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# Newsletter—February 26, 2021

*We Teach Truth - Build Character - Inspire Service*

## Statements for Childcare & Tuition for Taxes:

If you go to the FACTS Family Portal you can get all of your tax information. Next to the words PAYMENT PLAN AND BILLING, you can click on VIEW DETAILS. On the next screen, you can click on VIEW PAYMENT SUMMARY. That page breaks down tuition and other expenses by child for the calendar year.

## **Financial Assistance Available**

Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2021-2022 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed.

Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria or on the Diocesan website [www.cdop.org](http://www.cdop.org) under *Catholic Education* and then under *Financial Assistance*. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award.

Parents must apply online at: [online.factsmgmt.com/aid](http://online.factsmgmt.com/aid). Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2021-2022 school year must reapply.

Deadline date for the completed application is **April 30, 2021**. Notification of grant awards will be made by the end of June 2021.

Another funding opportunity is also available due to the Invest in Kids Act legislation in Illinois. Students may be eligible for up to 100% of tuition and fees under a new program for tax credit scholarships (TCS). Details on how to apply and who qualifies are available on the Empower Illinois website at [www.empowerillinois.org](http://www.empowerillinois.org). Students who receive a TCS are ineligible to receive a Spalding award.



Dr. Seuss' birthday is quickly approaching on March 2nd! We will celebrate with a Dr. Seuss themed week!

### Monday 3/1: Silly/ Favorite Hat Day and Striped Shirts

(Students may come to school in their favorite/silliest hat and/or a striped shirt, with uniform bottoms K-8th grade, to celebrate the book *The Cat in the Hat*)

### Tuesday 3/2: Silly Socks and Shoes Day

(Students can wear fun, silly, mismatched socks as well as mismatched shoes for *Fox in Socks* and *The Foot Book*). This will also be the day we encourage each student to take an A.R. test for Read Across America Day.

Wednesday 3/3: Wacky Hair Day (It's sure to win over the students! Students are encouraged to wear the wackiest of hair do for *Wacky Wednesday*. ❏No colored hair❏)

Thursday 3/4: Green Day ❏And ❏ho can forget ❏reen Eggs and Ham? Students are encouraged to wear green shirts or accessories with their uniform pants or jumpers for K-8th grade.)

Friday 3/5: Oh, The Places You'll Go! (We all have a special calling of what we will be when we grow up! Will your student choose a mechanic? Baker? Teacher? Firefighter? Engineer? Students may come to school dressed as what they would like to be when they grow up. Please be sure to follow the out of uniform guidelines in the handbook for today's fun for K-8th grade students!)



### **It's here! The Book Fair is HERE!!**

Beginning Monday, March 1st through March 5th, the book fair will be located in the library. We'll have all of your favorites from Dog Man to Pete the Cat and many more!!

Students will have an opportunity during the week to visit the fair and pick out books to purchase. Parents can send cash, checks or set up an e-wallet online for students to use.

The one difference this year is our fair will not be open to the public. Unfortunately, parents, grandparents and others will not be able to attend the fair and purchase items. But we will be sending information home with our k-4 students about books available so that students can make wish lists before they shop.

In previous years we have also had a table with books from our teachers' wish lists. This year we will not have that but you may choose to send a donation for your child's teacher to do some shopping at the fair. If you are interested, please contact your child's teacher to find out how you can help.

Please support the fair if you can and remember, our school receives money to purchase books based on the amount that we sell at the fair!



### **The easiest way to shop the Fair!**

Book Fair eWallet is a safe and secure alternative to cash, featuring contactless checkout. Simply create an account to add funds and/or invite family and friends to contribute. Then, shop in-person or through the Virtual Book Fair to discover 6,000+ products.



Create Account



Add Funds

and / or



Share with Family & Friends



Shop the Fair

To get started, visit our school's Book Fair homepage:  
<https://www.scholastic.com/bfi/stthomasapostlesch1>




Order your yearbook today at

<https://ybpav.lifetouch.com/>

Our ID Code is 14113421

Deadline to order yearbooks is March 8, 2021!

Even though the Box Tops program has gone digital, there are still some products out there with traditional clips. If you find one on a package, you can still get credit for as long as it's not expired! Please send Box Tops to school!



### **Outdoor Recess:**

Students should be encouraged to engage in physical activity during recess year round...including winter--- unless temperatures are dangerously cold or when it is raining. Every child, unless excused by reason of ill health, is expected to comply to the outdoor guidelines set at St. Thomas. Please keep in mind that winter air does NOT cause or worsen minor symptoms as long as children are dressed appropriately. Extended indoor recess requests require a doctor's note.

### **Guidelines**

Students will be outside before school and at all recesses when the temperature (including wind chill) is 15 degrees or above and it is dry. Temperature is checked throughout the day during cold weather.

Students need to dress adequately for cold weather by wearing coats that close, hats or ear bands, pants or tights/leggings, and mittens or gloves. Students will also be required to stay within the designated areas to avoid unnecessary wetness. Students may bring boots to wear for warmth, however, ***playing IN the snow during recess is not allowed.***



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**Congratulations to our Spelling Bee participants**—  
Matthew Kilian, Elizabeth Leustek, Whitney Parks ,  
Audrey Horst, Matthew Bennett, Christian Szudera,  
Christian Pag-ong, Gabe Jockish, Will Lynch, Gabe Gross



Congratulations to Christian Pag-ong  
our Spelling Bee winner!

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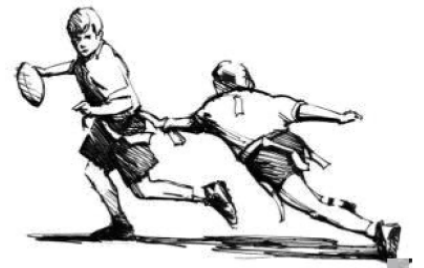
**Registration is OPEN!**

**Spring 7 on 7 flag season starts April 6th**

**Summer Football Camp June 8 & 9**

**Fall Football season starts July 26th**

**Register today at [www.NDJFL.com](http://www.NDJFL.com)**



**Spring season ages 5-14**

**Summer Camp ages 8-14**

**Flag Football age 5-8**

**Cheer and Tackle-**

**age 8-14**





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**Play for Comets!** We have been thrilled by the initial support of our Play for Comets fundraising campaign. We promised more information this week and are here with some answers to frequently asked questions.

## **Donor Recognition**

We are incredibly grateful for generous donors from our parish and school families who will make this project a reality.

We will be placing a permanent fixture at the playground to recognize all donations above \$500 in the following tiers:

Comet Level: \$10,000+

Platinum: \$7,500 - \$9,999

Gold: \$5,000 - \$7,499

Silver: \$2,500 - \$4,999

Bronze: \$1,000 - \$2,499

Maroon: \$500 - \$999



Additional recognition in different areas of our outdoor design will be given to donors at the Gold, Platinum and Comet levels.

***An appropriately sized playground, with site work and installation, will run St. Thomas School about \$50,000.***

We are looking to install this in the grassy green area on the side of the school, but have several site options available. We have met with three separate companies to gather quotes and explore options.

***This initiative can be as big as you want it to be!*** There are big dreams of adding swings, gaga ball courts, interactive panels, climbing walls and more if we can exceed our goals.

As a reminder, the easiest way to donate is directly via check to St Thomas School and deliver it to the school office. Online donations are also possible at the parish website.

## **From Our Kids**

If you haven't seen it already, check out this great video from our kids. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5T5yIHQcRKc&feature=youtu.be>

Their excitement about this new playground is contagious! They are working hard at their penny wars to raise money in their own way.

Each class is collecting coins and many classes have already had to get bigger buckets.

Check social media for our weekly update on our overall progress this Friday 2/12!

Let's PLAY!

The Playground Fundraising Committee

