



St. Denis – St. Columba School

A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

Family Newsletter



Week of February 12-23, 2018

Second Quarter Report Cards Available

Last week the EDUCATE Parent Portal was opened so that your children’s report cards could be viewed. If you haven’t already done so, please take a moment to view them. If you have any questions, or have difficulty accessing them, please feel free to contact us at the school.

IMPORTANT – 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Catholic Schools Week was a wonderful way to celebrate SDSC and the impact our school has on the lives of our students! The power of Catholic education is evident in the formation of saints and scholars, and we are thrilled to carry on that tradition in the 2018-19 school year!

Registration for the 2018-19 school year is underway. On January 19th you should have received an email from TADS (support@TADS.com) for each of your children. This email included a brief overview of the registration process as well as a unique link to your student's information for enrollment. If you did not receive the invitation to re-register, please check your spam/junk folder in your email account first. If you still do not have the registration invitation, please call the school office so we can confirm the correct email address to use for your family and make any necessary changes in the system.

Your completion of the registration process, including payment of the non-refundable registration fee, indicates your commitment to having your child attend SDSC for the 2018-19 school year. **Registrations completed on or before March 31, 2018 receive a 50% discount off the \$150 registration fee (\$75 per student).** Registrations completed on or after April 1, 2017, pay the standard registration fee of \$150.

Financial Assistance for Returning Students

Families who received financial assistance through the Archdiocese for the 2017-18 school year should have received an e-mail inviting them to apply for aid for the 2018-19 school year. In order to be considered for financial aid, you must 1) enroll for the 2018-19 school year, 2) complete the requalifying application on-line through link provided in e-mail; 3) pay a \$35 application fee and 4) submit all required documents in a timely manner. We encourage families to complete the process as quickly as feasible. Remember: financial aid is awarded on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Families who received other forms of tuition assistance, or **who have had a change of circumstances impacting their ability to pay tuition for 2018-19** should contact the school office directly. We pledge to help find solutions for families who want Catholic education for the children.

Tuition for 2018-2019 School Year

Tuition and Fees	Tuition Costs 2017-2018	Tuition Costs 2018-2019	
Base Tuition / student (without financial aid)	\$4,950	\$5,450	There have been some questions/concerns regarding the increase in school tuition for next year. It appears to have increased significantly. However, you if you look at the the chart, you will see that it has only increased by \$135, (3%) that is, about \$12/month over 11 months. If you have any further questions or financial concerns, please be sure to speak with Sr. Kathleen at the school.
General Fee	\$300	<i>Included in tuition</i>	
Technology Fee	\$65	<i>Included in tuition</i>	
Total cost for year	\$5,315	\$5,450	
		No additional fees	<i>3% increase which is, \$135 increase/year</i>
			<i>\$12.27 increase /month over 11 months</i>

Transportation Forms

Recently you received information regarding your children’s re-registration and enrollment for next year. Included in that packet was a transportation form. If you have not already returned it to the school office, please do so as soon as possible. We need to send these to the districts before Easter break this year.

*If you have any questions about the application process, financial assistance, enrollment or transportation for 2018-19 please contact the School Office. **Thank you for entrusting the growth and education of your children to SDSC!***



Help Us Help Our Children!

During Catholic Schools Week we held a ceremony to congratulate those students who have shown *significant growth* during the first half of the school year. We were pleased to recognize 41 of our students as TOP GROWERS, representing 25% of the student body at SDSC! For many of these students, this was the first time they had ever received an academic honor!

These unprecedented results were made possible in large part to SDSC's innovative Academic Intervention Initiative. This initiative, together with the dedication of our teachers and the hard work of our students, is truly helping our students reach their academic potential! Components of the program include individualized instruction and blended learning strategies used by all of our teachers, a sensory-based reading instruction program provided by Mrs. Fiona Murray, and academic support services provided by Mrs. Kelly Fulton.

This is a self-funded initiative made possible with the funds raised at the 2017 Anniversary Gala, which were generously matched by the Pontez Family! Since SDSC self-funds these programs it is critical that we continue to raise money so that we can build upon our early successes and *expand our programs to more classes*. This is the sole purpose of our 2018 SDSC Gala. Every dollar we raise will be directed towards these programs.

There are a number of ways in which you can help us fund the Academic Intervention Initiative and support our children:

- Contribute to your child's classroom basket
- Donate a bottle of wine for the "Wine Pull"
- Donate a gift card/gift certificate to a restaurant or a retailer for the "Gift Card Grab"
- Attend the Event
- Join our team of prize/gift collectors
- Volunteer to decorate, assemble gift baskets or sell raffle tickets
- Join the Gala Committee

For more information about the 2018 Gala, please visit the event website at www.501auctions.com/sdsc. If you have any questions, simply email us at gala@stcolumba.net

All are invited to attend the next 2018 Gala Planning Meeting on Monday, February 12th from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Graduation Make-Up Pictures – Tuesday, February 13th

Lifetouch will be at school on Tuesday, February 13th for make-up pictures for the Class of 2018.

Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent



This **Wednesday, February 14th** we begin the Holy Season of Lent, which is a time of prayer, fasting (*sacrifice*), and alms-giving (*acts of charity*). During this season, we are strongly urged to participate in Mass and receive Holy Communion daily, to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to attend Lenten Devotions and the Stations of the Cross, to read the Scriptures prayerfully, to perform acts of self-denial and works of mercy. All are welcome to attend the **Ash Wednesday Prayer Service for the school community at 9:15 a.m. next Wednesday, February 14th**.

The specific discipline of the Church in the United States regarding penitential days is as follows:

- The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- The other Fridays of Lent are DAYS OF ABSTINENCE (no meat).
- The Fridays of the year, outside Lent, are designated as DAYS OF PENANCE, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance. This may be physical mortification or acts of religion, charity or Christian witness.

Lunch Menu Change – Wednesday, February 14th

Wednesday, 02/14, Tiramisu's Penne Pasta with Tomato Sauce, Vegetable, Fruit, Spring Water

No School – Monday, February 19th

There will be no school on Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents' Day.



Yearbook Meeting on Wednesday, February 14th

There will be a Yearbook Meeting for students in Grades 6-8 who are interesting in working on our school yearbook. The meeting will take place after school from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. this Wednesday, February 14th.

Kindergarten Discovery Day – Friday, February 23rd

All children entering Kindergarten in Fall 2018 are invited to attend our Kindergarten Discovery Day on Friday, February 23rd from 9:00 a.m. –11:00 a.m. Join our current Kindergarten class and discover all the great opportunities SDSC offers o Kindergarten students. Activities include science lab, Storytime, learning centers and snack time! Pre-register at www.stcolumba.net or by clicking [HERE](#). Invite a friend for an opportunity to receive a tuition credit through the new Enrollment Referral Incentive Program!

Mid-Hudson Valley Honor Band Concert

We are very proud of Diana Allgaier, Aiden DiPalermo, Benjamin Laski, and Owen Walker, who will be participating in this year’s in the 2018 Mid-Hudson Valley Honors Band Concert at Our Lady of Lourdes High School on March 3rd at 2:00 p.m. These students represent the “best of the best” musicians from our area schools. They rehearse for over 12 hours and perform an amazing concert. We congratulate them for a job well done – and thank them for representing SDSC so proudly!

SPRING Box Tops Contest

Our new SPRING Box Tops for Education Challenge for the Second Half of the school year has begun. We hope to foster a spirit of friendly competition among the classes and reward the students’ hard work with the collecting the box tops while we raise money for programs in our school. Each prize will be awarded as it is earned, and the posters are updated.



# Box Tops	Class Prizes
150	Lollipops
300	Cookies
450	“Candy Surprise”
600	10 minutes EXTRA Recess

# Box Tops	Class Prizes
700	Chips
800	Cupcakes
900	20 minutes EXTRA Recess
1000	Ice Cream Party

# Box Tops	Class Prizes
1000	Ice Cream Party
1100	Ice Pop Party
1300	30 minutes EXTRA Recess
1500	Class Nut Award

Community News

Adult Education Church History Series

Since its founding by Jesus Christ, the Catholic Church has born witness to the truth of the gospel. Its rich history is filled with saints and sinners, triumph and tragedy, and continuity and renewal. Please join Monsignor Thompson on the second part of his guided tour of 2000 years of Christians searching to know, love and serve God. All are welcome, even if you were not able to attend the first part. For your convenience each session will be offered twice on Mondays beginning February 5th, once at 10:00 am in the convent library and again at 7:30 p.m. in the school.

Lenten Parish Retreat at St. Columba Church on February 20th-22nd

Tony Bellizzi, well known Catholic evangelist and Retreat Director, will lead a Lenten Parish Mission. Tony will speak at all Masses the weekend of February 17 - 18. The Parish Mission will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday (February 20 - 22). Tony will speak at the end of the 12:00 noon Mass each day and at the Mission Hour which will be from 7:30 - 8:30 pm. Each evening will conclude with Benediction. Our theme will be “*A Lenten Journey With Jesus & Mary.*” Please come and bring a friend!

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To Everything there is a Season and a Time for Every Purpose under Heaven

Let us continue to keep in our prayers the many among us who are sick and suffering.

A TIME TO HEAL

Kelsey B. (6-year old cousin of Winogradoff children who has leukemia and a very rare brain tumor), Mrs. Fazi (our PE teacher), Marcus Franklin (uncle of the O’Connor children), Ronald Graves (grandfather of Graves children), George Leggio (grandfather of Minotti children recently diagnosed with cancer), Maureen O’Connor (Grandmother of the O’Connor Children), Michael Reilly (nephew of Deacon John), Martin Craig (stepfather of Jillian Beresford), Shirley Mauro (grandmother of Sean Guaman), Thea Dimin (17-year old grandniece of Sr. Lucia Marie), and the many who are sick and suffering in mind, body or spirit in this year.

A TIME TO DIE

Jean O’Rourke (grandmother of Lauren and Katie O’Rourke)