

Mount St. Mary Academy Family Connection

Volume 6, Issue 12

December 4, 2015

Food Drive Continues...

Thank you to all who have donated to our Advent Food Drive so far! We are striving to collect 10,000 food items and we need your continuing help.

We will be donating all food and non-perishables to local churches and food pantries through December 18. All food items can be delivered to the Chapel during homeroom.

We know this is a very busy time of year for all of us, so know that we appreciate all that you are doing to make it a success.

SAT Testing

Students and parents interested in learning more about the redesigned SAT or practicing for the test can go to www.satpractice.org for some practice tests and tips.

Students can download the mobile app on their iPads or phones to take practice tests and get a practice "question of the day." Search for the app "Daily Practice for the New SAT."

For some great tips on how to use some of the scan and score features of the app, visit www.sat.org/scoring. Please contact the counseling office if you need any help!

Santa Needs Your Help!

Our Advent Shoe Box Project has begun, and we need your help to bring some Christmas joy to children throughout our community!

We are asking each student to fill a shoe box with any sort of new goodies or toys for a child at any age. Fill the shoe box, wrap it, and put a label on it with the age and gender of the child.

These shoe boxes are given to children who visit St. Luke's on Christmas Eve and who may not receive a large toy for Christmas. This year, especially, there is a large refugee population new to the St. Luke's community who will be attending Christmas Eve festivities. These children will be able to receive the shoe boxes we fill from Santa himself!

All of the supplies for the shoe box project are set up outside the ALC. If you do not have shoe boxes to use, we have a lot of empty ones! Students may take and use any of our supplies (boxes, wrapping paper, labels, etc.).

Your daughter should bring in her shoe box to the chapel during homeroom for check in. This helps us keep track, as well



Can we do it again this year? We can with your help!

as give the girls credit for bringing them in. They will be entered into drawings for prizes and invited to our Prize Bingo game this month.

THANK YOU for demonstrating God's love in a tangible way to needy children in our community. "Give and gifts will be given to you." Luke 6:38

Just think of the happiness and delight you will be bringing to a child at Christmas.

Let's all work together to make this a success! Thank You! Any questions, contact Mrs. Kos ckos@msmacademy.org or Mrs. Grabowski mgrabowski@msmacademy.org.

Ideas for Young Girls:

coloring books, any art supplies, small toys, stickers, dolls, puzzles, stuffed animals, harmonicas, yo-yos, stamps, slinkies, books, small games, flash cards, picture books, stuffed animals, small Barbies, tiaras, small purses, hair supplies, and any other fun toys for little girls!

Ideas for Young Boys:

small cars, balls, art supplies, coloring books, puzzles, yo-yos, harmonicas, small toys, slinkies, stickers, stamps, books, small games, flash cards, picture books, stuffed animals, toy animals, small transformer toys, toy soldiers, sport balls, and any other fun toys for little boys!

Join in the Fun!

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Upcoming Events

6

Get your Christmas shopping done at the MSM Holiday Bazaar and Craft Show on Sunday, December 6 from 10 a.m.—4 p.m. Over 70 vendors will sell everything from jewelry, Christmas decorations, home goods, toys, soaps and more!

Get your reservation in for Vera Bradley Bingo on Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m. Held at St. Amelia's School, this bingo game offers winners Vera Bradley prizes — perfect for Christmas gifts or gifts to yourself! See page 3 for more details

Month at a Glance

6 Holiday Bazaar and Craft Show	7	8 Junior Ring Ceremony	9 Spirit Wear Day	10	11	12
13 Vera Bradley Bingo	14	15	16	17 Christmas Concert	18 Jeans Day	19
20	21	22 School Para-Liturgy and Brunch	23	24	25	26
Christmas Break						
27	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2
Christmas Break						

Do you shop at Dash's? Bring your 2015 receipts to the Main Office. Musical Boosters is collecting Dash's receipts to help upgrade our sound system in the auditorium. Thank you!



FlynnO'Hara
UNIFORMS

We've Decked the Halls!

Login to your existing account or Create an Account to receive **15% OFF** your next online order through December 13th!
www.flynnohara.com

Promotion codes valid through December 31st, cannot be used to purchase gift cards. Online orders only.

Mount St. Mary Academy Sports Boosters Association presents

VERA BRADLEY



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015 • 2PM

St. Amelia School Don Miller Hall, 2999 Eggert Rd, Tonawanda, NY

\$20 Admission Package – includes one admission board, required for entry
No one under 10 years of age admitted • No babysitting provided • Refreshments available

PLAY TO WIN ONE OF MANY BEAUTIFUL VERA BRADLEY BAGS!

Space is limited—reserve your spot today!

Tickets are \$20 per person. Checks should be made out to Mount St. Mary Academy and mailed to: Mount St. Mary Academy, Attn: Vera Bradley Bingo, 3756 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, NY, 14217. All proceeds from this event go directly to support Thunder athletics. Thank you for your support!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ # of tickets: _____

www.MSMathletics.org



ST. THOMAS MORE GUILD, INC.

AN ORGANIZATION FOR LAWYERS IN THE DIOCESE OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK



The St. Thomas More Guild announces its 10th annual scholarship program for students attending Catholic elementary and high schools during the 2016-17 school year.

One \$750 scholarship will be awarded to a student attending a Catholic elementary school, and one \$1,250 scholarship will be awarded to a student attending or entering a Catholic high school. The scholarship contest rules and application are attached. We encourage all eligible students to apply.

St. Thomas More was a lawyer who lived during the reign of Henry VIII of England and rose to the position of Chancellor. He lived by the principles of honesty, integrity, dedication to his profession, his family and above all, his Catholic faith. He was martyred for refusing to turn his back on that faith. The St. Thomas More Guild is an organization of Catholic lawyers that try to emulate those principles.

If there are any questions about the scholarship or procedures, please feel free to contact David Mineo at (716) 639-0058.

J. Michael Lennon, President

David C. Mineo, Scholarship Chairman

Please see the following pages for rules and application.

SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST RULES

The contest is open to all students currently in grades 6-11 who will attend in the 2016-17 academic year a Catholic school located in the Diocese of Buffalo.

All scholarship applicants must submit an essay on the following topic:

St. Thomas More was known as "A Man for All Seasons". During his life he was a scholar, an author, a lawyer, a politician, a teacher, a husband and a father. In all of his activities, he was motivated and guided by the unfailing moral compass in his life, his Catholic faith.

Identify someone that you consider to be a modern St. Thomas More and explain why you chose that person and what makes that person a modern day St. Thomas More.

1. The essay must be typed. The maximum length of the essay is 500 words.
2. The application must accompany the essay. The current grade of the student should be placed in the upper right hand corner of the first page of the essay. The essay must not contain the writer's name or school.
3. The Scholarship Application and essay must be mailed to:
St. Thomas More Guild, Inc.
P.O. Box 35
Buffalo, New York 14201-0035
4. The application and essay must be postmarked on or before February 29, 2016.
5. Winners will be contacted after April 30, 2016.
6. The judges will not know the identity of any applicant during the judging process.
7. The essay will be judged according to the grade level of the student.
8. The scholarship awards will be paid directly to the schools that the winners will attend in the 2016-17 academic year to be credited against the school tuition.

The awards will be presented at the annual luncheon which will be held at the Buffalo Convention Center May 31, 2016.

**ST. THOMAS MORE GUILD
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

Name of Student _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

School currently attending
and grade level _____

Address _____

School you will attend
next year (if unsure,
list all possible schools) _____

Academic average _____

Describe your community service activity _____

Student's signature

Parent/Guardian signature

W.N.Y. TEEN SIBSHOP CANISIUS COLLEGE



What are Sibshops?

The WNY Sibshop Program provides services to brothers and sisters of children diagnosed with special needs. Our first session was held in October, 2009 and was created for younger children, ages 6 – 12. Since that very successful first year, we have also developed teen workshops for siblings who are 13 – 18 years old. Dr. Susan Putnam of Canisius College functions as Director of the Sibshop Program.

For The Adults Who Plan Them And The Agencies Who Sponsor Them, Sibshops Are Best Described As Opportunities For Brothers And Sisters Of Children With Special Health And Developmental Needs To Obtain Peer Support And Education Within A Recreational Context.

However, For The Young People Who Attend Them And The Energetic People Who Run Them, Sibshops Are Best Described As Events

- Are You Between 13 and 18 Years of Age?
- Are You a Sibling of a Special Needs Child?
- Would Like to Meet Other Teens Like Yourself and Participate in:
 - group team building?
 - a support and social network?
 - activities and outings chosen by the group?
 - discussions of challenges and coping mechanisms of living in a home with special needs siblings?

Then please join us and become a member of a newly formed TEEN SIBHOP!

When: December 12th, 2015 at 1:00 pm

**Where: Armor Bible Church
5650 Powers Road
Orchard Park, NY 14127**

The frequency of Teen Sibshop sessions will be determined by the group itself. Two well-qualified, credentialed adults will facilitate all teen meetings.

For more information please visit
www.canisius.edu/sibshop

or call: Dr. Susan Putnam at (716) 888-2895
Sandra Ocampos at (716) 570-2401
Emilia Kane at (716) 435-8019