

PTG NEWS

PTG Highlights

If you were unable to attend the PTG meeting on January 9, the minutes have been posted in the PTG section of the school website. Other PTG meeting minutes and past newsletters are also posted there.

Thank you to those who continue to make PTG and other school activities successful. If you are not already part of the fun, we are always looking for new volunteers.

Upcoming PTG Meetings

Remember that you are already a member of the PTG. There are no dues. You are welcome to attend all of our general meetings. The last meeting for this school year will be held on Tuesday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. We hope that you are able to attend.

Agenda topics will be announced closer to the meeting date.

PTG Board Members

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A Note from the Principal

February finds us more than half way through the school year which means that students, parents, teachers and administrators find themselves heavily saturated with the curriculum. It is important that parents/guardians be reminded of simple homework suggestions that will keep you involved and connected with the curriculum that is being taught to all students at various levels:

- Check your child/children's planner for daily, weekly and long term assignments and due dates on a consistent basis
- Confirm assignments on teacher homework websites
- Ask your child/children to show you completed assignments
- Communicate with the classroom teacher either by calling the school, emailing or writing a note in the student planner
- Check Option C for student's progress

When students, parents/guardians and teachers work together to reach a common goal, good things will happen. This kind of collaboration and cooperation builds the foundation for a successful learning community.

REMEMBER, TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

Mr. Klase



The Last Days of Christ

*“Couldn’t you keep watch with me for one hour?”
Matthew 26:40*



Students at St. Louise invite you to answer the call to take one hour and enter a prayerful encounter of Our Lord's passion. This is not your typical Stations of the Cross. See the palms waving on Palm Sunday and the grandeur of Pilate's residence. Hear the cry of Our Lord from the cross. Be touched by the Blessed Mother's prayer when Jesus is taken down from the cross and placed in her arms. Feel the joy of Mary Magdalene on Easter Sunday. The story is told through drama, narration and powerful music taken from the Passion of the Christ as well as other pieces of music that will captivate your heart.

Sunday, March 18th

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**St. Louise School Gym/Stage
Freewill Offerings Appreciated**

Concession stand will be open with light refreshments after 4:30 p.m. Mass up until the beginning of the performance.

PJAS Regional Meet



Twenty-two 7th and 8th grade students represented St. Louise at the Regional Meet of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) on Saturday, February 3rd. They returned with 17 first place awards and 5 second place awards. The first-place award winners are Becky Mack, Matt Schearer, Briella Lucadamo, Lily Marchand, Andrew Porco, Melina Stewart, Molly Maher, Donovan Whitfield, Cullen Gillespie, Cole Brdar, Nicole Lusk, Lia Violago, Meghan Erfort, Drew West, Anthony Frank, and Kaitlyn Karenbauer. Kaitlyn was awarded the Excellence in Chemistry and Biochemistry Award as well as the Duquesne Excellence Award for her work with Fabric Softener and its Effect on Flame Retardant Materials.

And finally, Taylor Sluss earned a perfect score of 5.0 for her work with Ultraviolet Light and the growth of bean and pea plants. This is Taylor's 2nd Perfect Score Award in a row. She was awarded a Perfect Score at last year's Regional Meet, as well. In addition, Taylor was also awarded the Director's Award in Botany. The Director's Award is presented to the student who earned the highest score in any discipline at the Meet.

Congratulations also goes to those students who earned second place awards Ava Baumcratz, Sara Osterhaus, Cassidy Vaccarello, Kaylee Knoebel, and Kylene Vas.

In addition to the presenters, fourteen students attended the PJAS Regional Meet as Awards Technicians. They were Luke Cortes, Mark Banbury, Mason Woolensack, Phillip Majkic, Dante Talerico, Nick Kopec, Kadin Campeau, Cam Donahue, Carsyn Cortes, Mary Nagy, Kaitlyn Zediker, Lily Schachner, Chloe Cross and Bella Bergstresser.

Congratulations to all for a job well done!

Book Fair



Thank you to all who came out and shopped at the Book Fair during Open House. A special thank you to all the volunteers who helped us set up, cashier and clean up. **We sold \$6,170.18 of books and earned 55% of our sales (pre-tax) in Scholastic Dollars! That's \$3,171.59 in Scholastic Dollars.** This money is usually spent by the librarian to buy more books for the school library. But Scholastic offers more than just books. The giant colorful rug in the library has also been purchased with Scholastic Dollars. So thank you again for shopping at our fair! Enjoy all your wonderful new books.

The Spring Buy One, Get One Free Book Fair will be May 14-16.

3rd Grade Muffins with Mom

On Tuesday, February 13th, our annual "Muffins with Mom" event took place in the school cafeteria. All third-grade students had the opportunity to enjoy a special breakfast with their moms.

Students and their mothers arrived at 7:30 in the morning and were treated to muffins, breakfast pastries and fruit as well as juice and coffee. This was a nice opportunity for our students to have some one on one time with their mothers as well as time with friends.

At the end of the breakfast and before heading to class, each child was able to present their mother with a flower to celebrate the occasion. This event was enjoyed by all!

Next Issue

The next issue of the PTG News will be published on March 28. Articles are due to Michele Sites, msites1@verizon.net, on Friday, March 23.

Yearbook Help

Want to help with the Yearbook for next year?

This year's book is wrapping up so that it can be delivered in May to our students, but we are always looking for more help for future books. If you are someone who finds themselves taking pictures at STL school events or would like to help with some organizational items regarding the STL yearbook, email Erin Boni at eefemedia@gmail.com.

We have a great core team but are always willing to take more help if you find you are called to use your talent in this way.

Upcoming Events

- Family Fish Fry, Fridays during Lent (except Good Friday), 4:30-7:30 p.m., LeGras
- School Advisory Council Meeting, Monday, March 5, 6:30 p.m., LeGras
- Confirmation Retreat, Sunday, March 11, 1:00-6:00 p.m., Seton
- ACRE Testing, Tuesday, March 13
- Feast of St. Louise, Thursday, March 15
- Living Stations, Sunday, March 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Gym
- Feast of St. Joseph, Monday, March 19
- St. Joe's Table Service Project Begins Monday, March 19
- Grade 5 VIP/Student Lunch, Tuesday, March 20, 12:15 p.m., Cafeteria
- Reconciliation, 5th, 6th, and 7th Grade, Monday, March 26, 1:00 p.m.
- Reconciliation, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Grade, Tuesday, March 27, 1:00 p.m.
- End of 3rd Marking Period, Wednesday, March 28
- No School, Thursday, March 29, Friday, March 30 and Monday, April 2
- Easter Eggstravaganza and Blessing of Easter Foods, Saturday, March 31, 9:30 a.m., LeGras; 11:00 a.m., Church

RUN FOR THE ROSES GALA 2018 WRAP UP



As I sit down to write this Gala wrap up article, I, of course, have a great sense of relief knowing that all the paperwork has just about been completed and supplies put away, but I also feel a huge sense of accomplishment. I have chaired the Gala for the past two years and it is now time for me to pass the baton.

First, I would like to thank the fabulous committee members and support team that surrounded me over this journey and helped make this such a successful event. I have made many new friends and have learned how many gifts and talents these wonderful people possess. Gifts and talents that shine their brightest when it is most needed! I know I have said it already but thank you for everything!

Yes, volunteering is time-consuming for sure, hard work and takes us away from "our list of things to do" but *THE REWARDS ARE GREAT!* It can be a lot of fun too! So, the next time a SignUp Genius comes out or someone asks you to consider working on a committee or even head one up, think about making new friends and having fun first, not the list that it will take you away from doing. I had some wonderful mentors during this process and I just hope when my kids are moving on from STL, I look back and remember all the wonderful friends I have made because I sacrificed some of my time for the benefit of my children and their friends' school!

It is with great joy I share that we had a banner year! The numbers are still not complete, expenses are still coming in and **DRESS DOWN DAYS STILL NEED TO BE SOLD (HINT-HINT)** but we are all very pleased at how successful the Gala was this year. Thanks to the support of our many sponsors (a record-breaking year) and the generosity of our families we exceeded our goal of \$100,000.

Going forward, we are looking for individuals who would like to join the Gala committee. We are looking for leaders/chair people to bring new ideas to this fundraising event. We are bouncing around a few thoughts for how this committee will function under the new direction of Tracey Buckley, Director of Advancement, and the SAC. If you are interested in giving of your time and talents, please reach out to Tracey or myself. I have agreed to mentor/assist the next Gala chair team, but we are looking for new members and fresh ideas. Remember, we **MUST** raise 10% of our operating budget which is over \$200,000. This takes time and hard work! Please consider giving of your time.

In conclusion, we will be sending out a brief survey in the next few weeks asking for your thoughts/ideas/comments/feedback on the Gala. We need your responses so that we can better plan for next year. Thanks in advance.

Mary Anne Meade
Gala Chair



St. Louise de Marillac
Pray for Us

Mark Your Calendars! Eggstravaganza and Blessing of the Easter Foods!

Date: March 31st

Holy Saturday Family Eggstravaganza in Lower LeGras Hall, 9:30-10:50 a.m.

Blessing of the Easter Foods in the Church, 11:00-11:20 a.m.

What to expect: Breakfast refreshments and coffee will be provided. You may dress casually. Families will gather in LeGras to have lots of hands-on fun **dying and decorating eggs** (provided) and creating various traditional Easter items which will go into your Easter Dinner Basket (you must provide the basket).

After the Eggstravaganza, at just before 11:00 a.m., we will process as families, carrying our baskets of Easter foods (and decorated eggs) over to the Church. We will place the baskets around the sanctuary area, with a lit candle (votive or taper, provided by you) nestled in the basket. We will then file into the pews for the blessing of the Easter foods and of our families.

What's an Easter Dinner Basket?

Each family's Easter Dinner Basket will be unique! The basket can be of any type and should contain representative foods which will be consumed on Easter Sunday or the fifty days of the Easter Season which follow. Also, we will be dying eggs and making a few symbolic items to place in them. You may wish to include your Easter bread, sweets, vegetables, cheeses, a ham or leg of lamb, or your traditional Easter entree, salt, fresh herbs, and even flowers. Perhaps you'll include wine and your dinner candles. Do include a taper or votive candle you can light just before the blessing. Candles are symbols of Christ, who is our Eternal Light and Source of Eternal Life. To see all of the Baskets with the lit candles is a beautiful thing to behold!

On Holy Saturday morning, the church will be fully decked out in Easter flowers, anticipating the "Mother of all Liturgies," that great and joyous Easter Vigil, which takes place at sundown on Holy Saturday evening. We pray that our families will be refreshed and renewed by the beauty of this lovely morning tradition and blessing and be well prepared for the great celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

Do I need to register my family for this?

Yes. In order to provide food and refreshments, eggs, décor, and craft supplies, we must require registration and charge a small fee for each family (\$12.00). The registration and payment link will be up and open on the St. Louise Church and School websites soon. Watch for an Option C to announce the link and provide access. We are limited to the capacity of LeGras Hall, so please register soon!

Please Note: *There is no registration or fee for families who only wish to take part in the Blessing of the Easter Foods!* If you wish to participate in this Blessing only, please arrive before 11:00 a.m. at the Church to place your basket in front of the Sanctuary. Blessing begins at 11:00.

Questions? Email Rebecca Pettigrew:
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