



St. Denis – St. Columba School

A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

Family Newsletter



September 19-23, 2022

AFTER CARE Reservations - Week of September 19th

To help us gauge staffing needs, we are asking families to make advanced reservations for next week. [Click HERE to make a reservation for the week of September 19th](#). Remember, in order to use the Program, you must complete the registration form and submit a \$20 per child registration fee. The form can be found under the "For Parents" tab on the school website or by [CLICKING HERE](#). You may also make a reservation or set up a regular After Care schedule for your child(ren) by contacting Ms. Schifini at lschifini@stcolumba.net or at 845-227-7777. **Please remember to send a snack and water in with your child!**



ACTION REQUIRED: Parent-Student Handbook and Technology Agreements OVERDUE



The following documents are PAST DUE: the Parent-Student Handbook Agreement and Chromebook/Technology Forms. It is the policy of the Superintendent of the Schools of the Archdiocese that all Parents/Guardians and SDSC Students **must sign** the Parent-Student Handbook Agreement as a condition of their enrollment at SDSC. In addition, students may not continue to use their Chromebooks if the Technology forms are not returned. ***If you have not done so already, you MUST return these forms immediately. Thank you for prompt attention and cooperation in this matter.***

SDSC Grown Lettuce Joins the Lunch Menu this Week!

We are excited to announce that our SDSC grown organic lettuce will be harvested, turned into salads and served to our students through our Hot Lunch Program! The lettuce was grown indoors using a Farmstand provided to SDSC through our partnership with the Whole Foods Whole Kids Foundation and Lettuce Grow. It's part of our Project Nourish Garden Program which is committed to bringing our students and the needy in the community access to sustainable, organic and locally grown fresh produce. Thank you to our Grade 4 Junior Girl Scouts for their help with our new Farmstand!



SDSC School Band Forms – Due Friday, September 23rd



Students in Grades 1-6 have the opportunity to participate in the SDSC school band program. Your children will bring home a paper registration form. If they are interested in participating, please return the registration form by Friday, September 23rd. Band lessons are held after school on Tuesdays.

MAP Assessments

Over the next two weeks the students of Saint Denis-Saint Columba School will take the NWEA MAP Growth Diagnostic. MAP Growth scores help teachers check student performance by measuring achievement and growth. Teachers use the results to adjust classroom lessons and set goals for students.

MAP Growth tests are unique, and they adapt to your child's responses to measure your child's skill level. If your child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. These results will provide a more complete picture of what your child knows and is ready to learn—whether it is on, above, or below their grade level. Since MAP Growth tests provide immediate and accurate information about your child's learning, it's easy for teachers to identify students with similar scores that are generally ready for instruction in similar skills and topics, and then plan instruction accordingly.

Students in Grade K-2 will take assessments in Reading and Math while students in Grades 3-8 grades will participate in Reading, Language Usage, Math and Science. Each test is untimed and takes about an hour. Following each testing period, you will receive a Family Report showing a summary of how your child is performing academically. We are truly excited to focus on your child's individual growth and achievement. **We request that students be on-time and fully rested to ensure they are able to concentrate and do their best.**

SDSC Annual Gala – Donations Needed

After a three year “pause,” we are excited that the SDSC Annual Gala will return on Saturday, November 5th at the Villa Borghese in Wappingers Falls. This exciting evening will feature auctions, raffles, small plates, an open bar and entertainment. We are in need of donations and sponsorships to make our event a success. We are seeking gift cards, bottles of wine and items for our silent auction. If you are able to contribute an item, would like to learn more about sponsorships or are able to hit the streets in search of donations, please contact Ms. Schifini or Mr. Krebs at the school. If Thank you for helping us make our event a huge success!



New on-site ADAPP Counselor at SDSC

We are pleased to announce that **Ms. Kelley Cardoso-Cruz**, an Intervention Counselor/ Social Worker from ADAPP, will be providing prevention services to our school for this school year, in person. ADAPP is the school-based student assistance program within the Department of Education of the Archdiocese of New York. Our school is very fortunate to have a counselor and the service. She will be available each Tuesday and Thursday at our school. Primarily, services include life skills classroom education and small discussion groups. Some students may be seen for an assessment for up to three sessions. If counseling is recommended, parents will be notified. The ADAPP counselor will work closely with the school principal and teachers and is available to meet with parents to address any questions or concerns. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

EDUCATE Parent Portal

All parents and guardians of students in Grades 1-8 have been granted access to the EDUCATE Parent Portal. The portal gives you nearly “real time” view into your child’s academic performance at school. Please take some time to review your child’s homework, project and test grades. The portal can be accessed from the School App or under the “For Parents” Tab on the school website. If you have any questions about EDUCATE or need assistance in accessing the portal, please contact Ms. Schifini at 845-227-7777 or lschifini@stcolumba.net.

SDSC Annual Walk-a-thon



Lace up those walking shoes! The SDSC Annual Walk-a-thon returns on **Wednesday, October 5th**. The Walk-a-thon will take place after lunch and will follow a route on the school campus. After a morning of learning, students will have a fun school-spirit-filled afternoon walking for their school! After the Walk-a-thon students will enjoy a treat together to celebrate. *(There will be a rain date in case of inclement.)* The Walk-a-thon is meant to promote community and school spirit and it’s a fundraiser that involves direct student participation. If we raise an average of \$50 per student, we will reach our overall school goal of \$12,500. Once we reach our goal, we will celebrate our success with five school-wide NUT (No Uniform Today) Days and an ice cream sundae party! More information will be forthcoming next week.

Sweater Weather is Coming!

The chilly mornings and warm afternoons of autumn are coming. Our classroom windows are open as a safety measure to permit fresh air to circulate through the classrooms. Please be sure that your child has an SDSC logo item to wear in the classroom when it is chilly – SDSC fleece, sweatshirt, and winter uniform sweaters ONLY. As the day warms students remove their extra layers of clothing so please LABEL ALL CLOTHING. Our playground and campus are littered daily with clothing bearing no names!



Cub Scout Information Meeting – Monday, September 19th

Cub Scout Pack 127 is holding its annual recruiting night on Monday, September 19th at 6:15 p.m. at Van Wyck Junior High School cafeteria. Boys and girls from kindergarten through grade 4 are welcome to attend, ask questions and see Cub Scouts in action.



Thank You Volunteers!

Thank you to all of our parents, guardians and grandparents who volunteer to work in the kitchen and cafeteria. We have been able to fill all of our openings. Thanks also to all the parents/guardians who answered our call for Room Parents. We are joyous to have our volunteer corps involved in the daily lives of our students! Be on the lookout for other ways to be involved throughout the School Year.

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 DIE:

Azucena Alamanza (*grandmother of Abraham Gr4 and Arianna Gr2*); Jake Arcara (*uncle of Marina Gr1*)

A TIME TO HEAL:

Shaun Giammichele (*Father of Anna, Gr. 1*); Aliya Strauss (*daughter of Mrs. Strauss*)

and for the many who are sick and suffering in mind, body or spirit in this year.