

January Newsletter

Dear St. Anthony Families,

One of the many gifts of the Christmas holiday is time spent with family and friends. I hope your time spent with family and friends was joyful and relaxing.

I would like to thank you for all the wonderful gifts. You are all a blessing in my life.

We at St. Anthony School are blessed in that we are now settling into our new St. Anthony Community Center/School. The holidays for many of us were spent getting ready for the first day back to school after Christmas vacation. Teachers and staff spent a portion of their vacation time moving and setting up their new classrooms in preparation for your child (ren). The days were long, at times trying, but in the end, the frustrations and wait were worth every moment! God is good. We hope you share in our excitement!

As we begin 2016, we come together refreshed and ready to focus our efforts on developing students of faith, virtue and excellence. Our resolutions include getting your child actively engaged in learning through the use of our kinesthetic desks and implementing many Action-based learning activities.

The end of the month we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Special events throughout the week will include the School Showcase, Open House, Student Spirit Assembly and many other fun activities. It's a time to recognize the value of a Catholic education.

As we said goodbye to 2015, I gave thanks to God for my opportunity to be a part of St. Anthony Catholic School and Catholic education, with its many benefits, of faith and friendship and so much more.

Wishing you many blessings in the New Year,

*Mrs. K. Stapleton
Principal*



Important Dates to Remember:

January 4 **Classes Resume**
January 12 **End of 2nd Nine Weeks**

January 24 School Mass 10:00am

January 29 Early Dismissal/Spirit Awards (no afterschool care)

Information and Reminders:

Did You Know? We are increasing becoming a more and more “green” campus. In an effort to save paper our monthly newsletter and calendar will be web-based only from this point forward. In the future, the lunch menu will also be uploaded to our website. Thanks for your support.

Blessing of St. Anthony Community Center and School: Please be on the lookout for more information regarding the blessing of our new building. We are in the process of coordinating calendars with the Bishop as well as putting final touches on the building. As soon as everything is in order, we will send out invitations to our Parish, school and local communities.

2016 Spirit Award

This year’s St. Anthony School Spirit Award recipient is **Mrs. Julie Ng-Castillo**.

The 19th Annual Spirit Awards banquet is set for **6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29** at Msgr. Ralph Hall at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in McAllen. This event honors those that make a difference in Catholic education.

A native of Miami, FL, Julie grew up in South Florida and graduated from the University of Miami. She and her husband, James, relocated to the Rio Grande Valley thirteen years ago. Her husband is a Palliative Care & Hospice Medicine physician at Valley Baptist Medical Center. Their daughter, Jordana, enrolled in the PreK Montessori program at St. Anthony Catholic School in 2013 and is now a 5-year old kindergartner at St. Anthony.

For several years, Julie worked as a physician recruiter with Valley Baptist Health System, helping to bring high quality physicians and their families to our underserved area. Now she is a full-time mom, wife, and community volunteer. She is a member of the Cameron-Willacy County Medical Alliance and assists with various projects to help the community throughout the year.

At the school, Julie enjoys volunteering as an assistant librarian, coordinating the school’s book fairs, helping to reorganize the library, and facilitating story time & the library book checkout process with students. She has also served as the lead Room Parent for her daughter’s class for the past two years and enjoys working closely with the students on many projects throughout the year.

Julie loves to volunteer in her local community. She is an active board member of the Harlingen Concert Association and helps to bring high-quality arts entertainment to the Valley at a low cost to the community. She also assists Harlingen Concert Association with offering student outreach programs throughout their concert season.

In addition, Julie is an active board member of the new non-profit organization called Harlingen Garden to Table, which is in the process of setting up and managing community gardens, a global kitchen which will offer international cooking and health-related classes, and the existing Harlingen Farmer’s Market, all of which will be located in downtown Harlingen.

Julie feels blessed to have the opportunity to serve her community and to be a part of the wonderful team of teachers, staff, families, and students at St. Anthony Catholic School.

Please contact the school if you are interested in purchasing tickets.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures: Please be patient as we refine our arrival and dismissal procedures. Your child's safety is our top priority.

We will load and unload your child in the mornings and afternoons. It is not necessary for you to get out of your car. This allows for the traffic to move quickly and orderly. Remember to enter from 10th street (one way) and exit onto 11th.

If you choose to park and walk your child into the building in the morning, please note that all students gather in the gymnasium. Parents do not need to walk their child to classroom. We will make sure they get to their rooms safely.

Students will be dismissed from the outdoor patio (alley) area. You may drive through and we will load your child. If you choose to get out of your car, please park and walk to patio area to get your child. Make sure the teacher is aware that you are taking your child. Thank you!

As we move forward, there may be times we need to re-evaluate procedures. However, we hope to keep changes to a minimum. Know that all we do, we do for the safety of our students.

Rainy Day/Bad Weather Arrival and Dismissal Procedures: Parents will park and walk students to gymnasium. Students will be dismissed from the gym on bad weather days.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

SPECIAL THANKS: A very special thank-you to all the parents, grandparents, guardians, and friends that helped us with the many, many activities during the month of December. Without your support and generosity it would not have been possible. THANK YOU!

New Students/Families: Please join me in welcoming some new families to St. Anthony Catholic School. If you see some "new faces" within our community, please take the time to welcome them. We are glad they chose St. Anthony School.

Registration: January is the time we begin recruitment for the 2016-2017 school year. If you know of any potential families that are interested in a Catholic education, please tell them about our school. My office is open at all times to meet with persons interested in our school.

Put-In-Cups—Showing St. Anthony School Spirit



[Mark your calendar!](#)

Classes Resume – January 4

End of 2nd Nine Weeks – January 12

Spirit Awards – January 29

Catholic Schools Week – February 1-6



Come support our SAS basketball teams – First game in our new gym is Thursday, January 7th.

GO EAGLES

Girls on the Run: If you are interested in being a volunteer coach, please contact the school office. There will be a mandatory coaches meeting this Saturday, at Luke Fruia in Bownsville.