

ST. MATTHEW TIMES

Vol. 5, Issue 3

St. Matthew Parents' Association

February 1, 2012

Calendar

- January 29–Feb 5, Sun.–Sun.
Catholic Schools Week 2012
- February 3, Fri.
No School, Student Holiday
- February 4, Sat.
Crab Bash
- February 7, Tue.
8th Grade Graduation Pictures
Open PA Meeting, 8:15 am
- February 8–Feb 10, Wed.–Fri.
Kindergarten Screening
Grade K, No School
- February 13–Feb 17, Mon.–Fri.
Winter Week, No School
- February 20, Mon.
No School, Presidents Day
- February 22, Wed.
Ash Wednesday
School Mass, 10:30 am
- February 26, Sun.
Family Mass, 10:45 am
- February 27, Mon.
12:45 Dismissal
- February 29, Wed.
End of 2011–12 Scrip/Volunteer Year
Coffee with Resource
- March 5, Mon.
12:45 Dismissal
- March 11, Sun.
Daylight Saving
- March 12–14, Mon.–Wed.
Re-registration
- March 16, Fri.
First Reconciliation
- March 17, Sat.
St. Patrick's Day Dinner
- March 19, Mon.
12:45 Dismissal
- March 23, Fri.
End of 3rd Quarter
- March 26, Mon.
Used Uniform Sale
- March 28, Wed.
Coffee with School Counselor
- April 1, Sun.
Family Mass, 10:45 am
- March 21, Wed.
Submission deadline for April



SAINT MATTHEW
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Faith • Knowledge • Community

St. Matthew School Re-Registration March 12–14, 2012

Parents' Association News

Catholic Schools Week is happening now and the theme this year is:

**"Catholic Schools:
Faith.Academics.Service".**



According to the National Catholic Educational Association, the theme focuses on three priorities that Catholic schools establish that make them stand out from other educational institutions. Faith, children are taught not just the basics of Christianity but how to have a relationship with God. Academics, which in Catholic schools are held to very high standards, are taught to help each child reach his or her potential. Service, the giving of one's time and effort to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship. This is such a wonderful reminder of exactly why many families, including mine, chose St Matt's!

We are also celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week! What a terrific opportunity to truly show how much we value our teachers. This year, in addition to the fabulous and much-needed bundles of school supplies our teachers received, the PA Board wanted to kick it up a notch! Thanks to the help and support of many dedicated and generous parents, our teachers, aides, and staff (library, resource, CASA and school

counselor) are being treated to breakfast and lunch, a PA Board–hosted breakfast on another morning, and neck/back massages in the "sanctuary" (aka Cronin) on the last day. Please take a moment to let your teacher(s) know what a fantastic job they are doing and how much you appreciate them. That would be the most precious gift you could give.

Special thanks goes out to our Someone Special Day co-chairs, Allison Affrunti and Dana Pulley, for all of their hard work coordinating this school-wide event. You did an amazing job!

The PA Board realizes evening meetings are often times difficult to attend, so we are offering our upcoming **Open PA Meeting** in the morning! Please join us on **Tuesday, February 7th, right after drop off in Cronin**. We'll hear from Tony Holland about our fabulous Athletic Department. We also welcome Beckie Caldwell and Nicki La Herran, our Auction co-chair extraordinaires! They will be providing details about the Auction and how you can help. Oh, the places we'll go!!

Hope to see you all at the Crab Bash on Saturday, February 4th.

Jody Gandelman
PA President



OH, the Places We'll Go!

with your support!

St. Matthew Auction April 21, 2012

\$100
To See Your
Who Face in
Who Hall



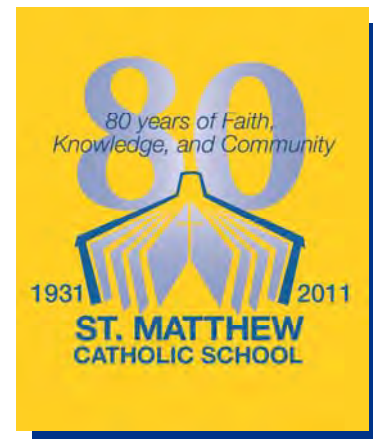
Go to the
St. Matthew's
website for more
ways to help and
Auction details.

We Need Your Help!

Our goal is \$200,000. We can do it, but only with your help. We are asking for 100% family participation.

- Make a donation
- Become a sponsor
- Volunteer before, during, and after the event





Student Alumni Council

By Ann Connelly

In December we warmly welcomed our newly formed Student Alumni Council (SAC). The Council is comprised of a selection of High School Juniors. They will represent our Young Alums at various school events throughout the year. Their first responsibility of the year was hosting the Alumni table at Open House on January 29th. With this being the school's 80th year anniversary the young alums are excited to be part of this special time in the school's history. Mrs. Viotti and Mrs. Sabo enjoyed visiting with the students at their Welcome Reception. It was the first time most of the alums were able to enjoy our newly refurbished library. "The library looks amazing and so comfortable for students to enjoy!" says alum Lucy L. We wish our SAC members every success in their future endeavors.



CLASS OF '81 REUNION

By Ann Connelly

The **Class of '81** had a wonderful time at their 30-year reunion on November 26th. Lots of laughter could be heard from upstairs at the Kingfish, in downtown San Mateo. They enjoyed hours of reminiscing about their years at



St. Matthew. "We spent 2 hours chatting before even sitting down to order dinner," said Julie (Bonfede) Bundy. Julie and former classmate Michelle (Sanfilippo) Harrison organized the event. It was so fun that they are already talking about organizing a 35th reunion!!

Thinking of planning a class reunion? We would love to help! Please contact Ann Connelly in the Parish Office (344-7622 x104)
aconnelly@stmatthewcath.org

Advent Family Potluck

By Lynn Song

Advent Family Potluck—Growing Every Year

Thank you to all the families who participated in this event. This year was our largest turnout ever with over 200 individuals in attendance. It was a wonderful evening filled with great food, laughter, and fun. Families shared

their favorite dishes while children made their very own advent wreath to take home to celebrate the season.

"This event was yet another reminder as to why we made a conscious choice to send our daughter to St. Matthew! It was amazing. Thank you!"

—Kindergarten Family



THINK SCRIP, BUY SCRIP, MAKE SCRIP A HABIT!

By Robin Wall

Thanks to all of you who jumped right in and bought Scrip in December. We sold over \$45,000 in the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas! Thank you! We also gave our teachers Scrip gift certificates as gifts from the PA Board for the first time ever. We hope they liked the flexibility to choose what they wanted from our large list of vendors.

If you haven't made your New Years' resolution yet, please consider buying Scrip at St. Matthew. Our Scrip office is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:30–3:30 pm. We have another Special Order coming up on February 2. Valentine's Day is just around the corner... See's candies is a great gift for any loved one. Be a St. Matt's Sweetheart and give 20% back to the school by purchasing See's Scrip! By purchasing things you already need, we can make a tremendous contribution to our school. If you need a Scrip form, you can download one from the school website, pick one up in the office, or stop by our new office.



St. Matthew's 8th Annual



8th Annual Crab Bash

Come and enjoy some good food and fun!
All you can eat crab & pasta!
Cash Raffle!

Saturday February 4th, 2012

For more details, tickets, and sponsorship, go to the St. Matthew's website at:
www.stmatthewcath.org

Crab Bash

Breakfast with Santa

By Shannon Durnin & Jeannine Cranston

Breakfast with Santa was a great event this year and joyfully anticipated by all, especially the children. Guests enjoyed yummy pancakes, sausage, and eggs prepared by the hard working Men of St. Matt's. The kids had fun singing karaoke in the Red Hot Lounge, made holidays necklaces and ornaments in Santa's Workshop, and gave Santa a lot of present requests.

We would love to thank everyone who volunteered and to everyone who attended for all their support!



St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Save The Date!

Saturday, March 17th

Come and enjoy some good food and fun!

More details to come...



Share the Light

By Lynn Song

If you are looking for a family centered service project this coming Lenten Season, look no further. Share the Light may be the perfect opportunity for you. Families can sign up to "adopt" another family in need to prepare and deliver an Easter Meal Basket. Last year, our community delivered over 120 amazing meals. So, share your light and join us!

For more information, please contact:

Lynn Song at lynnfsong@mac.com or Sarah Freitag at sarah@yahoo.com.

"Share the Light was one of the most eye opening experiences our family had together. I truly believe it strengthened our family and helped us (especially our young kids) to realize how blessed we really are...."

Parent Education

By Jody Gandelman

Upcoming workshops include these two held in Palo Alto at the Koret Family Resource Center (200 Channing Ave.; 650-688-3040.) You can register at: <http://www.parentsplaceonline.org/peninsula/classes/oursite-paloalto>

- *Mothers and Sons—Growing Boys into Men* (all ages) \$35. With Jomary Hillard, PhD. Mon., Feb. 13, 7:00—9:00 pm.
- *For Dads Only: The Joys and Challenges of Raising Daughters* (all ages) \$35. With Kirk Stuepfert, MSW. Thurs., Mar. 1, 7:00—9:00 pm.

This is a useful link for parents that includes media and speaker series information: <http://www.parenting4thelongrun.com/>.

"Did You Know" that there is an app to help students keep track of their homework? Check out MyHomework by Rodrigo Neri at: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/myhomework/id303490844?mt=8>. Your kids will think this is so cool and encourages responsibility. It's a win-win!!



BIRTHDAY WISHES

February

- 23 - Mr. Walsh
- 27 - Mrs. Stewart

March

- 8 - Mrs. Brennan
- 16 - Mrs. Bumbaca
- 18 - Mr. Dahlstrom

BY THE NUMBERS

Some great highlights of recent events, along with some interesting/fun facts.

St. Matt's Fun Facts

- ◆ Ms. Worley's purple chair is 25 years old!!
- ◆ In October, 1956, 8th grader John Hunter swam from Fisherman's Wharf to Alcatraz in 1 hr 13 min and still made it back to school by 1:00 pm for his vocab test!

Breakfast with Santa:

- ◆ Nearly \$4000 in ticket sales
- ◆ Netting \$1665 and change, which nearly was double of last year

2011 Giving Tree at a Glance:

- ◆ 101 Families in need
- ◆ 523 Individuals benefited
- ◆ Over 1,000 gifts donated
- ◆ 100's of gift cards handed out
- ◆ 18 generous classrooms contributed
- ◆ 15 families helped deliver gifts
- ◆ 1 bicycle given to very happy siblings
- ◆ 2 hula hoops amongst the gifts—great idea
- ◆ It equaled Christmas Joy for All

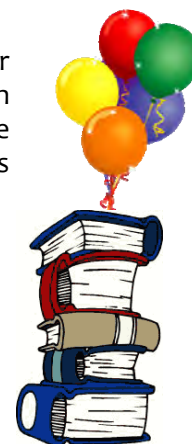
ST. MATTHEW BOOK FAIR 2011

By Joyce Conciatori

This year we decided to host our Annual Book Fair around Christmas time, and in conjunction with Breakfast with Santa. It turned out to be a huge success. Parents and even children thought books would make the perfect Christmas gift.

We were very happy with the proceeds from the sale. It enabled us to purchase many beautiful books for our library, and we look forward to next years' book sale.

Mark your calendars for November 26–December 1, 2012!



Friendly Reminders...

Don't forget to log your volunteer hours right away. You can submit your hours immediately online at: <http://www.stmatthewcath.org/parents/volHours.php>.

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Contact the editor at mheagerty@yahoo.com with submission requests. Deadline for the April issue is March 21st.