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## Newsletter—February 25, 2022

*We Teach Truth - Build Character - Inspire Service*



Dr. Seuss' birthday is quickly approaching on Wednesday, March 2nd. Schools across the country will recognize this author's day on *Read Across America Day on Wednesday, March 2nd*. St. Thomas School is extending this celebration for Pre3-8th grade students the whole week of February 28th- March 4th! We have decided on school-wide daily themes for the students to follow for some extra fun!

The themed days are listed below for attire! Here's to an awesomely fun week developing a love for reading!

### Monday 2/28: Silly Hat and Shirt Day

A sombrero, ball cap or even a beret, it's sure to be fun on silly hat and shirt day! Wear your silliest hat and shirt (stripes are even better), to celebrate the best cat ever! *Cat in the Hat* is our inspiration for today!

- Students may come to school in their favorite/silliest hat and/or a striped shirt, with uniform pants, skirts, or jumpers.

### Tuesday 3/1: Green Day

You can wear green here, or there. You can wear green ANYWHERE! Will you wear a green shirt, green socks, a shamrock or two? The green possibilities are up to YOU. *Green Eggs and Ham* is a favorite Dr. Seuss book, and we are celebrating this memorable book in green style.

- Students are encouraged to wear green shirts, socks, and other accessories with their uniform pants, skirts or jumpers.

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

Left foot, right foot... feet, feet, feet! How many different socks and shoes will we meet? Polka dots, cats, stripes, shamrocks... what will it be? Perhaps mismatched shoes? What can you show off with your feet?

- Students can wear fun, silly, mismatched socks as well as mismatched shoes with their regular uniform for *Fox in Socks* and *The Foot Book*.

### Thursday 3/3: P.J. Day

For a sleepover, slumber party, or bed, come to school in your pajamas instead! We are getting cozy with *The Sleep Book* today. A reading chain will take place in the hallways with our prayer pals from 8:45-9:00 A.M. Prayer pals will exchange bookmarks and read together. Homeroom teachers will plan an additional time for reading and Accelerated Reader tests as well.

- Students may be out of uniform and wear pajamas to school. Students must come to school wearing shoes. Please be sure to follow the out of uniform guidelines from the school handbook.

### Friday 3/4 : Future Friday

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose." What you want to be when you grow up is totally up to you! A baker? A doctor? An international spy? Come to school dressed as what you decide! We know our St. Thomas students are off to great places like in *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*

- Future Friday is an out of uniform day and students may dress up as what they want to be when they grow up! Please be sure to follow the out of the uniform guidelines from the school handbook.



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### **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.



Congratulations to our **Spelling Bee participants:** Remi Joesting, Bear Gangloff, Matthew Bennett, Elizabeth Leustek, Whitney Parks, Emelia Ritterbusch, and Christina Pag-ong.



Congratulations to our Spelling Bee **Champion**—Emelia Ritterbusch and **Runner up** Elizabeth Leustek!

### **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 2022-2023 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.factsmgt.com/aid](http://online.factsmgt.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 2022-2023 school year must reapply.

Deadline date for the completed application is **April 29, 2022**. Notification of grant awards will be made by the end of June 2022.

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.

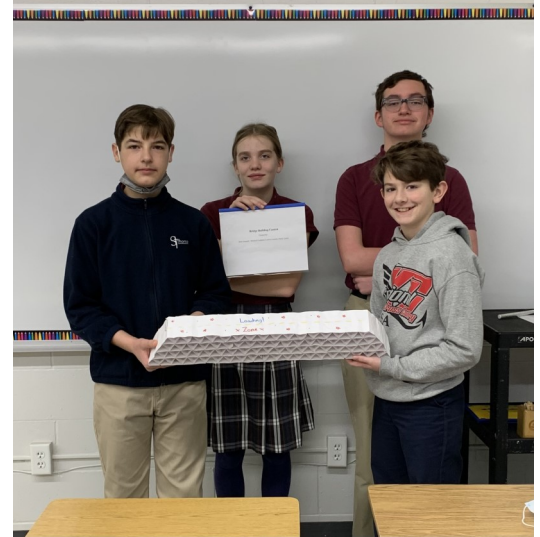


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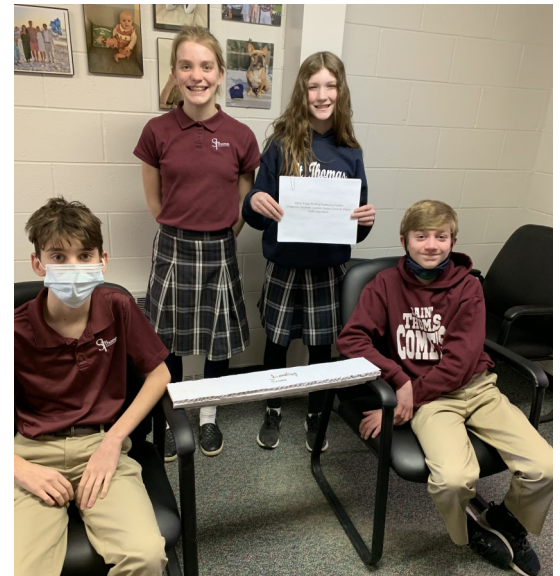
Congratulations to our PREK Teacher—Mrs. Sarah Tamburro, on her PNC grant! Mrs. Tamburro was awarded \$1000 for her “Safe Outdoor Play During COVID 19”. “Our goal is to provide our children with more outdoor play equipment, ensuring that their outdoor time is fun, always exciting and engaging and keeps them safe which supports a healthy childhood development.”



These students participated in the Bridge Building Competition presented by the American Society of Civil Engineers at the Riverfront Museum on Sunday, February 20. The students constructed bridges with 3x5 note cards.



1st grade 101st Day of School celebration!



8th grade All School Mass





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# St. Thomas School presents **Science PALOOZA** Saturday, March 12th 9:30 am - noon

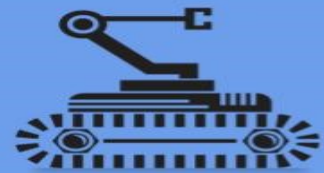
Fun for the whole family!  
Bring your friends!



**FREE!!**  
Enter at the cafeteria doors  
in the back parking lot.



Forest Park  
Nature Center  
& Wildlife  
Prairie Park  
demonstrations



Light Sabers  
Materials Magic  
Edible Science  
Rockets



STS Robotics  
Ozobots  
Virtual Reality  
...and more!



2/22/22- First graders—Happy Twosday!

St. Thomas is happy to announce that signups for our upcoming track season are now underway. Those students who are in 5th through 8th grade are eligible to participate. Please click on the link in order to register:

[Track Sign Up](#)

The cost of participation this year is \$50 per student. Also a reminder that students must sign all forms and have a valid IESA physical on file.

Finally, there will be a mandatory **PARENT MEETING on March 1 at 7PM in the OLD GYM** with Coach Paul Schramm. He will have more details on practice times. Track meets are already loaded onto the school website.



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Donuts with Dad

It is time to order your yearbook! This year we have partnered with TreeRing. Please see the link below and follow the steps to place your order.

- 1) Go to [Tree Ring Ordering Site](#)
- 2) Create an account for yourself
- 3) Add each of your students that you would like to purchase a yearbook for
- 4) Next, you will be taken to the order screen for one of your students. Using the drop down menu, order for each of your students that you wish.
- 5) Click on your cart to checkout.

**Order and payment deadline is March 21st.**



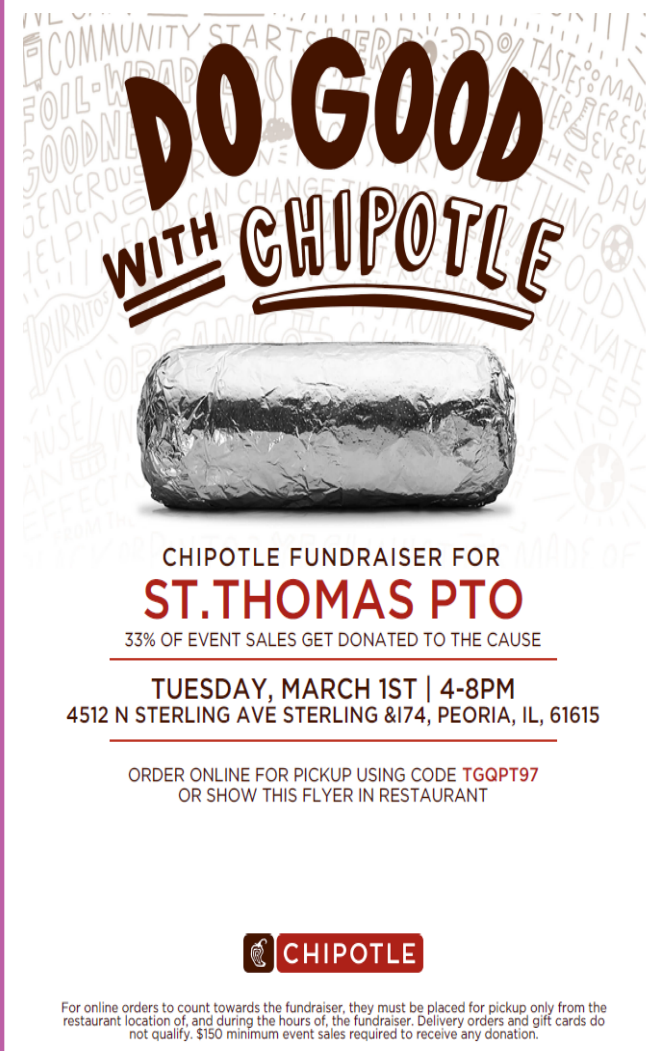
A huge shoutout is going to the 6th graders for bringing in a grand total of 226 pairs of socks to support those in need throughout Peoria.

Please support St. Thomas PTO with a Chipotle Fundraiser coming TUESDAY, March 1st! What a great way to enjoy FAT Tuesday and Kick of Lent 2022 with NO cooking. Please enjoy a Meaty dinner and have a BURRITOFUL night. The fundraiser will be from 4pm-8pm. You can drive through or walk into Chipotle located off Sterling Avenue by Northwood's Mall.

Please see the attached flyer below. Please show this flyer by phone, or a hard copy flyer when placing your order. St. Thomas will receive 33% of the proceeds.

Regards,

PTO Co-Chair Presidents  
Molly Kepple and Karen Kepple



**DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE**

CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR  
**ST. THOMAS PTO**  
33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

TUESDAY, MARCH 1ST | 4-8PM  
4512 N STERLING AVE STERLING & I74, PEORIA, IL, 61615

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **TGQP797**  
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT

For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.