

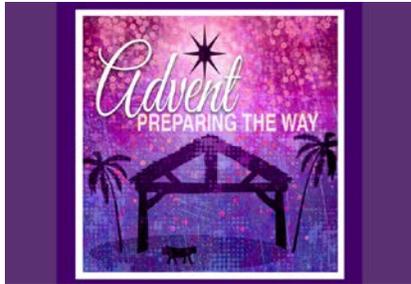


# School Days News!

~December 2020~



Saint Michael, an accredited Catholic Elementary School, partners with families in the education of the mind, body, and soul of each child.



## NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov 19: Dress Down Day - \$1 Donation
- Nov 23: **Parent Zoom Meeting on Remote Learning Expectations at 6pm**
- Nov 25: NOON DISMISSAL
- Nov 26-30: No School - Thanksgiving
- Nov 29: First Sunday of Advent

## DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec 1: School Resumes from Thanksgiving break  
Quarter 2 Interim  
**REMOTE LEARNING DAY**
- Dec 2: **REMOTE LEARNING DAY**
- Dec 3: **REMOTE LEARNING DAY**
- Dec 4: **REMOTE LEARNING DAY**
- Dec 6: Second Sunday of Advent  
Feast of St. Nicholas
- Dec 7: Good Shepherd Christmas Dinner
- Dec 8: Open PTO Zoom Meeting at 6pm
- Dec 10: Jeans Day - No charge
- Dec 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Dec 13: Third Sunday of Advent  
Feast of St. Lucy
- Dec 16: Lunch money and orders for January due  
Las Posadas Celebrations Begin
- Dec 17: Dress Down Day - \$1 Donation
- Dec 18: Santa Land
- Dec 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Dec 22: NOON DISMISSAL  
Christmas Shirts and Parties Day
- Dec 23 - Jan 3: Christmas Break
- Dec 25: Birthday of Our Lord

## JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 4: School resumes from Christmas break  
**REMOTE LEARNING**
- Jan 5: **REMOTE LEARNING**
- Jan 6: **REMOTE LEARNING**
- Jan 7: Jeans Day - No charge  
**IN-PERSON LEARNING RESUMES**
- Jan 14: PTO Hot Lunch
- Jan 15: Quarter 2 Ends
- Jan 18: NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 20: Lunch money and orders for February due
- Jan 21: Dress Down Day - \$1 Donation
- Jan 28: Jeans Day - No charge
- Jan 31: CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK BEGINS!

## Masks and Social Distancing

We want our children and staff to stay healthier than ever this year! Thank you for keeping your child home when sick and for following our guidelines so far as to when it is safe to return to school!

Another key element of staying healthy is following the November 20<sup>th</sup> Mask Order, **requiring** all of us, in school and on school/church property - including the playground - to wear masks or facial coverings AND maintain six feet of distance from those not in our households. This is a major shift from how we've been raised and lived. Thank you for your patience with this new policy. We ask that parents and visitors on our St. Michael campus respect the order and come (and remain) masked while on the property (inside or outside) as well as maintain a 6-foot distance. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Check out this link for Frequently Asked Questions about Masks:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx>

## GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Good Shepherd Christmas Dinner is on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The St. Michael Church is still looking for donations of store-bought cookies. Donations can be brought to the church or school by December 4<sup>th</sup> or they can be dropped off at the church kitchen on December 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>. If dropping off at the church kitchen, please label them "Good Shepherd Dinner".



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We want to send out some very heart-felt thank yous:

- Thank you to the members of the PTO for all of their help with lunches and fundraisers!
- Thank you to Mr. Mike Varga who has been setting up IT until the position can be filled.
- Thank you to the Mong family for their donation of more child-sized face shields for our students!
- Thank you to Mr. Doug Dorio for organizing our school's superhero election! The student body voted in Black Panther as our school's superhero!
- Thank you to all of our teachers who have been putting in extra time to make the remote learning experience rich and relevant.

## Communication

We welcome communication with you! With so many platforms to choose from, the teachers have decided that the best way for you to communicate with them is through the message feature on Class Dojo. Communication may occur between 7:30am and 3:00pm at the teacher's discretion. Any time after 3:00pm, please know that your child(ren)'s teacher(s) may not get back to you until the following day.

Mrs. Bates may be reached either by phone at 724-588-7050 or email at [stmike@neo.rr.com](mailto:stmike@neo.rr.com) or [lbates@smike1.org](mailto:lbates@smike1.org).

If you wish to communicate with Miss Zgonc during the same hours (7:30am - 3:00pm), you may use the Class Dojo message feature or her email address: [ezgonc@smike1.org](mailto:ezgonc@smike1.org). If school is in session, she may also be reached via phone at 724-588-7050. Miss Zgonc will continue to utilize the Option C parent alert system for school-wide updates.

## Remote Learning

With the holidays upon us, we know that families will most likely be with those who are not normally in their immediate household. Because of this, cases are likely to rise after Thanksgiving and Christmas. **We are going to be switching to remote learning for the week after Thanksgiving: December 1-4. In-person classes will resume on December 7. After Christmas break, we will also switch to a remote learning modality from January 4-6, with in-person classes resuming on January 7.** This time will be used as a buffer period so any person who may have been exposed over the holiday will show symptoms or will know they have been exposed and need to quarantine.

Much more information, including virtual schedules, how-to videos, travel orders, etc. is available under the CURRENT FAMILIES tab on the SMS website: [www.saintmichael1.org](http://www.saintmichael1.org). We ask you all for your prayers as we move into the holiday season that we continue to stay safe and healthy.

Our staff is trained and has been preparing for such an event. It WILL NOT just be completing assignments, but a true learning environment with direct instruction, collaboration, discussion, and independent, whole group, and small group modalities. Our mission and vision for our students will continue to set us apart as St. Michael School.

For our online "homebase", PreK through Kindergarten has decided to use Google Sites. Grades 1 - 8 will be using the Google Classroom platform.

On Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6pm we will hold an informational Zoom meeting with parents to discuss expectations for Remote Learning.



# School Days News!

~December 2020~



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## LUNCHESES

December's subs will be chicken parmesan subs from Golden Pizza. December's PTO Hot Lunch will be on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> for those who ordered. It will come from McDonald's and include a 6-piece chicken McNugget box, French fries, apple slices, and a small treat. Pizza on Fridays will still be purchased from Fox's Pizza Den and pepperoni rolls on Wednesdays will come from Golden Pizza.

Lunch orders for December are due to the school by November 18<sup>th</sup>. Lunch orders for January will be due by December 16<sup>th</sup>.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

With weather delays and cancellations coming, please be advised that St. Michael School will make an independent decision on whether to delay or cancel school. This decision is not decided by our surrounding public schools. Parents will be notified through our Option C alert system, school website, KDKA TV, Youngstown TV Channels, and Erie TV.

## DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Please dress your child for outdoor recess and gym class. Unless it is raining or below freezing, teachers and students like to go outside for the fresh air. Remember boots and snow-pants when the snow arrives. Snow boots may not be worn in the school during the school day, only when going outside. Please send a change of shoes if your child is wearing snow boots.

November 1<sup>st</sup> marks the start of winter apparel (no more shorts). Please refer to the Dress Code in the Handbook for details.



## Mitten Tree Donations

From now until February 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be collecting mittens, gloves, and winter hats for infants, children, and adults in need.

## Let Us Introduce.....

We will be highlighting two staff or faculty members every month!! It is our chance to let you know a little bit about each of us!

### Mrs. Anna Boughner - Physical Education & Health

I am the Health/PE teacher for Grades PreK3 to 8. I also teach Kindergarten Religion this year.



I graduated from Bethany College with an undergrad of Health and Physical Education K-12. In 2019, I received my Masters of Exercise Science from California University of Pennsylvania. I am currently enrolled in Gannon University to receive my Principal's Certification.

My husband, Jeremy, and I have been married for five years, and we have three children. Lilly is my stepdaughter; she is eleven years old. David is three years old, and he is currently enrolled in the SMS PreK3 classroom. Maria is one and a half years old, but soon she will turn two!

We live in Grove City. As a family, we love to be outside playing. We go camping in the summer months and visit Keystone Safari. My hobbies include reading when I get the chance, baking, and being with my family.

### Miss Erin Warren - Music

I am in my second year of teaching at St. Michael School. I feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful school community! I direct the annual spring musical; and teach art, general music, choir, band, and string ensemble. I received my Bachelor's degree in Music Education K-12 from Westminster College.



When I'm not teaching at SMS, I'm teaching voice, piano, and string lessons at Mark's Music. I am a member of Greenville Area Community Theater (GACT) and sing in the annual community "Messiah" production every Christmas. I also enjoy performing as a member of the Shenango Valley Chorale during the spring and winter seasons.

When I'm not involved in music, I love spending time hiking outdoors, baking, reading books, and crafting for my Etsy business.



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## DRESS DOWN DAY

Dress Down Days are usually held once a month, on the third Thursday. Students and teachers pay \$1.00. Proceeds are donated to various service projects.

On November 19<sup>th</sup> we collected donations for the Alpha and Omega Pregnancy Center for Dress Down Day. We collected a total of \$93.

December 17<sup>th</sup> is our next Dress Down Day. Proceeds will be given to the Good Shepherd Center.

## JEANS DAY

Jeans Days will be held every Thursday during the school year that we do not attend Mass. There is no charge to wear jeans on Jeans Day.

## Option C

Parents, please remember to log in daily to the Option C Homework/Gradebook/Alert System. If you are not receiving the alert messages by phone, email, or text, please contact the school office.

## Grades 5-8 Gym Clothes Option

Beginning November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Gym classes began to have the opportunity to take place in Lateran Hall. Students in Grades 5 through 8 are be able to dress down on their respective Gym days. Grades 7 & 8 have Gym on Tuesdays. Grades 5 & 6 have Gym on Thursdays. Appropriate attire includes a spiritwear shirt and sweat or athletic pants. Shorts may be worn underneath pants, as locker rooms will not be available for use.

## Shamrock SHOUT-OUTS!

Thank you to Mrs. Bates for starting this initiative! Students and staff are encouraged to be on the lookout for exemplary behavior or character in fellow students and staff and "shout them out" by telling the school why on a shamrock cut-out which is added to our bulletin board. We are growing an amazing crop this year!



## Dynamic Catholic

Making 2021 the Best Year of Your Life Starts with Advent!

Dynamic Catholic offers a totally free and totally awesome daily video program (sent straight to your email) that will help you prepare for Christmas like never before!

The Best Advent of Your Life in 3 Easy Steps:

1. Sign Up on the Dynamic Catholic Site: It's super easy and quick. All they need are your name and email address.

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/best-advent-ever.html>

2. Watch Videos: You'll receive short, inspiration videos each day to help you slow down, think and pray.

3. Reflect and... Enjoy a Cookie: Think about the video all day. Apply the ideas to your life. And while you're at it, have a cookie!

## Blessed is She



Ladies: check out Blessed is She: a sisterhood of women who desire two things: prayer and community. They can be found on their website:

[blessedishe.net](https://blessedishe.net) and on social media: on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. They also have a weekly podcast called The Gathering Place. If you're looking for great Advent resources, you won't want to miss Blessed is She!



## real life catholic

Men, we didn't forget about you! Check out what Chris Stefanik is doing at Real Life Catholic: <https://reallifecatholic.com>. Grow into the man that God created you to be: "the life you were made for. The tools to live it."



# School Days News!

~December 2020~



Saint Michael, an accredited Catholic Elementary School, partners with families in the education of the mind, body, and soul of each child.

## **SCRIP Gift Card Program**

### **Easy way to earn tuition credit!**

Contact school office or the SCRIP Coordinator, Shannon Thomas, at 724-456-1279 for more information about the program or placing orders.

Christmas is coming! Now a great time to purchase gift cards for Christmas gifts! Visit [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) to see all the cards you can order from over 750 retailers. Order online or contact Shannon Thomas.

## **2020-2021 Tuition & FACTS Management**

Any questions regarding tuition or FACTS should be directed to Mrs. Susan Swartzbeck in the St. Michael Church Business Office at 724-588-9800 or [saintmichaelbiz@gmail.com](mailto:saintmichaelbiz@gmail.com).



## **BOX TOPS**

Box Tops is changing to fit today's families. The new and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products, and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.

## **Prayer Request**

We would appreciate your support in praying with us for the Kremm family who recently lost a member of their family. Meghan Fossaceca, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kremm, passed away on September 5<sup>th</sup> after a long and courageous battle with brain cancer.

If you would like to make a donation in her memory, Meghan asked to have donations made to Shriners Hospitals for Children® — Philadelphia at 3551 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140.

## **Handbook Information**

Parents, please look on the school website: [saintmichael1.org](http://saintmichael1.org) for the updated Handbook. It includes information about the dress code and COVID-19.

## **Girls Uniform Exchange**

SMS will be offering a uniform exchange of girls **PLAID** jumpers, skirts, or skorts. Please call the school office to ask about our inventory.

# Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Erie School Wellness Policy 2020/2021



Be A  
**School Wellness Champion**

## Parents, we need your help to make our school healthier!

Children spend most of their day at school. So, it's important that they have healthy foods and drinks while they are there. Good nutrition also helps kids learn better at school. Our school wellness policy tells how our school is making the healthy choice, the easy choice for kids. All schools participating in the National School Lunch/Breakfast program must comply with the Wellness Policy.

### 4 ways parents can help:

**1** Share your ideas with the school wellness committee or join the committee. You do not need any special training to be on the committee, just an interest in keeping our school healthy!

**2** Read the school wellness policy at [www.eriecd.org/schools.htm](http://www.eriecd.org/schools.htm) Parent Resources. For questions or more information, contact the school.



**3** Follow the classroom and school events guidelines to have healthy foods and get kids physically active. Keep the wellness policy in mind when planning what foods and beverages to have at events and celebrations.



**4** Support the wellness policy. A healthy snack must be offered when other food is given to students. Food and beverages will not be given as a reward or incentive. Food cannot be sold in schools unless it meets the Smart Snack requirements. (Exemptions may be requested.) Parent resources will be provided to assist families with healthy eating.

### What is in our school wellness policy?

The school wellness policy is online at: [www.eriecd.org/schools.htm](http://www.eriecd.org/schools.htm) at the link for Parent Resources. Major topics in the policy are:



- Nutrition education and promotion



- Physical activity



- Other wellness activities (such as school gardens and walk/bike to school)



- Nutrition standards for all foods and drinks sold to kids at school



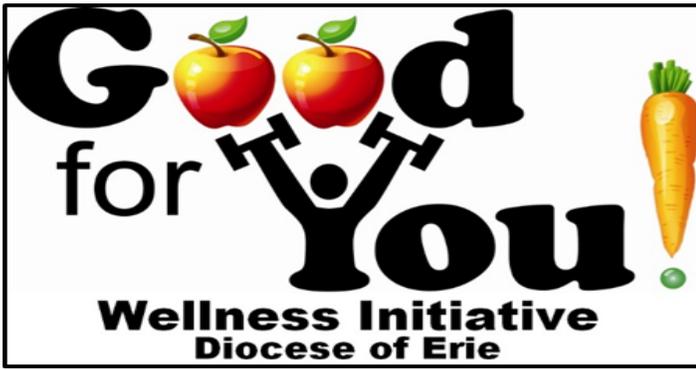
- Foods and drinks that may be given to students (such as at classroom celebrations or parties)



- Food and beverage marketing

We are looking forward to working with you to ensure our school continues to be a healthy place that supports growth and learning.

**Better Health = Better Learners**



# Elementary Schools

## Fall 2020

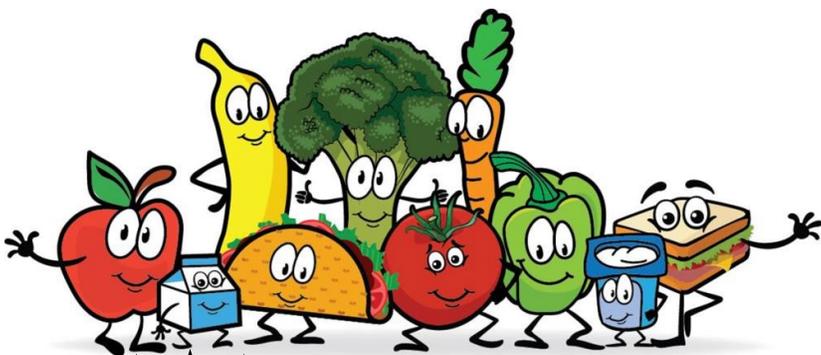
### Edition

Dear God,

You have given me a wonderful body. You gave me ears, so I might hear and eyes that I might see. I can move and sing and play. The best part of it is that you planned for me to have this body. Help me to take care of it the very best that I can. May only kind words come from me as I speak to classmates, family and friends. Amen.

**Pumpkin Workout**

- P is for 10 Push Ups
- U is for 10 Up and Down Squats
- M is for March in Place 30 sec.
- P is for 10 Plank Hold
- K is for 10 Kicking Legs
- I is for Invent an Exercise
- N is for Ninety Sec. Run



**REMEMBER TO EXERCISE EVERYDAY FOR AT LEAST 60 MINUTES EACH DAY!!!**

**EATING RIGHT AND BEING ACTIVE ARE AS EASY AS 5-4-3-2-1 GO!**

- 5** SERVINGS OF FRUITS & VEGGIES A DAY
- 4** SERVINGS OF WATER A DAY
- 3** SERVINGS OF LOW-FAT DAIRY A DAY
- 2** HOURS (OR LESS) OF SCREEN TIME A DAY
- 1** HOUR (OR MORE) OF EXERCISE EVERY DAY



#### Ingredients

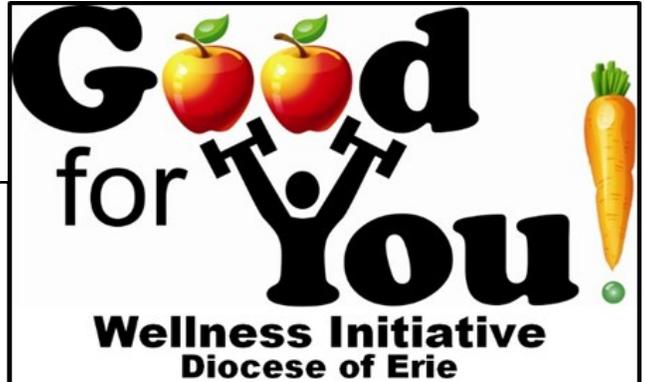
- 1 Flour Tortilla (You can use whole wheat to or white)
- 1 Banana peeled
- 2-3 Tablespoons Peanut Butter
- A small smear of Nutella

# Middle and High Schools Fall 2020 Edition



Dear God,

Thank you that you are with me right now. Your love surpasses all fear. I give you the anxiety I feel. I surrender all my worries to you. Clear my mind. Calm my heart. Still my Spirit. Relax my being that I may always glorify you, in everything I write, speak and do. Amen.



## Gluten Free, No Bake Energy Bites

### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups gluten free Rice Krispies
- 2/3 cup peanut butter
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1 cup shredded coconut flakes
- 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon

1 cup mini chocolate chips

### Instructions

Add the Rice Krispies (or oats) to a bowl, crush lightly with your hand or potato masher.

Add the peanut butter, honey, coconut flakes and cinnamon and stir together.

Then add the chocolate chips.

Chill in the fridge for about an hour. Then form into balls.

Serve and watch them disappear!

## HOW TO BALANCE SMARTPHONES & SLEEP

While smartphones and social media are linked to sleep problems in teens, the full range of causes and long-term effects are not known.

### DRAW STRICT BOUNDARIES:

Children should not be allowed to use phones at night.

Charge phones overnight at a central location in your house.

Keep other electronics like TVs and game consoles out of the bedroom.

Limit artificial light exposure by avoiding screens at least one hour before bedtime.

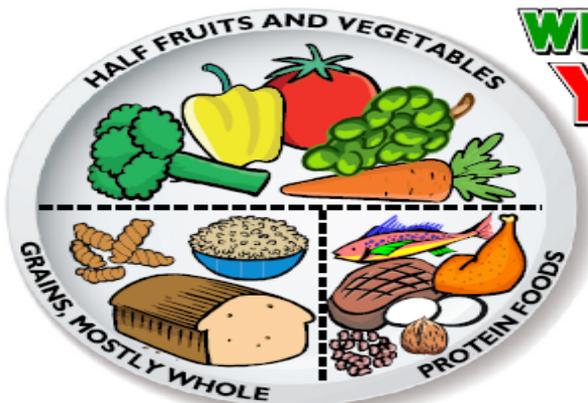
Use earbuds or hands-free tech to keep a child's head away from the phone as often as possible.

Stick to a consistent sleep schedule—including weekends.

Talk to your children about the importance of quality sleep.

Encourage healthy eating and regular physical activity.

What's on  
**YOUR**  
plate?





# SCRIP Gift Card Program



An easy way to earn tuition credit!

**Haven't you heard?!** You can purchase gift cards to your favorite restaurants, stores, and even gas stations and earn credit towards your child's tuition!



This program helps you earn rebates from **over 750 retailers**. Every time you purchase gift cards, you earn money that can be deducted from your tuition. Your family and friends can also participate in helping you earn rebates. You can also donate a percentage of your earned rebates to the school to help offset the cost of the Option C parent alert system or to help the school purchase items needed that benefit our students.

This is a great way to help with your tuition and donate to the school without having to sell anything!

**Gift cards make great Christmas gifts!!** Some retailers will offer bonus credit during the holiday season! Visit their website at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) to see all the cards that are available and how much you can earn in rebates!

For more information about the SCRIP program, please contact Shannon Thomas, the SCRIP Coordinator, at 724-456-1279.

You can place an order online, call the school at 724-588-7050 and ask for an order form, or contact Shannon Thomas.



# December 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>First Sunday of Advent (November 29)</p>	<p>Hope</p> 	<p>1 Quarter 2 Interim</p> <p><b>REMOTE LEARNING</b></p>	<p>2 Staff Meeting</p> <p><b>REMOTE LEARNING</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>REMOTE LEARNING</b></p>	<p>4</p> <p><b>REMOTE LEARNING</b></p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 Feast of St. Nicholas</p> <p>Second Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>7 Sub</p> <p>Peace</p> 	<p>8 Open PTO Zoom Meeting at 6pm</p>	<p>9 Pepperoni Roll Staff Meeting</p>	<p>10 PTO Hot Lunch from McDonald's</p> <p>Jeans Day</p>	<p>11 Pizza</p>	<p>12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</p>
<p>13 Feast of St. Lucy</p> <p>Third Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>14 Sub</p> <p>Joy</p> 	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Pepperoni Roll Staff Meeting <b>Lunch Orders Due for January</b> Las Posadas Begins</p>	<p>17 Dress Down Day (\$1)</p>	<p>18 Pizza Santa Land</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Las Posadas (12/16 to 12/24)</p>	<p>21 Sub</p> <p>Love</p> 	<p>22 <b>NOON DISMISSAL</b> No Lunch No SAFE <b>Christmas Shirt and Parties Day</b></p>	<p>23 <b>NO SCHOOL</b></p>	<p>24 <b>NO SCHOOL</b></p>	<p>25 <b>NO SCHOOL</b></p> <p><b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b></p>	<p>26</p> 
<p>27</p>	<p>28 <b>NO SCHOOL</b></p>	<p>29 <b>NO SCHOOL</b></p>	<p>30 <b>NO SCHOOL</b></p>	<p>31 <b>NO SCHOOL</b></p>		

# ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL

*Grateful  
Thankful  
Blessed*

## NOVEMBER 2020

### PTO NEWSLETTER

#### MEET THE PTO PRESIDENT

My name is Shannon Thomas and I have been a school parent at St. Michael since 2004 and I belong to St. Michael Church. I am married to Frank Thomas, have a 24 year old son Devan who attended SMS in kindergarten to eighth grade and loved playing soccer and basketball for St. Mike's. I also have a 13 year old daughter Lily in 7th grade. I enjoy watching my daughter play soccer, basketball, cheer and listening to her play the piano. I love spending time with my family, reading, taking walks and kyaking. I have served on PTO for five years as secretary and treasurer and I am so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church and school community.

**"Do small things with great love."  
Saint Teresa of Calcutta**

#### MEET THE PTO VICE PRESIDENT

My name is Jen Wingard and this will be my first year serving on PTO. I am married to my husband Mike and we have twin daughters Grace and Isabel who are in 6th grade. Our daughters have attended St. Michael since kindergarten and we have seen them grow so much through the guidance, faith and support that St. Michael provides. When we are not busy watching our daughters play softball, basketball or cheerleading we love to spend time swimming, taking family walks and playing board games. I look forward to working with PTO. All are welcome to participate and we always look for new ideas.  
**Many Blessings!**

INTERESTED IN  
VOLUNTEERING YOUR  
TIME, TALENTS OR  
HAVE SOME IDEAS. WE  
WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Contact the school at  
(724) 588-7050

Happy Birthday  
to our Principal  
Miss Emily Zgonc  
& 1st grade teacher  
Mrs. Andrea Bable!

"For God so loved  
the world that He gave His  
only begotten Son that  
whomsoever believes in Him  
shall not perish but have  
everlasting life."

John 3:16

#### Thank You

Mike and Jen Wingard for picking up our hot lunches and delivering them to the school in Sept., Oct. and Nov.

Mrs. Lisa Bates for volunteering her time to take and edit all of the pictures for our Family Photo Fundraiser!

Jessica Brockhurst, Beth Williams and Jen Wingard for sorting and passing out the Jane Stromboli & Pie orders.

We appreciate all you do for SMS

#### Fundraiser Profits

Jane's Stromboli and Pies  
\$1,971.05

Family Photo Fundraiser  
\$330.00

Thank you to all who participated and we are so grateful for your support!

#### Dates to remember

12/8 - Open PTO zoom meeting 6pm

12/10- PTO Hot Lunch

12/18 - Santa Land

*St. Michael PTO wishes  
our amazing teachers, staff  
and school families a  
Happy Thanksgiving!*