantherpride"

"Tell two Friends": It is not too late to tell your friends about the advantages of St. Paul School's wonderful loving and caring learning environment and parent community. If a family you recommend enrolls and attends the school for a year, you will receive a reduction of \$200 on your last tuition payment of the 2017-2018 school year. **WE need your help to spread the word!**

Give a GreatSchools Review: Thank you to all parents who have provided a review in the past. **We need your opinion again!** We are beginning our new campaign for our 2018-2019 school year. We are very excited about the changes we have made this year to better serve our students with high academic expectations, opportunities to discover with creativity and social/emotional growth. Please go to www.greatschools.org and take a few minutes to complete a review of the school. Print the review turn it into the office and **get one PPH hour** for your time and effort. Follow the instructions attached.

Having trouble getting into Signup.com?: Some parents have reported that they are having a difficult time using signup.com. In order to use this tool, **YOU MUST DOWNLOAD CHROME AS YOUR BROWSER!** You must use Chrome to log in to Signup.com with no problems....thank you for your perseverance.

Food4Thought Lunch Service: St. Paul School has partnered with Food4Thought as a supplement lunch program. We encourage you to prepare your child's lunch, but if you cannot we ask that you order a fresh lunch prepared daily through Food4Thought Lunch. The office will supply emergency lunches only. If your child needs a lunch and you did not supply one for them, we will bill you \$5 for a main course, water and snack. Please support our lunch program by ordering online at.....Foodforthought.boonli.com michael@f4tc.com (925) 876-3150

Volunteer: Go to www.st-paulschool.org > Parents > Volunteer > click on Sign up.com and sign up!

We have been chosen Best of the Bay 2017 this year in four categories:

Thank you so very much parents for your votes and having faith in always trying to do our best for your children....the teachers, staff and I are most honored!



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

March Brings Spring Color to the Richmond Art Center

- Appreciate the last week of [The 22nd Annual Art of Living Black](#) and [The Cutting Edge: Collage](#) before our galleries prepare for our [upcoming exhibitions](#) later this month: [Face Forward: Self-Image & Self-Worth](#) and [The 53rd Annual WCCUSD Student Art Show](#).
- Spring classes and workshops begin on March 26! [Have you registered yet?](#)
- Get your family ready for summer by registering for Summer Art Camp now! [Check out our summer camp offerings and register before March 31 for a discount.](#)

Summer Reading at the library for free: See flier attached or go to.... www.csueastbay.readingprogram.org

Community Opportunity for Seniors: The Rotary Home Team (light home repair - for seniors) want to share with families who may have senior citizens in the area who may need their help. It's a free service. Our next project is on Saturday, March 31, 2018 in the morning. (See flyer for details).

FYI from Supervisor Gioia:

March 2, 2018 Contra Costa County launches deportation defense hotline and deportation defense services Supporting our community's families regardless of immigration status I'm proud that Contra Costa's residents and political leaders are strongly supporting our county's families, regardless of immigration status. The hateful attacks and threats on immigrants compel us to act. Nothing is more patriotic than protecting our most vulnerable. On March 1, we launched Stand Together Contra Costa, our new immigration hotline and rapid-response deportation defense initiative to support County residents. The number is: 925-900-5151 The Board of Supervisors approved this program last year in response to the growing hate and discrimination toward immigrant families. The mission of Stand Together Contra Costa is to ensure that all families in our County, regardless of immigration status, are afforded the due-process rights established by the U.S. Constitution. Stand Together Contra Costa provides these free services to keep our families together

Vacation Bible Camp: St. John The Baptist Church 17th Annual Vacation Bible Day Camp will be held June 25-29th, 2017. The theme is "A Wild Ride at "Avalanche Ranch".

All Day Campers are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m for only \$170, Morning only Campers are 9 a.m.-12 noon For \$70.

Prairie Dog Pre-School is for 3-5 year olds who haven't started kindergarten.

Kids will enjoy; Sing & Play Stampede Skits & Songs, Cowpoke Crafts & Science, Wild Bible Adventures, Chuck Wagon Chow Snacks, Horseplay Games, Special Guests & Service Projects, new friends and much more!

Mark your calendars & set the date for the Coolest week of the Summer!

On-line registration will be available in March: www.sjtbc.us/vbdc.html

Questions: Pam Vincent [email:pam@sjtbc.us](mailto:pam@sjtbc.us)